

# Victory magazine

Hidden With Christ Ministries  
September/October 2024



*Contending  
for the Faith*

Page 9

# IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 KEEP ON BELIEVING**
- 3 FAITH QUOTE**
- 4 TELL THEM TO DO GOOD**
- 5 BEHIND PRISON BARS**
- 7 SORROWS OF THIS EARTH**
- 8 INFLUENCING THE WORLD**
- 9 CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH**

*That I may publish  
With the voice of thanksgiving  
and tell of all  
Thy wonderful works.*  
Psalm 26:7

VICTORY MAGAZINE is a publication of Hidden With Christ Ministries. All rights reserved.  
Copyright ©2024

## **OUR VISION:**

To demonstrate the love of God through mercy ministries and by freely teaching God's Word around the world.

## **OUR MISSION:**

To care for orphans and abandoned children and other needy persons through practical outreaches and by producing free Bible materials and training.

**Every Gift you send and every prayer you offer helps change lives around the world!**

Donate securely online at:  
[www.hiddenwithchrist.org](http://www.hiddenwithchrist.org)  
[www.treasuresofafrica.org](http://www.treasuresofafrica.org)  
[www.myeverydaybible.com](http://www.myeverydaybible.com)

Hidden with Christ Ministries is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization in the USA registered with the IRS and donations made to HWCM are tax deductible under the law.



Hidden With Christ Ministries is a GuideStar Exchange Gold Participant

Hidden With Christ Ministries  
P.O. Box 745  
Forest, VA 24551  
USA

Hidden With Christ Ministries  
P.O. Box 383  
Moshi  
TANZANIA

We would love to hear from you!

Please email us at:  
[info@hiddenwithchrist.org](mailto:info@hiddenwithchrist.org)

Or call our U.S. Office:  
(434) 849-7967



# Keep On Believing

by Rita Langeland

What do you do with a promise from God that you have held on to for years...when it seems like it is farther away than ever? Perhaps time and circumstances have obscured your vision, and the delays have made it appear all but hopeless.

If Jesus was standing next to you as you tried to gaze into the future, He would say to you, ***“Keep on believing!”***

Jesus said those very words to a man who was ready to give up on a promise he had received from the Lord. He was confronted with an impossible circumstance that made the desire of his heart seem unattainable. Are you facing such a moment in your life? Are you tempted, as this man was, to give up altogether?

The man's name was Jairus, and he was the leader of the local Jewish synagogue. His story is told in the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel of Mark. He pleaded with Jesus to come and heal his daughter, who was gravely ill. While Jesus was walking with Jairus to his home, some men came to deliver tragic news. ***“Your daughter has died. Why bother and distress the Teacher any further?”*** (Mark 5:35 AMP)

The shock of those words must have immobilized Jairus as he tried to process that information. Jesus was headed to his house to heal his daughter when unexpectedly an immovable mountain had been dropped in his path. Suddenly, all seemed hopeless.

Jesus heard the words Jairus' friends spoke and knew how that news must be crushing Jairus' heart. Carefully consider how Jesus responded:

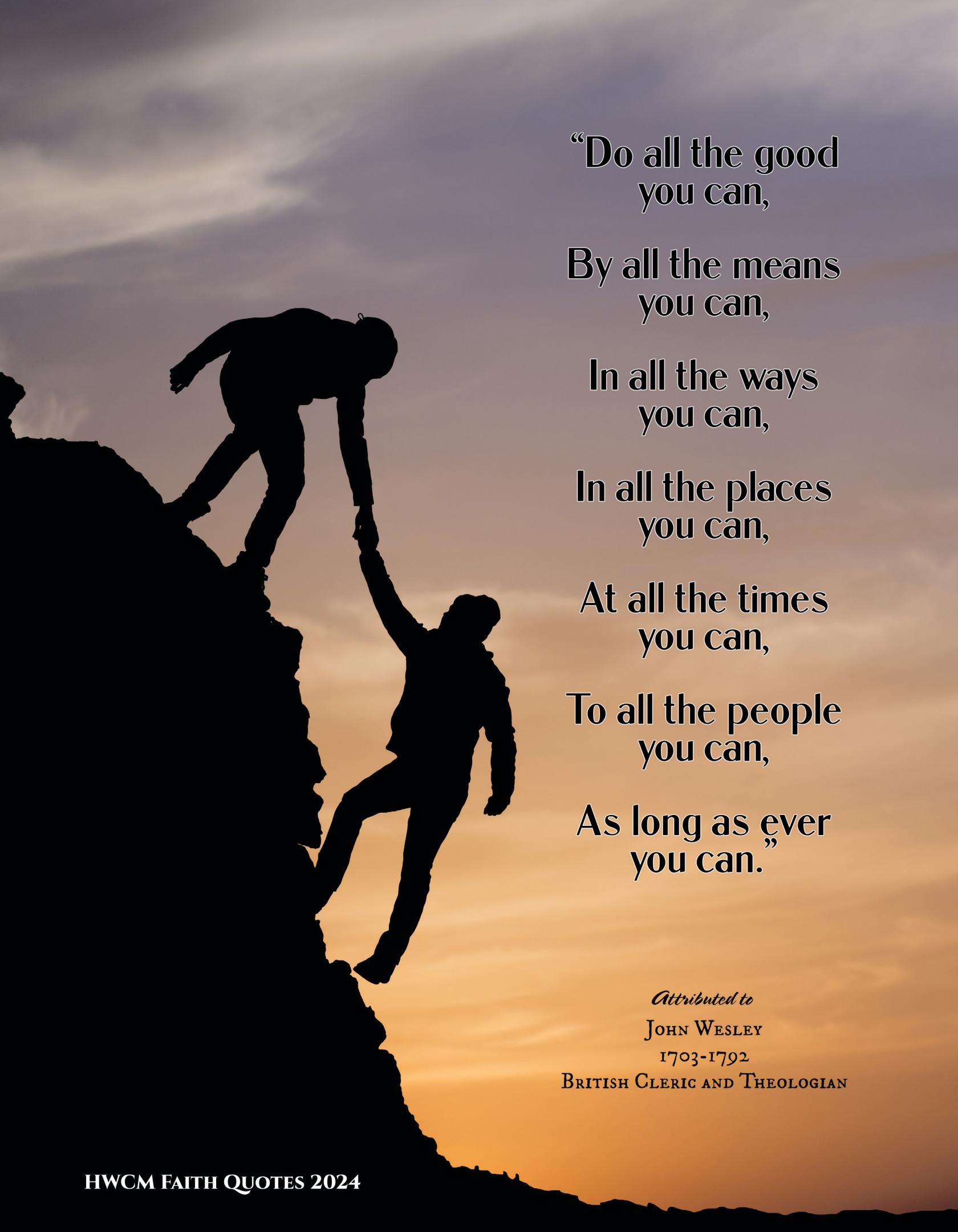
***Overhearing but ignoring what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, Do not be seized with alarm and struck with fear; only keep on believing.*** (Mark 5:36 AMP)

Jairus had to make a choice right then and there if he would collapse in despair or “keep on believing.” And so do you and I, as we face our own impossible obstacles!

When Hidden with Christ Ministries purchased a 5.3 acre piece of land in Tanzania back in 2011 for the purpose of building a place to raise up young leaders, we faced many opportunities to give up in despair over the impossible mountains that appeared in our path. Our dream (and God's promise) of building a place where we could prepare leaders for Tanzania from among the population of orphaned and abandoned children seemed out of reach, time and time again. Yet God's encouragement to us to ***“keep on believing”*** never changed.

Now in 2024, God has removed the mountains that blocked us from starting this project. We have the government approval to move forward. We are preparing the architectural plans to present to the Ministry of Education in Tanzania to obtain permission to build the Treasures of Africa Leadership Academy. It will be a Christian Secondary School with a Leadership Training emphasis, and orphans will attend without cost, while other students pay tuition to support the operating expenses of the school. Please pray for us as we face the next mountain - gathering the finances to build this faith project. Meanwhile, we will continue to follow the Lord's exhortation to ***keep on believing!*** Jairus received the miracle he desperately needed (Mark 5:41-42) and so will we!

Read more about the TOA Leadership Academy on our website: [www.treasuresofafrica.org](http://www.treasuresofafrica.org)



“Do all the good  
you can,  
By all the means  
you can,  
In all the ways  
you can,  
In all the places  
you can,  
At all the times  
you can,  
To all the people  
you can,  
As long as ever  
you can.”

*Attributed to*  
JOHN WESLEY  
1703-1792  
BRITISH CLERIC AND THEOLOGIAN



# **Tell Them To Do Good...**

***Tell them to do good, to be rich in kindly actions, to be ready to give to others and to sympathize with those in distress. Their security should be invested in the life to come so that they may be sure of holding a share in the life which is permanent.***

1 Timothy 6:18 J.B. Phillips New Testament

When the apostle Paul wrote the above quoted words to his spiritual son, Timothy, he was addressing these instructions to “those who are rich in this present world...” (verse 17) He wanted them to be generous to others with their resources.

You may feel that you are not “rich” as western culture defines it in our generation. But consider the fact that Webster’s Dictionary defines the word rich as “well supplied.” In comparison to many nations around the world, most Americans fit the definition of “well supplied.” So, we can safely apply this scripture to ourselves.

At Hidden with Christ Ministries we have seen our donors fulfilling this Biblical admonition time and time again. They have been generous in “doing good” and have been quick to sympathize with those in distress as 1 Timothy 6:18 exhorts us.

Because of the support of so many people with a heart to obey the Word of God, HWCM has been able to help the poor, the elderly, the widowed and the orphaned. And this work goes on, month in and month out. Here are just two of the major thrusts of this ministry which YOU – our supporters – are bringing to pass:

## **TREASURES OF AFRICA KIDZ**

The TOA KIDZ Project provides education and medical support for 55 orphaned and vulnerable children in Tanzania, East Africa. We are currently fully sponsoring 19 college and university students with an incredible variety of majors including Culinary Arts, Civil Engineering, Microbiology, Clinical Medicine, Health Management Systems, Social Work, Accounting, Tourism, Rural Development Planning, Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management. These students are the next generation of leaders for Tanzania!! We also sponsor 3 students in Vocational Training Programs – 2 studying Baking and 1 student in Carpentry. We sponsor 8 Secondary School (High School) students and 25 Primary (Elementary) School students. Not a single student mentioned above would have been able to obtain the education they are currently receiving without the help of HWCM donors. You have changed their lives forever through your generosity!

## **REHEMA PROJECTS**

The word “rehema” is a Swahili word meaning “mercy.” REHEMA PROJECTS are our compassion projects which extend the mercy of God to people in need in Tanzania. These can vary from paying for a lifesaving medical procedure to supplying hygiene products to prisoners. (see the article on page 5) We work closely with the Social Welfare Office in Moshi, Tanzania and they often refer cases to us which they know are legitimate but for which they have no resources to help. We have supplied many needs (from new bedding to building bathrooms!) for the indigent elderly at a local home for the aged which is funded by the government but often falls short in budget for the needs of its residents. We know that God loves when His children show mercy and compassion to others.

***Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.***

Romans 12:21 NLT

# Bringing Hope and Joy Behind Prison Bars

by Faith Kaluse  
Administrator  
HWCM  
Moshi, Tanzania

*A Story from our Rehema Projects*

In the Gospel of Matthew 25:43-44, we find these words: *"I was a stranger, and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?'"* In these verses, Jesus speaks to the importance of compassion and care for those who are often forgotten by society, including the sick, the stranger, and the prisoner.

This teaching serves as a profound reminder of the Christian's call to extend kindness to those who may be isolated, marginalized, or in need. Inspired by this scripture, the Rehema Project took a significant step towards embodying this message of love, compassion and care for those often forgotten by society, including prisoners.

HWCM's Rehema Projects, with its spirit of love and compassion, has made a remarkable impact at the Karanga Prison. This prison is situated just outside the town of Moshi, Tanzania, and houses 850 male prisoners and just under 50 female prisoners. For the first time in the history of the prison, every single inmate received a gift that most of us take for granted every day: soap, a toothbrush, and toothpaste. These simple items, often overlooked, brought overwhelming joy and happiness to the prisoners, who had never experienced such generosity on a large scale.

The project, driven by a deep commitment to uplift the spirits of the marginalized, chose these essentials to meet the immediate needs of the inmates. The act of giving these items symbolizes more than just cleanliness; it represents dignity, care, and recognition of their humanity. As the gifts were distributed, the atmosphere within the prison shifted. What might seem like ordinary items to many brought smiles, gratitude, and a sense of hope to the prisoners. The simple act of receiving something tangible, something that they could call their own, instilled a renewed sense of self-worth and belonging among them.

The Rehema Project's initiative was not just about providing for physical needs but also about ministering to the emotional and spiritual needs of the prisoners. It is not just about the physical gifts, but the message that accompanies them: You are seen. You are loved. You are not forgotten. For many prisoners, who have faced isolation and rejection, this message is life-changing. The gifts served as a reminder of their worth and the possibility of redemption.



Two members of the Board of Trustees of HWCM Tanzania, Dr. Owenya and Engineer Shali, accompanied me and Sunday Joseph from the HWCM office in Moshi, to the Karanga Prison. Because of regulations barring foreigners from visiting prisons, Rita Langeland and Geoffrey Kioko were not allowed to attend the presentation. After presenting the gifts to the Prison officials, we were allowed to have a time to speak to the prisoners. We each shared a message of hope and encouragement. We told them that God loved them and wanted them to receive His forgiveness. But also explained the importance of forgiving themselves and anyone who had hurt them. They were also encouraged to see themselves beyond their current circumstances and to believe that the chance for a new beginning is still before them. The prisoners responded with heartfelt emotion to these messages.

In the coming years, HWCM aims to continue our Rehema Projects, expanding the reach and deepening the impact. The hope is that this initiative will inspire others to join in this mission of love and service, ensuring that all prisoners, regardless of their past, experience the joy of being remembered and cared for. We hope to undertake a significant "Christmas in Prison" project if we receive sufficient funding. Thank you for being a part of this and future "Rehema (Mercy) Projects" with Hidden with Christ Ministries.



Presentation of gifts for prisoners from Hidden with Christ Ministries to prison officials at the Karanga Prison in Moshi, Tanzania. Dr. Owenya, General Secty. of HWCM Board making the presentation (center) and far right, Faith Kaluse, HWCM administrator stands next to Duncan Mgati, Head of Social Welfare office. Far left is Sunday Joseph, HWCM Project Coordinator, and left of center is Engineer Shali, HWCM Board Vice President.

**Editor's Note:** If you would like to make a donation to help fund future Rehema Projects, you can send a check with the notation in the memo line: for REHEMA PROJECTS. For those who are familiar with the APP "VENMO" – Hidden with Christ Ministries can be found listed under their "CHARITIES" and can receive donations through your phone! Or for those who are more comfortable donating ONLINE – we have a dropdown menu on the Donation Page of our website that gives the option to specify your gift for REHEMA PROJECTS.

[www.hiddenwithchrist.org](http://www.hiddenwithchrist.org)



# Sorrows of this Earth

“Earth has no sorrow, heaven cannot heal.”

Thomas Moore

One of the greatest sorrows of this earthly life, is the death of a loved one. This is especially true when the death was premature, and the individual did not live out the fullness of their days. In the nearly two decades of work in Tanzania, Hidden with Christ Ministries had never lost a staff member to death. But we have now experienced that sorrow.



**Baraka Maseri - Longtime staff member of Hidden with Christ Ministries in Tanzania**

Baraka Maseri, who served the ministry for more than a decade as a security guard, passed away from pancreatic cancer in August. He was 45 years old and left behind a wife and four children. Sadly, his youngest child, a daughter, was born while he was hospitalized, and he did not live long enough to meet her.

Baraka’s wife, Christina, is in a very difficult situation. Baraka built the house they lived in, within a compound belonging to his extended family. They are of a different tribe than his wife. There have been hard feelings between them and Baraka’s wife for as long as they have been married, because of resentment that he did not

marry within the tribe. Because there is no legal protection for Christina to be able to remain in that house, she and the children could be evicted by the family at any time. Also, she has no source of income, as Baraka was the breadwinner.

We are asking for prayer for Baraka’s wife, **Christina**, as well as the children:

**Glory – age 14**

**Junior – age 11**

**Grace – age 7**

**Giovanna – age 2 months**

Hidden with Christ Ministries will do as much for Baraka’s widow and children as we possibly can. Please pray for wisdom for us as we attempt to discern the best way to help this family.



**Baraka's Burial Service**





# Influencing the World Through the Word of God

by David Langeland

One of the founding purposes of Hidden With Christ Ministries was to spread the Word of God around the world by producing free Bible Teaching Resources. In the early days of the ministry Rita Langeland launched a radio program called "Keys to Victorious Christian Living." The focus of the broadcast was to present Biblical truth in a practical, down to earth manner that could be applied in everyday life. Starting in the year 2000 with one radio station broadcasting the program, the number of stations increased until it was being heard in different parts of the United States as well as Europe and Africa via World Harvest Radio.

Fast forward to today and the bible teaching resources are no longer limited by the broadcast footprint of radio technology but are available (still free) wherever people have access to the world wide web. The number and variety of resources has also expanded from the initial "Keys to Victorious Christian Living" radio program.

**Word for Wednesday** - is a weekly video devotional by Rita Langeland designed to give you a midweek boost of Bible based inspiration and encouragement! There are now over 172 episodes that can be found on Rita's YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/@hwcm>.

**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. You can listen from a computer or download the free App and listen from any mobile device. My Everyday Bible provides a daily audio broadcast of the Bible being read by author and teacher Rita Langeland of Hidden With Christ Ministries with a devotional message at the end of each daily reading.

**Bible Teaching Articles** - A complete catalog of Bible Teaching Articles by Rita Langeland is available to read online or download free of charge. These articles are an excellent resource for personal or group bible study use.

**Audio Bible Teachings** - There are a number of topical series and stand-alone messages that can be listened to online or downloaded for later use. Many of these teachings are from the original "Keys to Victorious Christian Living" radio broadcasts.

**Bethany Projects Workshops** - These workshops are taught by Marcia Chang Vogl and focus on inner healing and deliverance. They can be viewed on Marcia's YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/@BethanyProjects>

We encourage you to take advantage of and to share all the free Bible Teaching Resources that have been produced by HWCM over the years. All of our resources and links to the My Everyday Bible app can be found on the ministry website: [hiddenwithchristministry.org](http://hiddenwithchristministry.org).



# CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

by Rita Langeland

***...I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all time handed down to the saints.*** Jude 1:3b NASB

Like the writer of the epistle of Jude, we also live in an age in which the Christian faith (as presented in the New Testament) is under tremendous attack. Alistair Begg, in his book BRAVE BY FAITH, explained it this way: "The world is off-track from God's Word and couldn't care less what the Bible says about sexual ethics, abortion, education, the role and reach of the State and public welfare, or people's salvation. The truth is now dismissed as superstition of a primitive era and is even called 'hate speech,' and Christians are called 'intolerant.'"

What is a Christian to do? Should we adopt the passive attitude of many – and "go along to get along?" Doing so would be diametrically opposed to the exhortation of the apostle Jude, in which he urges believers to ***"contend earnestly for the faith."***

The New Testament was originally written in Greek. The Greek word translated "contend" in Jude 1:3 means "to struggle for." The idea being presented by Jude is that believers should struggle to hold on to the original faith which was (at that time and even now) being eroded by false teachers. This is not a reference to fighting a physical battle of any kind. Our weapons in this ongoing struggle for truth are spiritual in nature not physical. (see 2 Cor. 10:3-4)

Jude pointed out three areas of doctrine that these false teachers were undermining. He states, ***"For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ."*** (Jude 1:4)

We are seeing the same attack against Biblical faith today by false teachers who promote the following unbiblical concepts (all mentioned by Jude in verse 4) as if they were the Gospel truth:

1. God's grace freely allows for all kinds of sexual immorality (ignoring Rev. 21:8)
2. There is more than one way to God (denying Jesus' words in John 14:6)
3. Jesus is not and never claimed to be the Christ/Messiah (ignoring the many Gospel accounts where He confirmed His identity including John 4:25-26; Luke 4:16-21; Matthew 16:15-20; Matthew 26:63-64)



The Lord wants us to stand for Biblical truth in the "Post-Christian" society in which we now live. But how we do so will determine if anyone will listen.

As Christians who are constantly confronted by ungodly rhetoric and immoral behavior trumpeted as good and righteous in the media as well as in society, it is vital to remember God's attitude toward unbelievers. He loves them! He doesn't love or approve of their sinful behavior, but he does love every single person He created. So, our attitude toward unbelievers needs to properly represent our Heavenly Father. The apostle Paul wrote a letter to believers who lived amidst the ungodly culture of first century Ephesus exhorting them to imitate God's attribute of love:

***Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love,  
just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us...***  
Ephesians 5:1

Have you ever seen a young child trying to imitate his father? I recently observed a four-year-old boy following his dad as he walked across the yard. He imitated his father in the way he wore his baseball cap, the clothes he chose to wear and especially the distinct way he walked. The desire of that child to imitate his father was unmistakable to the observer. We need that same level of dedication in imitating our Heavenly Father.

The phrase "walk in love" in Ephesians 5:1 means to "tread all around, live and be occupied with the unconditional love of God." If you can treat other people (including those with whom you disagree) with God's unconditional love, it will draw people to you rather than repel them. But does showing others unconditional love mean we say nothing to them regarding unbiblical choices in their lives? Should we act as if we approve of their lifestyle to avoid offending them? This is an important issue facing all believers living in a secular society.

A young college student recently faced this dilemma on the very first day of his Ethics class in a secular University. The subjects under discussion were Subjectivism and Divine Command Theory. The teacher passed out papers upon which were written paraphrases of various Old Testament scriptures. The students were asked to respond to the following:

(Note - text found within the quotation marks below are taken directly from the student's assignment paper)

"The moral guidance to be found in the Bible includes the following (my paraphrases):

Kill anyone who curses their parents. (Leviticus 20:9)  
Kill anyone who commits adultery. (Leviticus 20:10)  
Kill homosexuals. (Leviticus 20:13)  
Slavery is ok. (Leviticus 25:44-45)"

Included in this assignment paper was the statement: "There are serious grounds for doubting God's existence..." All these topics were to be discussed in the class and a large portion of the student's grade depended upon participation in those discussions.

The student was confronted with a great dilemma. Does he reveal his Christian beliefs during the discussion or remain silent out of fear of offending other students in the class and potentially endangering his grade?

In Ephesians 4:15 the apostle Paul wrote that "***speaking the truth in love***" is part of what brings a believer into maturity in Christ. Our human nature may shy away from explaining our deeply held beliefs to what we perceive as a hostile audience. But this Christian student chose to remain true to his faith while speaking with respect and kindness in that college classroom. One day after class, another student approached him, and thanked him for his boldness in expressing his faith in that setting, because he also was a believer. When the semester ended, the student received an "A" in the course, and the professor commended him on his deeply thought-out responses to the challenging questions posed on his final Ethics paper.

This is not the time to be silent about your faith. But it is ALWAYS the time to speak with love and respect for others. Anger has no place in sharing the truth of God's word "***for a man's anger does not bring about the righteousness of God.***" (James 1:20) Let us ask the Lord for grace to speak the truth in love in every situation and to be as courageous as the young college student mentioned above.

***"Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or in dread of them, for the Lord your God is the One who is going with you. He will not desert you or abandon you."*** Deuteronomy 31:6

