

Victory

magazine

Hidden With Christ Ministries
March/April 2022



*Encouraging the Forgotten
Pastors of Tanzania*

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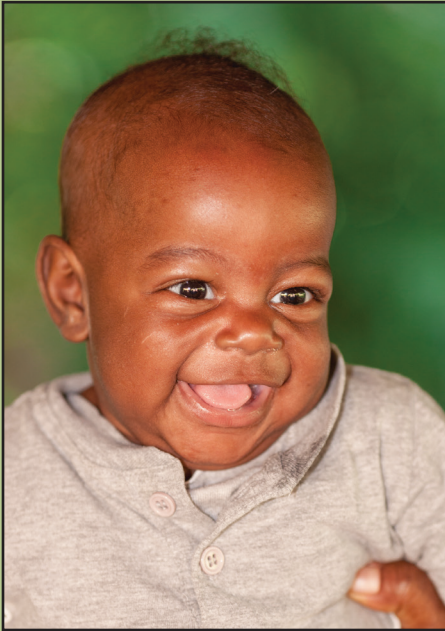
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WHERE WOULD THEY BE?

By Rita Langeland

That question has crossed my mind many times over the years, as we took in children to live at Treasures of Africa Children's Home in Moshi, Tanzania. I would look at the children who were progressing through school and wonder, "Where would this child be today if he/she had never come to live at Treasures of Africa? Where would they be if generous people had stopped donating money to help clothe, house, feed and educate these children?"

This month that haunting question came back to me again, after I heard news of the tragic death of the mother of one of our TOA children.



Mark Thomas at Treasures of Africa in 2019 - six months old

Mark Thomas came to live at Treasures of Africa Children's Home as a one-week-old infant. He came to us without a name, so we had the privilege of naming him. His mother had been living on the streets since she was a young girl and suffered from mental illness. She was taken to the psychiatric ward of a local hospital because of her mental condition and because she was using her newborn baby to beg for food. The Social Welfare office was called, and they deemed it best for the infant to be placed at Treasures of Africa. He is considered to be a "vulnerable child" by the Welfare authorities rather than an orphan, due to the facts of his family situation. It was not considered safe for him to remain with the mother, and the father is unknown.

Mark thrived at TOA and grew strong and happy. He became quite attached to the Treasures of Africa houseparents, Anna and Eliya. When it came time to transition all the Treasures children into foster families last June, Anna and Eliya stepped up to take Mark Thomas into their home. Mark fit into their family seamlessly.

Then this month we heard the tragic news. Mark's mother had been found brutally murdered on the streets of Moshi town, where she had lived for so many years. She was estimated to be in her late 40's.

Would Mark be alive today if he had stayed with his mother, living on the streets? Only God knows. But one thing is for certain, Mark would not be the happy, healthy, carefree child he is today if he had never been brought to live at Treasures of Africa Children's Home. The generosity of the supporters of Treasures of Africa literally preserved his life.

If you have ever wondered if your donations to the Treasures of Africa KIDZ project are having any impact, just think of Mark Thomas. Your love and generosity preserved his life. And your continued support will help educate this precious boy who is now considered by the Tanzanian Social Welfare office to be a "true orphan."



Mark Thomas today

MERCY BRINGS RELIEF

A Story from our Rehema Projects

By Faith Kaluse

Administrator - Hidden With Christ Ministries

Moshi, Tanzania

When I first met 71-year-old Amina, she was in desperate need of seeing a doctor. But she had no money, no health insurance, and no family who could help her. She was dependent on a neighbor's help. She had lost her left leg to amputation in January 2020 due to diabetes. However, Amina did not know that she was diabetic. The cause of the amputation started with a very small injury. She stepped on a pin which pierced her foot. Then the ulcer grew bigger and bigger and led to amputation. It was a terrible blow.

After the amputation operation in January of 2020, Amina never returned to the doctor, even to have the stitches removed. This was because there were no relatives to help her. Her only child, a son, had died a few years before. The neighbors around her would not take her to the hospital because they were afraid of incurring medical expenses and knew Amina did not have money.



Amina with her new walker

In January of this year, one of the leaders of a local women's group in her neighborhood intervened. She had been helping Amina by providing her with food and other necessities. Because of her concern for Amina's health, the woman took the initiative to go to the Social Welfare Office to seek medical help for Amina. After receiving the information about Amina, the Social Welfare Officer contacted me, and we went to see the environment in which she was living. We found her living in a mud brick room, with no bed, lying on the floor on a small mattress that she had been given by neighbors. The help that was urgently needed was to take her to the doctor for removal of the surgical stitches as she was complaining about pain, especially at night to the point that she could not sleep.

Hidden with Christ Ministries through the Rehema Projects, funded the treatment at Mawenzi Regional Referral Hospital where the doctor also informed Amina that she has diabetes and high blood pressure. After the long overdue removal of the surgical stitches, Hidden with Christ Ministries bought a walker to help her get around, instead of leaving her to crawl with her hands when she wants to go outside her room or to a nearby house.



*Rehema Project recipient Amina
- receives a wheelchair*

She learned to use the walker, but because of her poor health, we were concerned that she didn't have the strength to use the walker continuously. This is especially the case when her blood sugar is out of balance, so we saw the need of purchasing a wheelchair. The day we went to deliver the wheelchair to Amina, she was so happy and grateful. She was smiling and repeatedly saying thank you, thank you. The joy was not only Amina's, but also her neighbors. They were so happy because they won't have to carry her when she is unable to use the walker. They even started to show her how to use the wheelchair while we were there.

During that visit to deliver the wheelchair, we found out that the house where Amina lives has no toilet. She must use a bucket as her portable toilet, which is not easy or at all comfortable for someone in her condition. Our plan is to get her a portable toilet chair so that she doesn't have to use the bucket anymore.

Before we left, Amina called me over and said, "I'm so grateful for everything that you did for me, but I'm sorry to ask you one more thing. Can you please help me to pay the house rent? I have not paid for three months now and I'm afraid the landlord will kick me out of his house."

We shared this need with our Director, Pastor Rita, and we were able to pay her rent for six months which covers those three months that she was behind. We are glorifying the Lord Jesus because of your generosity, as we were able to put a smile of relief on Amina's face. That is what REHEMA PROJECTS are all about!

Blessed are the merciful...for they shall receive mercy.

Matthew 5:7

We are so grateful for all donations given toward our REHEMA PROJECTS. (Rehema is the Swahili word for MERCY) These gifts touch the lives of vulnerable children, the sick, the needy, and the elderly in the Kilimanjaro Region of Tanzania. You can donate online at www.hiddenwithchrist.org and help us bring the gift of compassion in the loving name of Jesus.



Looking at Life from a Soccer Game

By Marcia Chang Vogl

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:15 NIV

As I watched 11-year-olds play soccer, I heard the coach say, “We need to learn how to play soccer, not just run around!”

My grandson was one of these eager players with inexhaustible energy. My son had played as a youngster, so the excitement of watching enthusiastic boys playing soccer returned. The referees called the plays. The game stopped each time there was an infraction of the rules. When the ball went out of bounds, the game stopped. The last to touch the ball determined who would have the next possession. The throw-in from the boundary line to resume play had the advantage. The team with better playing skills--dribbling, kicking, and blocking--would advance more quickly and the opportunities for shooting goals increased.

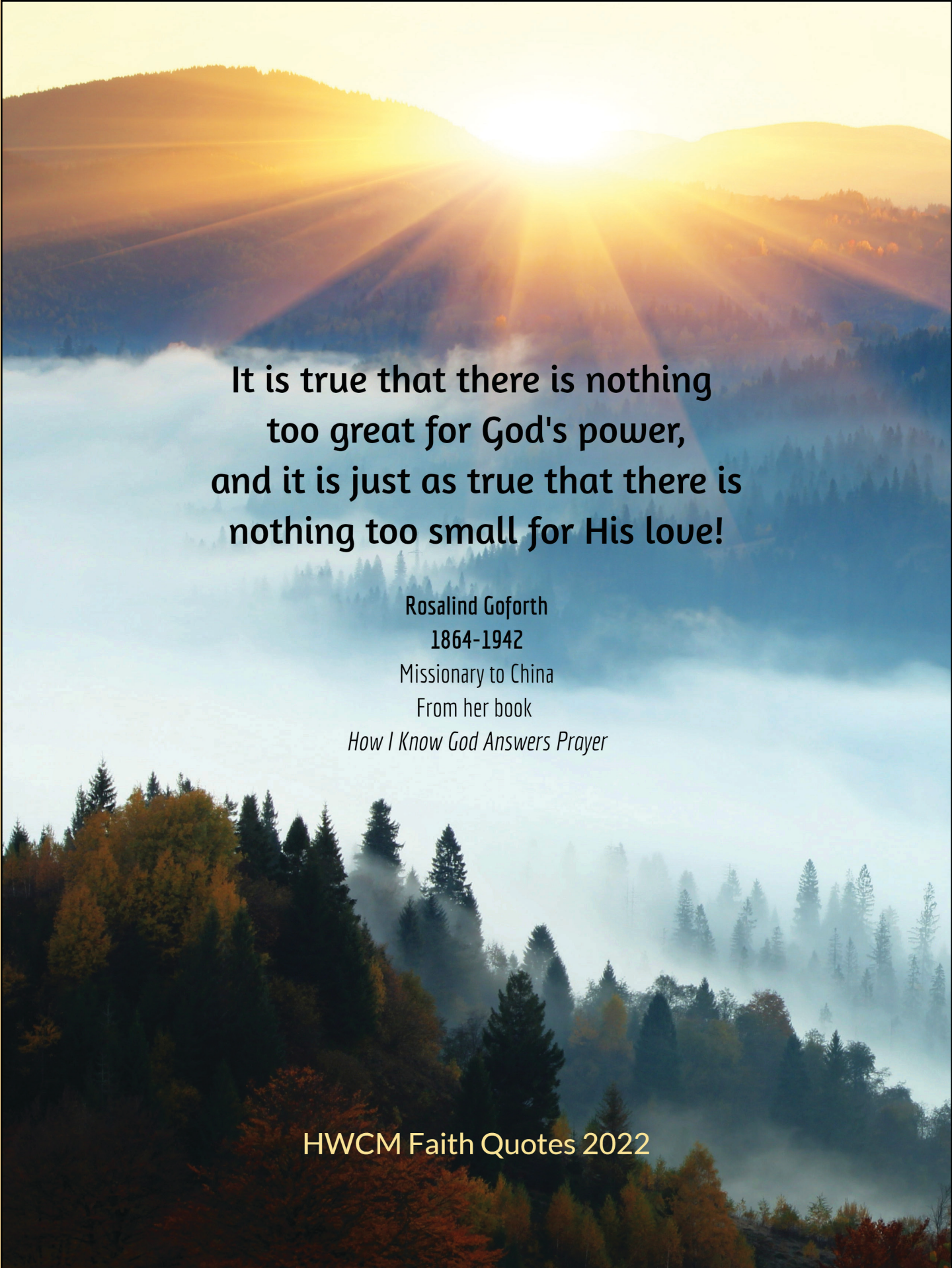
I thought, “This is a lot like life. Learn to play the game and don’t just run around.”

- God calls the plays.
- The game stops when there is an infraction of the rules (sin).
- When you go out of bounds (too far away from God), the game stops.
- The ones with the next “throw in” (gets up and continues) has the advantage.
- The ones with the better playing (life) skills advance more quickly.
- The opportunities for shooting goals (success) increase.

PRAYER: “Lord, instruct me in wisdom and lead me along straight paths. Equip me to play ‘Life’ on the field that you gave me.” Amen.

Editor’s Note: Marcia Chang Vogl is the Founder and Director of Bethany Projects and is the author of two books - *The Path Forward* and *Dancing With God*. She is an ordained minister who partners with Hidden with Christ Ministries. She also ministers through personal prayer sessions, mentoring workshops, and retreats. Marcia received both a Masters and a Doctorate of Practical Ministry degree at Wagner Leadership Institute, with a specialty in women’s ministry, deliverance, and workplace ministries. You can follow her at:

www.bethanyprojects.org and www.marciachangvogl.com



It is true that there is nothing
too great for God's power,
and it is just as true that there is
nothing too small for His love!

Rosalind Goforth

1864-1942

Missionary to China

From her book

How I Know God Answers Prayer

HWCM Faith Quotes 2022

Studios Sisters Pursue Their Dreams

Two sets of sisters – Helena and Glory and Mary and Sifa – were among the very first residents of Treasures of Africa Children's Home when it opened in 2007. These little girls grew into young women and have diligently pursued their dreams. All four have worked hard in school, gratefully embracing the educational opportunities that have been provided to them by God through our generous Hidden with Christ Ministries donors. We thought you would enjoy hearing of their progress.

Helena was nine years old and Glory was seven when they came to live at TOA after the death of their father. They both attended and completed Primary and Secondary School while living at Treasures. Helena entered St. Luke's Foundation Kilimanjaro School of Pharmacy as soon as she graduated from Secondary School. She studied there for three years receiving a Certificate and then Diploma in Pharmacy. This past fall, she enrolled in Kampala International University in Dar Es Salaam Tanzania to pursue her bachelor's degree in Pharmacy. This will require an additional three years of study.



Helena in 2007



Helena today

Glory opted to pursue the route of Advanced Secondary School – a year and a half program of rigorous academics that would allow her to go directly into the University level if she successfully passed her exams. She worked hard and when it came time to take the National Examinations which would determine if she could begin University study, Glory stunned us all when she attained the highest score achieved at her school. This past November she began studying for a bachelor's degree in Health Systems Management at Mzumbe University in Morogoro, Tanzania. This will also require three years to complete, enabling the two sisters to graduate with their bachelor's degrees around the same time.



Glory in 2007



Glory today

Like Helena and Glory, Sifa and Mary came to live at Treasures of Africa at the ages of nine and seven, respectively, after the death of their mother.

Sifa enrolled in the Tengeru Institute of Community Development, after completing Secondary School. She has a heart to work with women and children who are often marginalized in the community. She earned a Certificate and Diploma in Community Development

at TICD and is currently working on her bachelor's degree in the same field of study. She has completed internships with local organizations serving abused women and has learned much through these "on the job training" opportunities. Her dream is to work for the United Nations in their Refugee resettlement program.



Sifa today

program. Now there remains only Mary and one other female student who are on track to graduate. Her dream is to pursue a master's degree and work in some area of medical research or Public Health.

We are so blessed to watch the progress of these amazing young women who have overcome so much to be where they are today. We thank God for all who have prayed and given to help the children from

Treasures of Africa move forward in their lives!

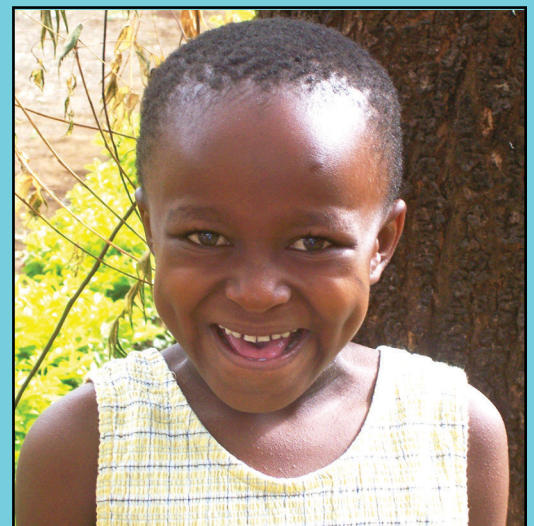


Mary today



Sifa in 2007

Mary followed her love for the sciences through Advanced Secondary School. She was accepted into one of the top medical colleges in Dar Es Salaam – Muhimbili University of Allied Health Sciences – where she is studying for her bachelor's degree in Microbiology and Immunology. Her program accepted less than 30 students and she was one of only 4 women who entered the rigorous



Mary in 2007

Editor's Note: *When Hidden with Christ Ministries established the Treasures of Africa Children's Home back in 2007, our vision was to raise up leaders for the nation of Tanzania from the ranks of orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children. With this vision came a commitment to educate the children who came through our doors through the University level. This vision is being realized **now** because of the generosity of so many compassionate people who have supported the TREASURES OF AFRICA EDUCATION FUND over the years. As every parent knows, the higher the education level, the higher the expenses become. Please prayerfully consider donating to the TOA KIDZ EDUCATION FUND and change the trajectory of the life of an orphaned, abandoned or vulnerable child in Tanzania. www.treasuresofafrica.org/make-a-donation*

Encouraging The Forgotten Pastors *of Tanzania*

by
Pastor Geoffrey Kioko

Imagine if all your life you have lived in a remote area and have never been to the city; an African city in this case. Through no choice of your own, but circumstantially, you live without connection to any essentials including internet or other luxuries like paved roads, mobile phone networks, water and electricity. If this was your life from childhood and not some short term adventurous missionary experience, then serving God under such conditions is the epitome of selfless sacrifice. It is difficult to imagine what challenges the pastors who have planted churches in these regions face daily as they fulfill their divine calling. Such are the lives of the forgotten Pastoralist Maasai Pastors serving in remote places in Tanzania. Consider the testimony of one of them, a man you are well familiar with, Pastor Zablon Laizer. He recently went for a mission to Piyaya village which is located beyond the Ngorongoro Crater in Oldonyo Lengai region and gave this testimony:

"I set out to go for a mission in Piyaya village. The pastor of the local church, Pastor Ole Peria came to meet me. When we met, what I saw moved me to tears and I wept like I have never wept before. The clothes he had on were nothing but rags and he had no shoes. Moved by compassion I took off the only pair I had and walked barefoot for three days awaiting the next market day to buy shoes. The village has a market day once a week and it is there you can get the chance to buy 'luxuries' like shoes.

Pastor Ole Peria is a Maasai pastor in his mid-thirties. Despite being poor, he is spiritually very powerful and is gifted in church planting. Because of this, his denomination has moved him from village to village to plant churches. This pastor was among a group of poor and uneducated pastors from northern Tanzania that had been sponsored some time back by a successful Maasai pastor from Kenya to attend a short-term Bible school training in Kenya. The sponsorship money was given to their denominational head office and designated for the purpose of taking these pastors for the training. The head office instead used the money to buy a vehicle and those pastors never had another opportunity for Bible or Ministry training.

It is not ordinary for a Maasai man to get past the age of 25 years without being married, but Pastor Ole Peria is well past the age of 30 and is still single. This is because he has been to one poor village after another, sometimes spending the night out with the cows in some villages for lack of a place to lay his head. He was so encouraged to see me, and he felt that the Lord had not forgotten him. His church had around ten members but at the end of our mission the church had over sixty members. Praise the Lord."



Maasai village in front of the Oldonyo Lengai (Mountain of God in the Maasai language)

HWCM's Pastor's conference planned for this summer, aims to prepare and encourage such pastors as the one described above, who are laboring in remote parts of Tanzania. It is also intended to cheer them on to continue the good work they are doing in the Lord's vineyard. Most of these pastors never get the opportunity to be invited to any Pastors' conference or even get wind or any word about such. It can be said that they are in the "Africa" of Africa. Such Pastors are so hungry for the

word of the Lord that they are willing to walk for many miles without food and water to get to a conference. Owing to this, our conference will be held in Mto wa Mbu in Tanzania, a place central to these pastors. Their hearts do not care about a decent accommodation in a "whatever star hotel" but instead they are willing to sleep on the church floor or under the stars just to receive a word from God. This speaks of their commitment to the cause of the great commission.

We are expecting pastors from such remote places as Ngaruka, Selela, Oldonyo Lengai, Tarangire, Piyaya, Ewuaso, Ngare Seru and many more villages. Many live and work in places no tourist ever visits, and no foreigner ever sees.

We are appealing to you to pray and consider moving beyond compassion to conviction. Because in our view these are Kingdom seekers and members of God's army in the difficult frontlines whose stories of dedication and victory we may never get to hear.

By partnering with us you are investing in this Kingdom purpose of refreshing, recharging, encouraging, preparing and equipping this precious and powerful battalion of called pastors through this coming pastors' conference. Our target is two hundred pastors attending four consecutive and structured conferences with the aim of equipping them for the ministry. This will consist of one conference every six months for two years which we are calling PASTORS SCHOOL, and those participating in all four conferences will receive a certificate of completion. For some, it will be the only structured ministry training they will ever receive.

We invite you to donate to help fund this important event and/or commit yourself to praying and fasting for this first upcoming conference. Thank you. **www.hiddenwithchrist.org/donate**

Editor's Note: *Pastor Geoffrey Kioko has been an integral part of the work of Hidden with Christ Ministries in Tanzania since 2003. He is a founding Board Member of the Tanzanian organization of Hidden with Christ Ministries. He resides in Nairobi, Kenya and travels between Kenya and Tanzania to assist with the ministry.*



Loving Others: A Family Affair

Last year, when we were prayerfully searching for foster families for the children of Treasures of Africa Children's Home, our biggest concern was finding homes for our "special needs" kids – Awadhi and little Christina. We knew they both needed very special people who



Christina with her Foster mom - Alice

would love and encourage them to their full potential. We never dreamed they would go to the same family and be joined by a third treasure, Brian.

Alice was the on-staff teacher at Treasures of Africa, helping the children with homework and following their progress with the multitude of schools they attended. She was a highly valued member of the TOA team. She always saw the best in our kids and encouraged them to fulfill their dreams.

So, when Alice and her husband, a local pastor, volunteered to take in all three children, we were stunned. We wanted to make sure it wasn't too much for one family. But they reassured us heartily. They explained that because all their children were older – (high school and college aged) and they had decided as a family to do this – they were ready to love the three treasures who would become part of their family.

Awadhi came to Treasures at the age of three and was diagnosed with profound deafness. Now 17, Awadhi attends a School for the Deaf. He seems genuinely happy in his new family. Christina is 4 years old and has some deficits resulting from her premature birth. Yet in Alice's care she has thrived and made great improvements in walking and talking. Brian is 12 years old and wanted



Brian

to be placed in the same home as Awadhi because he was concerned about his well-being. Brian was one of the only children at the orphanage who had an ability to easily communicate with Awadhi. Alice reports that Brian has been a great blessing and has fit into the "M" family beautifully. He enjoys collecting the eggs in the morning from the chickens the family raises and is responsible around the house.

We are so thankful that the "M" family had hearts big enough to take in three treasures from Treasures of Africa. For them, loving others truly is a family affair.

Editor's Note: Hidden with Christ Ministries continues to pay for the school expenses for the Treasures of Africa Children who are now being cared for in Foster Families. In addition, we assist the foster families by paying school fees for their children. You can be a part of helping orphaned and vulnerable children complete their education by making a donation to the TOA KIDZ Education Fund on our website:

www.treasuresofafrica.org/make-a-donation



Awadhi with his Foster parents

From the Desk of

Mary Holt

Operations Manager
Hidden with Christ Ministries

Two years ago, God was stirring in the hearts of the HWCM board and staff that change was coming to the ministry. Little did we know what that would look like, but we trusted His plans and timing. God sovereignly arranged for the HWCM office in Tustin to be sold amidst the covid lockdowns. Thus began our entrance into the world of working remotely.

During this time, it became necessary for Rita Langeland to be in Tanzania for an extended period of time due to the changes taking place there. And I worked from home while my husband and I prepared to move to Arizona a year ago. Now HWCM has officially re-located to Virginia. Hopefully, you received the change of address postcard. It's been a learning curve to work out the logistics of mailing, banking and being in different time zones, but we are now getting settled into our new working arrangements. Very soon we will be moving into our new office building in Virginia and get the ministry's furnishings and files out of storage!

All that to say, THANK YOU! We are indebted to you - our faithful friends - who have continued to support the ministry financially, encourage us, pray for HWCM and believe with us for God's purposes. Thank you for your patience during this transition and trusting us to faithfully steward the ministry. We appreciate you greatly!

Enclosed in this Victory Magazine issue is a donation envelope which has been updated with the new mailing address and new ministry projects. We hope you will continue with us as we seek to share the Word of God and the Love of God in practical ways across the world!

I thank my God every time I remember you.
In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy
because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...
Philippians 1:3-5



From the **Media Department**

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God!! We want to help get you encouragement from the Word of God that will bless you in your daily walk with the Lord and share Biblical truths with friends and family through whatever method is most useful for you!

Be built up in the word daily with the My Everyday Bible APP. My Everyday Bible is an easy way to listen to the Bible on a daily basis and go through the entire text of the Bible in one year. The APP is free and provides a daily audio recording of the Bible being read by Rita Langeland with a devotional message at the end of each daily reading. By listening to one segment each day and you will go through the entire Bible in one calendar year! Find the APP at www.myeverydaybible.com or your preferred APP store.

Also, you can be encouraged by our Word For Wednesday weekly devotional teaching videos from Rita Langeland. These short and to-the-point videos expound on a scripture and bring to light some aspect of God's goodness to us in a manner that is uplifting and easy to understand and easy to share with friends and family who need encouragement! We now have a catalog of over 120 Word For Wednesday videos that are applicably timeless for building you up in your faith! These messages are also available as audio podcasts on all major podcast platforms – search for "Word For Wednesday with Rita Langeland" or subscribe with your favorite audio podcasting APP at - <https://ritangeland.buzzsprout.com>

Here are some recent comments we have received from viewers and listeners:

"Hello dear Sister, Just a note to thank you, again and again, for teaching the Word of God to us. I just listened to your Word for Wednesday from two years ago, Facing the Storm, (season 1, episode 37). Oh Rita, every word spoke to my heart. My daughter-in-law was diagnosed with Ovarian cancer. She had surgery and treatment but the cancer is spreading. I thank Jesus that she is a strong believer, and so is my son. Even so, this storm is rough. Add to this other circumstances in their lives and these storms seem overwhelming. Thank you for breaking down the story of Jesus in the boat with his disciples in such a way that we understand we can take the same action Jesus did, and do it in His authority. I've read the story so many times but never realized all that it was teaching. Thank you for doing that. God bless you my dear friend and sister in Christ" **LC - USA**

"Hi Rita, I just want to thank you for the fullness of this app and to let you know how much I appreciate what you have done. My objective was to read / study the bible from start to end, however my eyesight became poorly to a point where I could read no more. Fortunately my wife found your app for me and I began at day 1 and by today have reached day 310. I enjoy the prefix you give at the start of the day's reading and the devotional at the end. You probably know that you are inspirational already, but if not then take it from me." **DG – South Africa**

"Hallelujah!!! What an amazing encouraging message"
RJ - Nigeria

"God bless you for sharing with us"
OO - Ghana

"Thank you for sharing this, Rita! I love your messages!"
BM- USA

"Thank you for sharing, Jesus is Lord"
MD - Kenya

"Thanks for the wonderful message"
OM- Uganda

"Excellent exhortation...God listens and takes notes! Thank you Rita"
SK- USA

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A Tanzanian Teacher's DREAM COME TRUE

One of the goals of Hidden with Christ Ministries in Tanzania when Treasures of Africa orphanage was closed and all the children were moved to Foster Homes, was to assist as many as possible of our former orphanage staff in starting their own small business. A full-time job with a regular paycheck is a rarity in Tanzania. We knew that many of our staff would find themselves struggling to make ends meet after having enjoyed the security of working at the orphanage for many years.

We arranged for each staff member to meet with our long-time colleague Pastor Geoffrey Kioko. As an experienced business owner and pastor, he was well qualified to give each employee counseling on financial planning and small business ideas they could pursue to replace their income. During that process, one of our staff members, Alice, indicated her desire to start her own nursery school and day care center. This was a great match for her skill set as she had been the on-site teacher at Treasures of Africa and was wonderfully gifted in working with children.

A second reason Alice wanted to open a day care and nursery – was because she had taken in three-year-old Christina – one of the Treasures of Africa children with special needs. She felt she could best care for her and work at the same time if she owned her own day care business. She wanted to keep Christina close by and under her own supervision.

HWCM donated useful items for her nursery school that had been used in our TOA classroom. From a kid-sized table



*Teacher Alice with her
Foster child - Christina*



and chairs to educational wall decorations and books, Alice was blessed to receive items needed for the startup of her new business.

In addition, HWCM did a complete interior and exterior painting of the building she had been loaned by a friend for the use of her nursery school. We brought in a local artist to paint brightly colored murals and numbers and letters on the walls that would attract the attention of the children, and outdoor signage to announce the new daycare center.

Alice was thrilled with the results, and the transformation of the exterior of the building garnered much interest in the neighborhood when that project was completed. Please pray for the success of teacher Alice's new endeavor. She is experiencing her dream come true!



Teacher Alice's new Day Care Center

The NAME of the LORD is a STRONG TOWER

BY
RITA
LANGELAND



***The name of the Lord is a strong tower;
The righteous runs into it and is safe.***

Proverbs 18:10

Are you facing a huge battle in your life? Is it bigger than anything you have ever come up against before? Does it appear insurmountable?

King Asa of Israel was standing squarely in the crosshairs of such a battle. An army numbering one million men had marched across his nation's border and stood brazenly challenging them to war. The King knew his military resources were not sufficient to repel an army of that size. So, he was forced to bring out his secret weapon.

***Then Asa called to the Lord his God and said,
"Lord, there is no one besides You to help in the battle
between the powerful and those who have no strength;
so help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in You, and
in Your name have come against this multitude.
O Lord, You are our God; let not man prevail against You."*** 2 Chron. 14:11

If like King Asa, you feel that you have no strength for the enormous battle which is against you, take heart – there is a weapon at your disposal which will turn the tide of the attack you are facing. It is the name of the Lord. King Asa knew he could use the name of the Lord as the “tip of the sword” as he advanced against the enemy army. He declared, “...***in Your name (we) have come against this multitude.***” The results were striking and immediate: ***...the Lord routed the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.*** (2 Chron. 14:12)

For all those who have a personal relationship with Christ, the name of the Lord is a powerful spiritual weapon in our arsenal. But it must only be used under the authority of the Lord. You may remember the New Testament story found in Acts 19 where some Jewish exorcists attempted to use the name of Jesus to cast out evil spirits. But because they had no personal relationship with the Lord, that attempt was disastrous.

Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. (Acts 19:13,15-16 NIV)

But for those who know the Lord, the name of Jesus is literally the “power of attorney” given to us who believe, to see the will of God done in the earth. In the book entitled ***EVER INCREASING FAITH*** a story is shared in which the power of the name of Jesus to heal is perfectly illustrated. This book is a collection of sermons by the famed British Evangelist, Smith Wigglesworth. In it, Wigglesworth tells of a man named Lazarus, who lived in Wales and was dying of tuberculosis. The man worked by day for many years in a tin mine and was a lay preacher sharing the Gospel at night. By the time Wigglesworth visited him, he was nothing but skin and bones, as he had been bedridden for four years, and could not even feed himself.

The Lord directed Wigglesworth to take others with him, and to simply say the name of Jesus over Lazarus, rather than to pray for his healing. The following two paragraphs are excerpts from the book, ***EVER INCREASING FAITH***. (Sublime Books, 2015)

I shall never forget how the power of God fell on us as we went into that sick man's room. O, it was lovely! As we circled round the bed I got one brother to hold one of the sick man's hands and I held the other; and we each held the hand of the person next to us. I said, "We are not going to pray, we are just going to use the name of Jesus." We all knelt down and whispered that one word, "Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!" The power of God fell and then it lifted. Five times the power of God fell and then it remained.

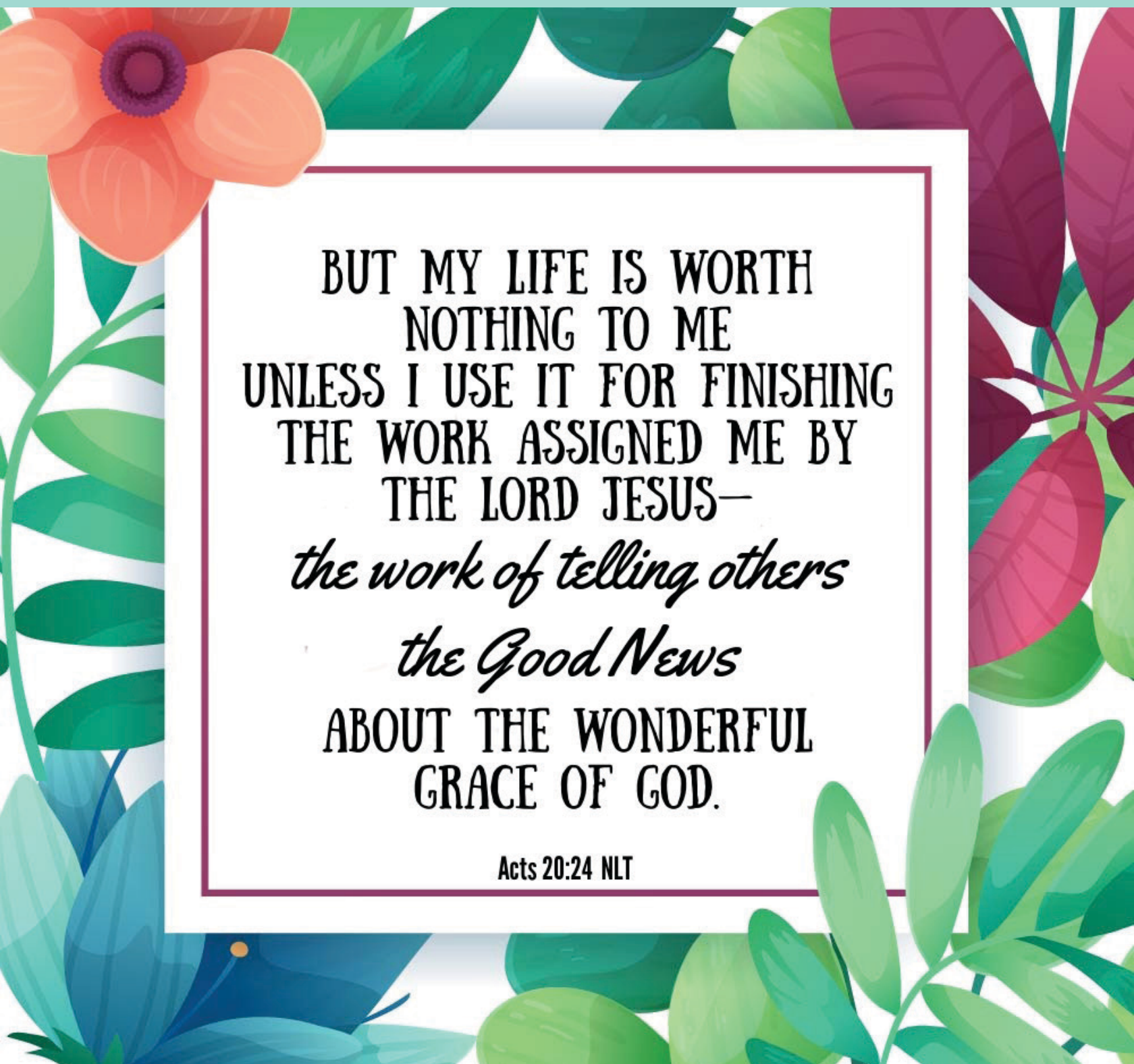
As we again said, "Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!" the bed shook, and the man shook. I said to the people that were with me, "You can all go downstairs right away. This is all God. I'm not going to assist him." I sat and watched that man get up and dress himself. We sang the doxology as he walked down the steps. All this came through the name of Jesus, through faith in His name, the faith that is by Him gave this sick man perfect soundness in the presence of them all.

But not only is the name of the Lord an offensive weapon that will make the enemy of your soul flee, it is also a place of refuge and protection during the pressures of life. Whether the battle you are facing involves sickness, finances, legal trouble or family issues, make sure that you run to that place of refuge described in Proverbs 18:10 – the NAME OF THE LORD. I believe you can pray this verse to the Lord and receive His comfort and protection no matter how strong the battle is against you. Here is a translation of Proverbs 18:10 that I love which uses the Hebrew word for Lord - Adonai:

The name of Adonai is a strong tower; a righteous person runs to it and is raised high [above danger]. (CJB)

Pray this way: Lord, I believe Your name is above every name, and it is in that name that I trust. You know the battle I am facing right now. You have instructed me in Proverbs 18:10 to run to Your name and You have promised I will be made safe. I run to the refuge of Your name now and I believe you will raise me high above the danger I am facing. Thank you for protecting me and saving me from the battle that is against me. I choose to rest in the strong tower of Your mighty name. Amen!

There is no situation you will face in life that the Name of the Lord Jesus cannot overcome.



BUT MY LIFE IS WORTH
NOTHING TO ME
UNLESS I USE IT FOR FINISHING
THE WORK ASSIGNED ME BY
THE LORD JESUS—
the work of telling others
the Good News
ABOUT THE WONDERFUL
GRACE OF GOD.

Acts 20:24 NLT