

Victory

magazine

Hidden With Christ Ministries
November/December 2025

*A Delicious Milestone
For Awadhi*
Page 13

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 YOUR CHANGING SEASON**
- 3 FAITH QUOTE**
- 4 WHAT MUST I DO?**
- 5 GIVING FAMILIES HOPE**
- 7 FAITH COMES BY HEARING**
- 9 MARIA'S JOURNEY**
- 11 CHRISTMAS IS COMING**
- 12 25TH ANNIVERSARY
THANKSGIVING**
- 13 A DELICIOUS MILESTONE**
- 14 FAITH CORNER**

VICTORY MAGAZINE is a publication of Hidden With Christ Ministries. All rights reserved.
Copyright ©2025

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
www.treasuresofafrica.org
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

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

Don't Fear **Your Changing Season**

by Rita Langeland

I love the season of Autumn! After nearly four years of living in a region that actually has four seasons, I can say that I love the season of "Fall" best of all. It is a season where change is striking in its beauty. I enjoy watching the trees in the forests that surround us change color from vibrant greens to hues of red and gold. But I must admit that the one change I could do without, is when those beautiful leaves fall to the ground and the trees stand barren throughout winter. Autumn reminds me of life. Changes happen – some beautiful – some of it hard to pass through – but at the end of it – in the new season – something beautiful springs forth.

Many people fear change and try desperately to avoid it. Fear of change often stems from worries about losing control over life circumstances. But God never intended His children to be "in control" of their own lives. So, trying to control everything and everyone around you is a vain pursuit.

Living a life that is fully surrendered to Christ means that you have chosen to follow His leading and you are willing to trust Him with all the details of your life. And I promise you – CHANGE – will be involved. God brings us into maturity through a series of changes throughout our lives that we must both face and embrace.

The good news is that God has promised that He will cause "all things" to work together for our good. That includes all types of changes that we confront in our lives – change of jobs, schools, friends, finances, living situations and even those things we never imagined would change.

***And we know that God causes all things to work together for good
to those who love God,
to those who are called according to His purpose.***

Romans 8:28 NASB

It takes faith and courage to embrace change, but God will supply both if we are willing to receive His help. I have great admiration for our three Treasures of Africa KIDZ in Tanzania who are from the Maasai tribe. All three grew up in traditional Maasai mud huts and they are currently pursuing college degrees. They are the first of their families to ever go to college or live in the city! The uncomfortable and unfamiliar changes they have had to face and embrace are mindboggling. Difficult as it has been for them, something beautiful is springing forth in their lives.

There is change happening right now that may be deeply troubling you. But if you can embrace the promise (by faith) that God will cause all things to work together for good in your life – you will see something beautiful spring forth. And it will be worth waiting for!

***Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing,
Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it?
I will even make a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.***

Isaiah 43:19 AMP

CHANGE

**You can't
go back
and change
the beginning,
but you can
start where
you are
and
CHANGE
THE ENDING.**

C.S. Lewis

1898-1963

British scholar, author and Theologian

known for his prolific writing
including
**THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA,
THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS
and
MERE CHRISTIANITY**

HWCM FAITH QUOTES 2025

What Must I Do?

BY MARCIA CHANG VOGL

Someone came to Jesus with this question: "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" "Why ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. But to answer your question—if you want to receive eternal life, keep the commandments." "Which ones?" the man asked. And Jesus replied: "'You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "I've obeyed all these commandments," the young man replied. "What else must I do?" Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions. (Matthew 19:16-22)

A man asked Jesus, "What good thing must I do to have eternal life?"

In this earthly life, many seek to follow rules and execute a plan for success as they understand it. Jesus advised the young man to follow the Ten Commandments. He responded that he has done that, but knowing something is still missing, he asked Jesus, "What else must I do?"

Jesus' answer was not what he expected, and it caused the wealthy young man to walk away.

"Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven..."

What caused that man to sadly walk away? Jesus was asking him for something entirely different than what was in his mind. Jesus was calling him to, "Follow me." But Jesus knew it would be impossible for that young man to follow Him while making the treasures of this world his god.

Jesus was essentially telling him, "Disengage from the worldly possessions that you worship and that control your every decision. Share with the poor who do not have as much as you do. Build a relationship with me."

Building a relationship with Jesus is not about following rules and regulations. It requires personal interaction with the Lord and with other believers. It may not follow a plan that you like, as seen with the instructions Jesus gave the rich young man described above. And yet, giving up earthly ambitions and possessions will lead to more earthly rewards and heavenly rewards.

Unlike the world system, where people jostle to be first in line and hold a "first come, first served" mentality about everything, God's ways are contradictory to the world's ways. Jesus said, "The last shall be first, and the first, last." (Matthew 20:16) All progress you will make in life is based on your relationship with Jesus.

Marcia Chang Vogl

Director of Bethany Projects

www.MarciaChangVogl.com; www.BethanyProjects.org/

Marcia is the author of the following books – all available on Amazon:

- The Path Forward
- Dancing With God - The Christian Journey to live Supernaturally
- Training to Reign With God, The Christian Guide to Spiritual Maturity

Giving Families

HOPE

Two Stories from our Rehema Projects *by Faith Kaluse - HWC Tanzania*

Monica's Story

In a small, rented room along Sabato Street in Njoro, Miembeni Ward, in the town of Moshi, Tanzania, lives a woman whose life story is one of both deep sorrow and incredible courage. **Monica**, born in 1986 in Busanda village, in the Shinyanga Region, carries traumatic physical scars and yet possesses an unbreakable spirit. When Monica was just seven months old, tragedy struck. While playing with her brothers, she crawled into a wooden stove that still held a blazing fire. The accident left her severely burned, resulting in the loss of all her fingers and toes. Despite these devastating injuries, Monica grew up with determination, learning to perform daily tasks and raise her children despite her physical limitations.



Despite this painful beginning, Monica has faced life's challenges with extraordinary resilience. Today, she is a single mother of six children, each with a unique story and dream. Monica's daily life is a struggle for survival. Without a job or business, she relies on **begging in Moshi town** to meet basic needs—food, rent, and clothing for her children. Yet, what she earns barely sustains them. Her biggest challenge has been providing for her two school-aged children, **Justin and Lidya**, especially ensuring they have lunch at school. Recently, I received a call for help from a Social Welfare Officer about the most urgent need of 260,000 Tanzanian shillings (just over \$100) to cover

an outstanding debt for school lunch fees for both Justin and Lidya. Without this support, the children would continue attending school on empty stomachs, affecting their concentration and academic performance.

Through the **Rehema Project's emergency response**, we were able to cover this immediate cost. Both Justin and Lidya can now enjoy daily school meals, helping them stay focused and motivated. However, the family's challenges extend beyond food. Justin, though older than most of his classmates, has been struggling academically. He fell behind over the years and now at age 17, is forced to sit in class with students aged 12–15 years. This has caused him emotional distress and feelings of shame and discouragement, especially as his younger sister Lidya excels academically.

After discussing his situation with the school headmistress and his mother, Monica, we agreed that **enrolling Justin in a vocational training program next year** would be the best option. This will help him learn practical skills, such as carpentry, mechanics, or masonry, that can open doors to future employment and self-reliance. Hidden with Christ Ministries will undertake to cover the school fees for Justin to attend Vocational Training starting in January 2026 through our TOA KIDZ Education Project. We invite you to become a TOA KIDZ sponsor for Justin. Your support will give him the opportunity to get an education that will provide the practical skills he needs to support himself and his future family.

Monica's dream is simple yet profound: to see her children educated and independent so they can break the cycle of poverty that has defined much of their lives. "Even if I cannot work with my hands," she says softly, "I want my children to have a better life than mine. I don't want them to suffer as I have suffered."

Monica's story is a powerful reminder that, even in the midst of suffering, **hope can bloom when compassion prompts action**. Together, we can give Lidya and Justin the opportunity to reach their dreams and help their mother build a better life.

Ashura's Family

It all began with an urgent call from the Social Welfare Officer at Majengo Health Center requesting emergency assistance for a six-week-old baby in critical condition. The baby boy, brought to the postnatal clinic by his mother, Ashura, a 40-year-old HIV-positive woman, was found to be severely malnourished. According to the attending nurse, the baby had been born weighing 3 kilograms (6.6 pounds) but had since dropped to 2 kilograms (4.4 pounds). The mother, Ashura, had very little milk to breastfeed her child due to her own poor nutrition. The harsh reality was that she had scarcely any food at home after giving birth.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, we immediately stepped in to provide life-saving support. Using the Rehema Project fund, we purchased essential supplies to rescue the baby and help Ashura regain her strength. The items included: Baby formula to ensure the infant receives proper nutrition, baby diapers, baby wipes, and a set of feeding bottles. For the sake of the mother, we purchased nutritionally fortified cereal flour and Pumpkin seed powder to make a traditional porridge. The aim was to improve the mother's overall diet and help her regain strength. The following day, I visited the family together with the Social Welfare Officer and the nurse who had attended Ashura at the clinic. We delivered all the supplies directly to the family's home.



Upon arrival, we found the family living in extreme poverty. They occupy a single, poorly ventilated room that shelters the father, mother, their ten-year-old daughter, and the newborn baby. The baby was crying intensely, so I prepared the baby formula and fed him immediately. As soon as the bottle's nipple touched his mouth, he began sucking vigorously and didn't stop until he finished all **120ml**. With obvious relief, the infant fell into a deep sleep. This clearly showed us just how desperately hungry he had been.

While at their home, I observed some other urgent needs. The family had no baby clothes at all. Lacking running water, they had nothing in which to keep hot water for preparing baby formula, and no way to sterilize baby bottles. There was no container in which to store clean bottles separately from other utensils to prevent contamination. Additionally, we discovered that the family's ten-year-old daughter had been sent home from school because the family could not pay the outstanding debt of 22,000 Tanzanian shillings (less than \$10) for her school lunch contribution. Through the Rehema Project funds, we were able to purchase the badly needed household items, bring baby blankets and clothing, and clear the older daughter's school lunch balance, allowing her to return to school.

The timely intervention by HWC's Rehema Project brought hope and stability to this struggling family. Today, the baby is feeding well, Ashura has the food and nutritional support she needs to recover, and the older daughter is happily back in school. These touching stories are a reminder of why compassion matters. Through small acts of kindness and timely intervention, lives can be saved, dignity can be restored, and hope can be renewed. Our Rehema Projects continue to provide a beacon of love and support for families in crisis, proving that even in the darkest moments, hope still prevails.



You can donate to our REHEMA PROJECTS
(Rehema is the Swahili word for "mercy")
on our website's donation page:

www.hiddenwithchrist.org/donate

or scan the QR CODE to donate now.



Donate by
Credit Card

Faith Comes by Hearing

by Pastor Geoffrey Kioko Simon

Quite often we have heard it said that these times in which we are now living are the “last days.” But before Jesus returns, the Bible declares that the Gospel will be preached to the ends of the earth and then the end will come.

And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it, and then, finally, the end will come. Matthew 24:14 (MSG)

This means all nations, cultures and people must hear the good news. For the people to hear, a preacher must be sent to them.

Paul the Apostle posed an important question in Romans 10:14-17 (NKJV) ***And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”***



Osekeri and his wife

In the process of going to the ends of the earth, those who are sent to these nations and cultures encounter a myriad of challenges. Chief among these are culture and illiteracy. This is a very common challenge among the Maasai tribe of Tanzania. According to the Maasai Education Foundation’s report on the Tanzania Education System and Educational attainment, the illiteracy level among the Maasai of Tanzania is 80%. This issue poses a real challenge to those who are sent to preach faith to this particular community.

Notwithstanding these challenges, the gospel must be preached to and heard by all cultures. In places where it cannot be read due to illiteracy, then it still becomes necessary for it to be heard.

Hidden with Christ Ministries has been conducting missionary work among the Maasai of Tanzania for two decades. In a previous edition of the Victory Magazine, you may have

read the story of a Maasai elder, named Osekeri, who gave his life to Jesus and has since been a follower of Christ. He has desired to grow in his new-found faith and wanted a Bible but admitted that he had never learned to read. Since faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17), we knew that Osekeri needed to hear the Word in a language he could understand to grow in his faith.

This past month of October, Pastor Rita Langeland and I visited his homestead. With us, we brought a tool that would give him the desire of his heart: a rechargeable solar powered Maasai language audio Bible with speakers strong enough to be heard by up to 100 people. Alongside this was a separate solar rechargeable “story of Jesus” in Swahili.

Osekeri and his wife joyfully met us by the side of the highway and guided us along a dusty back road to his homestead where we were welcomed by some of his children and relatives. We presented him the Audio Bible and the Story of Jesus and taught him how to operate it. Now Osekeri, his family and neighbors, can hear the word of God in their own language and thus be built up in the faith.



Pastor Kioko demonstrates the audio bible while Osekeri smiles in wonder upon hearing the Bible being read in the Maasai language

While visiting Osekeri’s homestead, we were also able to pray for one of his sons who was bedridden after a serious motorcycle accident. After prayer for his healing, he gave his life to Christ, and we rejoiced with the angels in heaven.

This is a story of faith and joy that casts a ray of hope amidst the darkness that the challenge of illiteracy presents to this community. The Gospel is advancing, and the end is drawing nearer than when we first believed.

I want to express a special thanks to all our partners for making this and many other things that I have witnessed – come to pass for over 22 years. Children have been rescued, fed, sheltered, educated, clothed and treated in hospitals. Pastors have been taught, churches built, wells sunk, hospital bills paid, elderly home assisted, among many other things that cannot fit in this short article. Our story can never be told without you. The Lord himself has used you in profound ways. Your consistency and patience in prayers, giving and sharing of what God is doing through Hidden with Christ Ministries has built a timeless platform of victories that will be told both to and by other generations. Words may never be able to express our gratitude.

May the Lord bless you abundantly!

Maria's Journey

From Tiny Infant to Confident Graduate

By Rita Langeland



**Tiny baby Maria at 9 days old
May 2007**

It was a warm September day in Tanzania, as we sat outside under a tent with a crowd of other parents watching their Secondary School students proceed up the aisle. Two by two, they moved forward, slowly dancing and swaying in traditional Swahili style. It was graduation day at Narumu Secondary School, located in a small village in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, surrounded by coffee plantations.

Our student, Maria, was at the front of this parade, having been appointed "Head Girl," a nod to both her leadership and academic skills. We watched with great surprise as Maria started the program off with a rendition of a Gospel song to which she danced and sang with remarkable

talent and confidence. My thoughts drifted back to the early days of Treasures of Africa Children's Home. Even as a young child, Maria could be heard singing down the hallway or in her room, at all hours of the day. As she got older, she loved to lead others in singing and often forcefully urged the children to practice with her like a "proper choir" so they could prepare songs to sing for guests. I smiled at those memories.

Later in the graduation program, as students explained subjects they had learned and wanted to pursue as future careers, Maria made an excellent presentation about business. Her poise while enunciating her understanding of business concepts was impressive, especially without the use of any notes. In addition, her command of English was the best of any presenter, student or teacher! We sat amazed, observing the maturity which was now quite evident in this young lady.



**Maria at age 10 in
May 2017**

I could not help but think back to her inauspicious arrival at Treasures of Africa Children’s Home as a newborn baby. Her mother had died in childbirth, along with her twin sister. Maria was still swathed in the dirty hospital blanket she had been wrapped in after her birth when she was handed over to Treasures of Africa staff. Without a shred of clothing to her name and no official paperwork, Maria came to live at Treasures of Africa Children’s Home. She was one day old. She was the very first infant we took into the orphanage. Weighing less than five pounds, she was so tiny, but as the scripture describes, “...wonderfully made.” (Psalm 139:14)

Watching Maria’s Secondary School graduation, as a young woman of 18, healthy, smart and confident, I could only thank God for the generosity of donors that have brought Maria this far. Where would she be today without the help of supporters of Treasures of Africa for nearly two decades? Only God knows.



Maria, and her fellow students, must remain in school as they prepare for the National Examinations required by the Tanzanian government for all graduating Secondary School students. Please pray for her to be successful. Her goal is to attain the coveted “Division One” level desired by every student.



Rita Langeland with Maria on her Graduation Day

Following this, we hope to enroll her in a Business College to equip her with the skills and knowledge necessary to support her entrepreneurial dream of establishing her own retail business.

I want to extend a special thanks to all our Hidden with Christ Ministries donors. You have helped bring this beautiful girl - who always has a song in her heart - from infancy to young adulthood. May God bless you for your kindness as He has promised in His Word.

***Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord,
and He will reward them for what they have done.***

Proverbs 19:17 NIV



venmo

You can change a child’s life forever (just like Maria’s) by making a donation to the TREASURES OF AFRICA KIDZ Education Fund! We have many unsponsored students coming up behind her who need support to continue their education



**Donate by
Credit Card**

**You can donate on our website
www.hiddenwithchrist.org/donate or scan the QR Code.**

Christmas is Coming!

by Mary Holt
Operations Manager
Hidden with Christ Ministries

This Christmas marks another milestone for Hidden With Christ Ministries – the 5th Annual TOA KIDZ Christmas Reunion Banquet! Five and a half years ago, we completed the transition from closing Treasures of Africa Children’s Home to moving all the children into family homes with former staff. This was truly a miracle of God’s masterful plan. The children and young adults are thriving and we thank God for the foster families! Through this transition, we recognized the importance of the former TOA Children’s Home residents being able to preserve and cultivate their relationships with each other (some having lived together since they were babies). An annual Christmas reunion seemed the perfect way to celebrate Jesus’ birth, make new Christmas traditions and bring the children, college students, staff and foster families together again. In addition to a traditional dinner, gifts and Christmas festivities, students are recognized for their achievements and young adults give inspiring testimonies. Social welfare officials, community leaders and TOA board members also attend.

This important event would not be possible without your prayers and financial support!

Many of you have been on this TOA journey with us for years. You may even feel like you know the kids whose stories you have read about. And some of you have met them in person! Now imagine the anticipation of having your own children coming home for the holidays after not seeing them for months (the TOA kids you’ve “known” and seen grow over the years.) Add to that the expectation of joy and fun when they bring friends home with them (new TOA KIDZ we sponsor). This is the significance of the annual Christmas reunion!

One of life’s greatest joys is to be a part of something greater than ourselves. We invite you to join us by making a donation of any size toward our 2025 TOA KIDZ Christmas fund which will be used for the following:

- ~ The Christmas Banquet for TOA KIDZ and families: \$1,650
- ~ Financial prizes awarded to each TOA KIDZ graduate from Primary through University levels: \$450
- ~ Christmas stockings full of school supplies and candy: \$400
- ~ New School backpacks for all our TOA KIDZ students: \$600
- ~ Christmas food parcels for foster families and the poor: \$1500

Thank you for your generosity and being a part of our TOA KIDZ extended family!



Make a donation on our website:
www.treasuresofafrica.org/christmas-fund or
donate using a QR CODE



Donate by
Credit Card



WITH THANKSGIVING

WE GIVE THANKS AND GLORY TO GOD FOR THE
25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF
HIDDEN WITH CHRIST MINISTRIES

*Lord...all we have accomplished
You have done for us!*

ISAIAH 26:12

We are grateful to every single donor and prayer warrior who has stood with us over these 25 years. Through your generosity and prayers, many lives across the world have been saved, rescued, helped, encouraged and uplifted.

*You have been a refuge for the poor,
a refuge for the needy in his distress,
a shelter from the storm and
a shade from the heat.*

ISAIAH 25:4

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY
FOR THE GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE!**

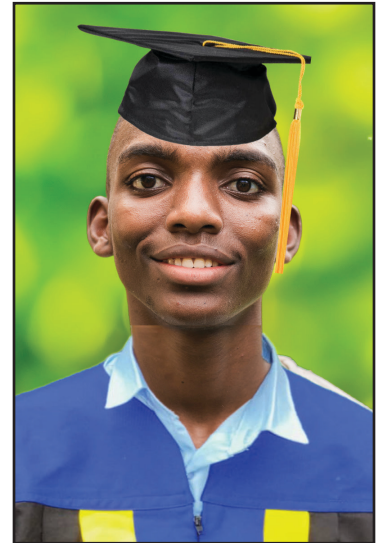
A DELICIOUS MILESTONE FOR AWADHI

By Faith Kaluse

Administrator - HWCM office – Moshi, Tanzania

When Awadhi came to live at Treasures of Africa Children’s Home in 2007 at the age of three, he was so malnourished and weak that he had never learned to walk. After lots of love, encouragement and plenty of nourishing food, he gained strength and began to walk, to the cheers of both children and staff. But it was obvious that Awadhi had a far more serious challenge. He did not speak. And it wasn’t long before we discovered he was profoundly deaf. We wondered aloud, just how we could prepare this child to one day live and work independently.

On October 14, 2025, we watched with great joy as Awadhi proudly received his graduation certificate from the two-year training program in baking at Usa River Rehabilitation and Training Center (URRTC). Seeing him, his face lit up with a wide smile in his graduation gown, took me back to the day he first arrived at the Center.



Awadhi - one happy graduate

Awadhi had been thrilled to meet the teachers and staff who communicated so well in sign language, and classmates who similarly could interact without barriers. That inclusive, supportive environment made it genuinely easier for him to learn, to engage, to enjoy being at school. It was so different from the special-needs secondary school he was placed in by the government, where he had suffered some bad experiences. We thank God for guiding us to make the decision to move him to URRTC a few years ago.

Awadhi’s teacher at the baking program was so proud of him. She shared that Awadhi’s performance in the practical baking sessions was exceptional, which is highly valued in their program. We had the chance to taste a donut he had baked, and it was so tasty and delicious!



We sincerely thank you for your prayers, kindness and support which have helped Awadhi receive the best possible training. Our next step is to help him find a commercial bakery where he can do an internship for a few months, to gain the understanding into how a bakery business operates.

After that, we hope to help Awadhi start a small bakery business near where he lives with his foster parents in the Majengo area of Moshi.

Be sure to watch for the January issue of our Victory Magazine, where we will share the vision of “Awadhi’s Bakery” – and encourage those who are able to help us fund the start-up of this small business for this very special young man. Meanwhile, keep praying for Awadhi, as he takes these next steps toward gaining independence and a sense of purpose for his life.

Thank you once again to everyone who has prayed for, supported, encouraged and believed in Awadhi for the past 18 years. With your continued support, we believe he’ll bake his way to success, one delicious donut at a time.

TOWARD A KINDER *and* GENTLER SEASON

By Rita Langeland

Exec. Dir. – Hidden with Christ Ministries

In all my decades upon this earth, I do not think I have observed the level of blatant hostility and anger expressed toward fellow human beings that has been demonstrated in our society over the past several years.

I have lived through the tumultuous years of the Civil Rights movement, the anti-Vietnam War protests, the assassination and attempted assassinations of multiple presidents, government officials and religious leaders. Yet this current era seems more hate-filled than ever.

Perhaps it is a function of the social media that allows more people to express their anger and abhorrence of others so freely yet anonymously, that makes it “appear” that more people revile their fellow human beings than I could ever have imagined. Or perhaps such dark loathing has always existed in the hearts of our neighbors, but I was unaware.

When the famed Oxford scholar and theologian, C.S. Lewis, wrote his classic volume - The Screwtape Letters, he imagined how the devil would distract and tempt believers away from their faith. He envisioned young demons being trained by their “superiors” to introduce certain thoughts and ideas to a Christian (referred to as “the patient”) that would take them away from a focus on God and their own character development. One of the most compelling of the “letters” was one in which Screwtape writes instructions to his young protégé to do as follows:

“Be sure the patient remains completely fixated on politics. Arguments, political gossip, and obsessing on the faults of people they have never met serves as an excellent distraction from advancing in personal virtue and character...Make sure to keep the patient in a constant state of angst, frustration, and general disdain towards the rest of the human race in order to avoid any kind of charity or inner peace from further developing.”¹

This method has certainly been effective in destroying the peace and love of many Christians in our day. We live in an era when darkness and light are vying ferociously for the hearts and minds of people. But many Christians are so angry about the darkness they see all around them (especially in the political arena) that they are letting their light and love for others be extinguished.

As the holiday season approaches, you will undoubtedly find yourself in social settings with groups of people with whom you do not share similar beliefs. They may even be your own relatives! Yet we are called to exhibit the love of Christ to everyone, not to argue others into submission to our point of view. Taking the following counsel from the epistle of James will help you in those awkward social moments:

***My dear brothers and sisters, understand this:
Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger,
for human anger does not accomplish God's righteousness.***

James 1:19-20 CSB

Finally, as we head toward the end of another year, it would be wise to align ourselves with God’s Word which always directs us to imitate the love of our Heavenly Father. (Ephesians 5:1) If you know you have gotten caught up in fixating on politics and obsessing on the faults of people (public figures) you have never met...it is time to RECALIBRATE! Take the following verse as medicine – apply three times per day – and you will find yourself moving into a “Kinder and Gentler Season.”

Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other.

Romans 12:10 NLT

¹The Screwtape Letters by Clives Staples Lewis, 1942



...NEVER FORGET
TO BE THANKFUL
FOR WHAT
GOD
HAS DONE FOR YOU.

COLOSSIANS 3:15

THE NEW TESTAMENT IN MODERN ENGLISH