

Victory

magazine

Hidden With Christ Ministries
July/August 2024



*A Vision on the
African Horizon*

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Praying Your Prodigals Home

by
Rita Langeland

A long-time supporter of HWC Ministries wrote a letter in which she shared her sorrow over the two prodigal children in her life. Though she had raised them in the Christian faith, when they became young adults, they both walked away and pursued a godless lifestyle. She went on to explain that her church had a special prayer focus which centered on consistently praying for the prodigal sons and daughters of the congregation. Her pastor is diligent with this prayer emphasis, because he personally knows the sorrow of having a prodigal child. That church currently has the names of more than 1000 prodigals on their prayer list. And God knows every single one.

Reading that letter this week brought me to tears. It reminded me of the parable Jesus told of the "prodigal son" which we find in the Gospel of Luke chapter 15. In that story, we find the father watching the road for the return of his son. I thought of the thousands of parents "watching the road" for the return of their prodigal. Are you one of them? If you are, then I am confident that you have prayed many tear-filled prayers on their behalf.

I want to encourage you to never give up praying for the prodigals in your life. But instead of begging God to intervene, (which would be a natural response) begin to approach the Lord on the basis of His word regarding your child. In Isaiah 43:26 we are encouraged to "remind the Lord" of what He has said – and God responds to that type of prayer!

Simply pray, "Lord – You said in Your word..."

- ***For I will fight those who fight you, and I will save your children.*** Isaiah 49:25b NLT
- ***The seed of the righteous shall be delivered.*** Proverbs 11:21

"Lord, I believe You will do what You said – thank you for intervening in my child's life TODAY, saving and delivering them, and bringing them home in Your perfect timing." You can pray this prayer daily, standing in faith that God hears and will deliver and restore the prodigal child you are praying for.

In the same week I received the letter described above, I heard the news of a prodigal who had come home. This young woman, the daughter of a friend who has been in full-time ministry for many years, returned to the Lord and to relationship with her praying mother after 8 years of rebellion. The joy of this mother was indescribable.

God wants to give you that same joy. Pray in faith, do not speak negatively or hopelessly about your prodigal to anyone, including yourself or your spouse. Ask God for forgiveness if you have allowed your heart to become hopeless over the situation, even briefly.

Bring God's word before Him daily – and begin to thank Him that your prodigal child is coming home!

Editor's Note:

Here are a few books I recommend that will be an encouragement to you and can be found on Amazon.com:

COME HOME – by Tim Sheets; **PRAYING PRODIGALS HOME** – by Quin Sherrer; **PRODIGALS AND THOSE WHO LOVE THEM** – by Ruth Bell Graham



The vision of
**TREASURES OF AFRICA
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

*A Secondary School in Tanzania
with a Biblical Worldview
and a Leadership Training Specialization*

PREPARING LEADERS FOR THE NATIONS

A project of Hidden with Christ Ministries

For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

Habakkuk 2:3 NKJV



A VISION ON THE AFRICAN HORIZON

A view of Mt. Kilimanjaro from the HWCM property located outside of Moshi, Tanzania

**By Rita Langeland
Executive Director
Hidden with Christ Ministries**

More than a decade ago, Hidden with Christ Ministries purchased a 5.2 acre plot of land outside the city of Moshi, Tanzania. The year was 2011, and our work with orphaned children through our Treasures of Africa Children's Home was well known to the local Social Welfare office.

The head of the Welfare office (at that time) had begun to pressure us to purchase a permanent location for the children, as she was very uncomfortable that we were renting a building for use as an orphanage. She feared the owner would not renew the lease, and all the children could suddenly become homeless. The Welfare authorities had nowhere to place the children, as there were no government orphanages, so the pressure was on.

We searched high and low, and no buildings were found suitable to house a large number of children. It became clear we would have to buy land and build. After walking and praying over one specific property for 7 days, we felt confident we had found God's intended location. After a series of miracles, financial and otherwise, the property was purchased. But the faith battle continued, as it took three solid years to receive the Title Deed for the land.

When the Title Deed finally came through, we had only one more hurdle to overcome, or so we thought. Our land was zoned as "Light Industrial" in a large swath of land that had been set aside by the government for industrial development some decades prior. But all the landowners had simply planted corn, and the entire area looked like a series of small farms instead of the intended industrial complex. The Land Office had promised to change our Land designation to "Educational", to allow us to proceed with building an orphanage and school. But when we refused to "encourage" the Land Officer with a financial "gift," our promised zoning change stalled out. This went on for years, regardless of writing letters to officials and making in-person appeals. I got to the point of simply laying the entire project on the "altar" like Abraham did with Isaac and was confident that God could raise it from the dead in His perfect timing.

Fast-forward to March 2024. It felt like the time was right to ask the government officials in Hai District, to change the land's zoning designation to "Educational" one more time. By this point, many things in the government had changed. The previous Land Officer, who had refused to help us without a bribe, had been jailed for corruption. We also had heard that the new District Commissioner, to whom we planned to make a direct in-person appeal, had the reputation of being a very reasonable person.

We no longer planned to request permission to build an orphanage, since the central government had announced its intention (in 2020) to close orphanages across the country and place the children in families. We had successfully moved all the TOA children into families by mid-2021 and now set our sights on seeking permission to build a Secondary School to be called TREASURES OF AFRICA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY. Our need for a zoning change of our property from Industrial to Educational was still the primary issue we planned to present to the District Commissioner.

One of our HWCM Board members in Tanzania, Mr. Shali, a civil engineer, secured an in-person meeting for our Board with the District Commissioner. The Board members came out in force for this meeting, as all of us had prayed together for a positive ruling on our request by the D.C. The meeting proceeded, with our Engineer leading the way. He explained the history of our organization seeking permission for a zoning change for many years. The D.C. listened carefully and suddenly asked exactly where the land was located. When it was explained, he blurted out, "I was just there last week!" Then he explained that he went to see a project that had been built across the road and noticed our iron gate which reads, "TREASURES OF AFRICA" and "Through these gates pass future leaders of nations."

He asked more questions, such as how another non-profit organization had managed to build a non-industrial project in the same area while HWCM was denied permission. (This had all occurred before he was appointed District Commissioner) By the end of the meeting, the D.C. had called the Land Officer into the meeting and announced in his presence, that he was giving permission for Hidden with Christ Ministries to proceed with the project, and no one should disturb them! Suddenly, our dream had been resurrected from the dead! We left that meeting rejoicing over the miraculous turnaround.

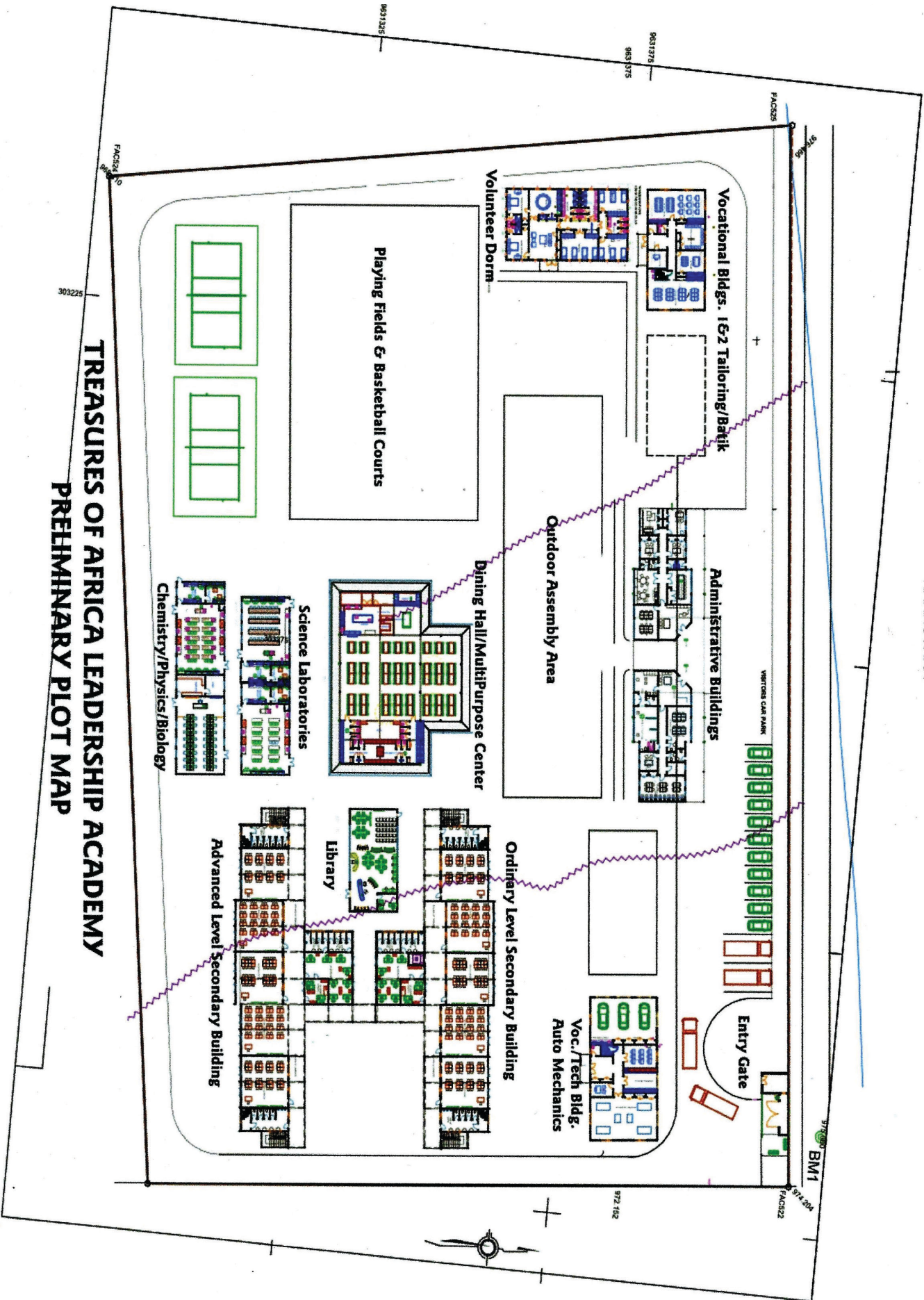
The next step in this project involves completing architectural and engineering plans for the school so they can be presented to the Ministry of Education for approval. Mr. Shali is overseeing this process, as he has been the lead Engineer on a multitude of school projects over the years.

We are asking for your help to bring this dream into reality. Here are several ways you can help:

1. PRAY FOR WISDOM AND DIVINE FAVOR WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR EVERY STEP OF THE PROJECT. (Especially with the Ministry of Education)
2. PRAY FOR US TO FIND THE RIGHT PEOPLE FOR EVERY POSITION IN THE SCHOOL – FROM THE HEADMASTER TO THE TEACHERS WHO CAN CARRY THE VISION OF TREASURES OF AFRICA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY.
3. PRAY FOR FINANCIAL PROVISION FOR EACH PHASE OF THE BUILDING PROJECT AND FOR OPERATIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE FIRST THREE YEARS.
4. PRAY ABOUT HOSTING A FUNDRAISER FOR THE TOA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY IN YOUR HOME STATE! (if you are interested – contact rita@hiddenwithchrist.org)

Thank you for supporting this vision for the Treasures of Africa Leadership Academy – where godly leaders for the next generation will be trained!

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF PLOT NO 54 AT WERUWERU INDUSTRIAL AREA
HAI DISTRICT



TREASURES OF AFRICA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
PRELIMINARY PLOT MAP

A PROMISE FULFILLED

By FAITH KALUSE
ADMINISTRATOR
HWC MINISTRIES – MOSHI, TANZANIA



I am an eyewitness to a Biblical promise being fulfilled in a young boy's life. The promise is found in the first words of Psalm 68:6, "God places the lonely in families..." and the young boy's name is Michael.

Michael lost his parents at a very young age. After the death of his parents, Michael and his older sister were taken in by their aunt and went to live in the city of Arusha. After moving to Arusha, his sister developed a mental illness. They decided to take her to church for prayers, and she was healed. The pastor who prayed for Michael's sister decided to visit the family. During his visit, he discovered that the family was very impoverished and couldn't afford to provide for Michael's most basic needs.

This situation prompted the pastor to ask the founder of Faraja Orphanage to take Michael in, so he could be fed and educated. A few years later, the orphanage was closed by the government for not having proper registration. A missionary family took in five children that were left behind at the orphanage after its closure, when their extended relatives never came for them. Sadly, that missionary family was not permitted to stay with the kids at their home due to legal restrictions, so all 5 of the children, including Michael, were brought to Treasures of Africa. Michael lived at Treasures of Africa for 3 and ½ years.



After the closure of Treasures of Africa Children's Home and the placement of all the TOA kids into foster families, Michael was reunited with his sister in Arusha by a social welfare official. By this time, his sister was married. She and her husband and their baby were living with her husband's family. But the living situation was hard, and this made Michael's life very difficult.

To help Michael concentrate on his studies and to help him academically, Hidden with Christ Ministries placed him in a good boarding school. He spent most of the year at school and then would visit with his family during school breaks. However, this arrangement faced more challenges when Michael's sister

separated from her husband and ended up not having a permanent place to live. Michael became very unhappy with this life situation. Every time I visited him at school, he asked me to find a family for him like other kids, as he no longer felt comfortable staying with his sister, who was becoming more and more unstable.

Last year, during the third-semester school break, Michael's sister was supposed to pick him up from school, but she never arrived. The school called the HWCM office after Michael had been there for three days with no one to retrieve him for the holiday break. Despite trying to reach his sister several times, we were unsuccessful. Even her relatives had no idea where she was. Consequently, we went to pick up Michael from

the school, and he spent the school break with the family of one of the staff members of Hidden with Christ Ministries.

This incident proved that the need to find a stable family willing to take Michael in had now become urgent. No one in Michael's extended family was ready or able to care for him due to their own extreme poverty. After praying and asking God to provide a family for Michael, our prayers were answered when Mr. Jonathan Mcharo and his family stepped forward. This was a godly, stable family known to me from church.

After discussing Michael's situation with them, the family was ready and willing to take him into their home during the Christmas holidays. They spent the entire December school break with Michael, showing him the love of our Lord Jesus. Michael felt so happy with this family, who made him feel more than welcome. The children called him their "brother" and the parents treated him as a son, even giving him his own bedroom. Michael had never experienced anything like this before.

We could not have anticipated how quickly and positively this move would change Michael's life and attitude. After Michael returned to boarding school, the school matron called me to inquire where Michael had gone for the Christmas school break. She remarked on the great job the family did because she could see a dramatic change in Michael's behavior. She noted that he was like a new person, full of joy and had become very responsible in and out of class.

We thank God for placing Michael in this godly family, where he can experience the love, support, and guidance that every child deserves. It's a beautiful testament to the power of love and the kindness of strangers. To me, this turnaround in Michael's life demonstrates that through God and His divine providence, even the most vulnerable child can find warmth and belonging in the embrace of a caring family. God keeps His promises!

God places the lonely in families...
Psalm 68:6



Michael (far right) with his new family

Editor's Note:

We are so grateful to the generous supporters of Hidden With Christ Ministries and our TREASURES OF AFRICA KIDZ Project. All of Michael's academic expenses (boarding school fees, uniforms and supplies) as well as medical insurance are paid through our TOA KIDZ Project Education Fund. Be a part of this exciting and life-changing project! www.treasuresofafrica.org

The Beauty of Mercy

STORIES FROM OUR REHEMA PROJECTS

Mercy Triumphs Over Judgement.

James 2:13b

In every prison, in every country in the world, you will find sorrow, regret and many tears. In every prison, in every country in the world, you will find hopelessness and feelings of abandonment. In every prison, in every country in the world, you will find prisoners who swear they are innocent, but have no resources to prove their case. In every prison, in every country in the world, time is the greatest punishment.

It would be easy to walk past a prison thinking, "Those people must have done something wicked to be locked up there!" And then equally easy to continue on with the busyness of life without giving the imprisoned residents another thought. Yet Jesus was concerned about prisoners when he was on the earth. And He said that the person who visited those languishing in prison, would be regarded as if they had visited Christ Himself. (Matthew 25:36-40) Jesus loved demonstrating the beauty of mercy to those the world considers undeserving.

One area of focus that Hidden with Christ Ministries pursues in Tanzania, East Africa, is what we have dubbed our "REHEMA PROJECTS." (Rehema is the Swahili word for mercy) Through these efforts, we seek to show the beauty of God's mercy, through practical acts of compassion aimed at the most vulnerable members of the community.

Recently, our Administrator in the Moshi, Tanzania office, Faith Kaluse, brought handmade baby blankets and knit caps, donated from friends in the USA, to the women's prison located a few kilometers outside the city of Moshi. When a baby is born in prison in Tanzania, the baby stays with the mother until the child is two years old, though the prisoners are not given any supplies to help them in caring for the child. We had received word that the women prisoners were in desperate need of blankets for the babies, and Faith brought what we had on hand. (see photo on next page)



This particular prison houses 800 male prisoners and 42 female prisoners. Faith shared the following report regarding her visit to the prison.

The women were in tears, expressing how much the blankets meant to them, especially during this cold season. I took the opportunity to speak to them about the love of our Lord Jesus and how much He cares for them. They sang praise songs and prayed for our organization, making it a truly moving experience. I was also asked to speak to the male prisoners, where I shared about the love of Jesus and encouraged

them to use their time in prison to build a good relationship with God and others, and to make positive changes in their lives and I prayed for them. They were happy and appreciated the prayers and words I shared with them through their leader. Their leader asked if it would be possible to help them with supplies like toothpaste, toothbrushes, shavers, soap, and slippers, as many of them lack these supplies because they don't have relatives who visit them.

After hearing about these basic hygiene needs of the prisoners, we became determined to provide some of these items as a way to express God's love for them. We plan to buy these items in Moshi from a wholesaler, to get the best possible prices.

For less than \$4 per prisoner, we can buy a toothbrush, a large tube of Colgate toothpaste and a large package of soap (containing six bars) for each prisoner. At Christmas time, we hope to repeat this and add slippers (rubber sandals) and candy to their gift package. We plan to purchase enough for 850 prisoners. (we are buying a few extra in case any new prisoners arrive by the time we bring the supplies) This is a big endeavor, but we want each prisoner to know God loves them and has not forgotten them. We will include a written message sharing the love of God in each gift.


If you would like to help, a donation of \$4 will supply one prisoner or \$40 will supply 10. Go to our website www.hiddenwithchrist.org and on the DONATE page, you will find the option to give to REHEMA PROJECTS on the dropdown menu. Or you can mail your donation to:

**HWC Ministries
PO Box 745
Forest, VA 24551**

Consider getting your children involved in this compassion project! They too can participate in showing these prisoners in Tanzania the BEAUTY OF MERCY!

***"I needed clothes and you clothed me.
I was sick and you looked after me.
I was in prison and you came to visit me.
"Then the righteous will answer him,
'Lord, when did we see you sick
or in prison and go to visit you?'
"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you,
whatever you did for one of the least of these
brothers and sisters of mine,
you did for me.'"***

Matthew 25:36, 37a, 39-40 NIV

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a floral patterned top and light blue pants, is sitting on a wooden dock. She is facing away from the camera, looking out over a calm lake. The background is a misty forest with trees in shades of green and brown. The sky is overcast and grey. The dock is made of wooden planks and extends from the bottom center towards the middle of the frame.

**This hard place
in which you,
perhaps, find yourself,
is the very place
in which God
is giving you
opportunity to look
only to Him.**

Elisabeth Elliot
Missionary and Author
1926-2015

HWCM FAITH QUOTES 2024

HWC Ministries Prayer Targets

Brethren, pray for us!
I THESSALONIANS 5:25

1) Pray for the Treasures of Africa KIDZ - for their health, wisdom in their decisions, wisdom in choice of friends, that they would mature in their relationship with God, for success in their academic pursuits, and for peace, harmony and provision for their foster families.

2) Pray for the people ministered to through our Rehema Projects - that they would see the mercy and love of God in the provision they receive and turn to the Lord.

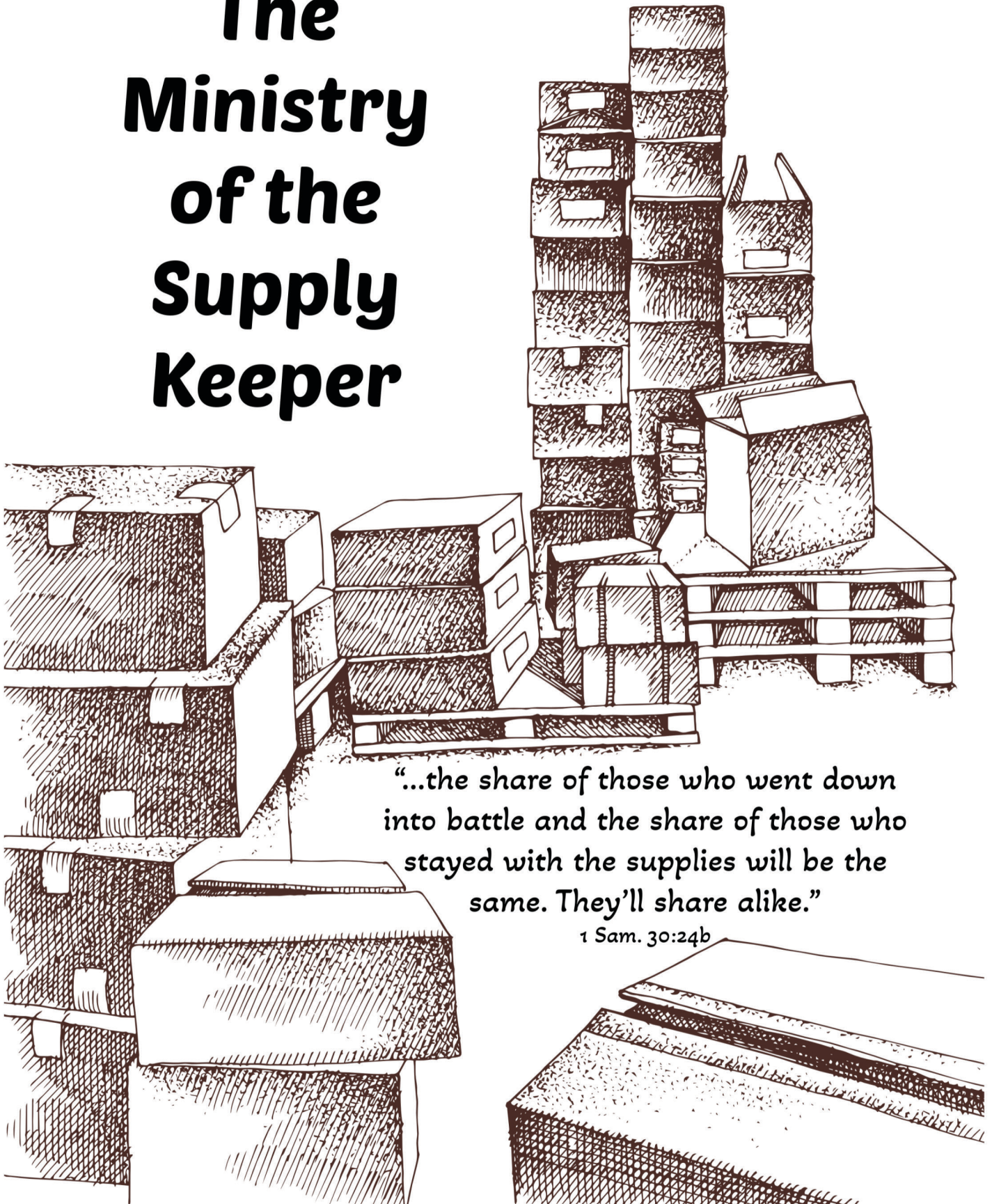
3) Pray for the Maasai church in Esilalei village (Treasures of Faith Church) that HWCM partners with - that the people would continue to grow in their faith and become great evangelists to the Maasai tribe.

4) Pray for the vision of TREASURES OF AFRICA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY to come to fruition and that all the God-ordained personnel needed would be found and the finances for building the school and operating it would be fully provided.

5) Please pray for the staff and Board members of Hidden with Christ Ministries both in the USA and in Tanzania for divine health and strength, protection for them and their families, and for wisdom in all decisions they make as they serve the Lord at HWCM.

6) Pray for supernatural blessing and protection over every supporter of Hidden with Christ Ministries and their families.

The Ministry of the Supply Keeper



“...the share of those who went down into battle and the share of those who stayed with the supplies will be the same. They’ll share alike.”

1 Sam. 30:24b

If you are a student of the Bible, then you are undoubtedly familiar with King David, one of the greatest kings in Israel's history. During his tenure, he never lost a battle. When David led his men against the Lord's enemies, some of the soldiers were sent to the battle line and some were assigned to stay behind with the supplies.

In First Samuel 30:24-25 we find that David made an ordinance in Israel that declared, "**...the share of those who went down into battle and the share of those who stayed with the supplies will be the same. They'll share alike.**"

This applied specifically to the "spoils" or rewards that were distributed when a battle was won. Both the soldier at the battlefront as well as the soldier who took care of the supplies shared equally in the rewards. David considered the "supply keepers" to be just as important as the soldier at the frontline.



And so it is with the Lord. Perhaps you cannot go to the frontlines to personally take the Gospel to the ends of the earth, but you are distributing the necessary supplies that enable the Gospel to be preached and the love of Christ to be demonstrated. God considers that an equally important ministry and will reward you for being faithful to your call as a "supply keeper." Whether you are supplying prayer support, finances or the practical service of stuffing envelopes or updating a ministry website, your ministry as a "supply keeper" is VITAL.

Don't underestimate the value of the supply keeper's ministry in the eyes of God. Eternity will reveal how precious the faithfulness of a supply keeper truly is in God's sight. Be a faithful soldier in God's army and do EXACTLY what your Commander-in-Chief would have you to do to fulfill His commission to "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)

OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR SUPPLY KEEPERS:

At Hidden with Christ Ministries, we are extremely grateful to each of our SUPPLY KEEPERS who enable us to care for orphans and the vulnerable in Tanzania, East Africa and to spread the Word of God over the internet through our Bible teaching ministry. We are committed to pray for you weekly to be blessed spiritually, physically and financially and for your family to be blessed and for all your prodigals to come home!

**“BUT WHILE HE WAS STILL
A LONG WAY OFF,
HIS FATHER SAW HIM
AND WAS FILLED WITH COMPASSION FOR HIM;
HE RAN TO HIS SON,
THREW HIS ARMS AROUND
HIM AND KISSED HIM.”
LUKE 15:20**