

Victory

magazine

Hidden With Christ Ministries
July/August 2026

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and the
Promise
of Closed
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Heart to Heart

with
Rita Langeland

Launching the Arrows

***Behold, children are a gift of the Lord. The fruit of the womb is a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth.
How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them...***

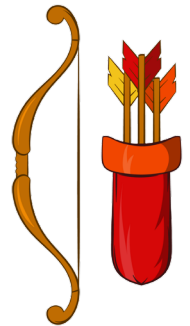
Psalm 127:3-5a NASB

Though not a familiar term in our generation, (except to those involved in archery) a “quiver” was a vital part of a warrior’s equipment in ancient times. It was a special case that held those all-important arrows, ready for the moment action would be required.

Psalm 127 likens those arrows to children and declares that a man is blessed who has a quiver full of them. Though I have read that passage of scripture many times over the years, it wasn’t until recently that I really considered that the purpose of those arrows is to be launched – not kept snugly in the quiver.

As parents, one of our greatest challenges is preparing the “arrows” God has entrusted to us for the purpose He intends for them. **Yet an even greater challenge may be releasing them with grace when the time is right.**


Pastor Dave and I were blessed with one natural-born child, our beloved son, Andy. But later, (and much to our surprise) God blessed us with a quiver-full of sons and daughters from Tanzania. A few days ago, we had the joy of launching one of those arrows in the direction of his God-given purpose.



Raymond came into our lives when he was six years old. He lived at Treasures of Africa until he graduated from Secondary School. After completing a three-year Diploma in Mechanical Engineering at Arusha Technical College in Tanzania, he was accepted into Liberty University’s School of Aeronautics in Lynchburg, Virginia. In December of 2021, Raymond traveled with me and two of his TOA sisters – Jesca (age 12) and Ester (age 8) from Tanzania to the United States to begin walking the path he had dreamed of since childhood. (See Ray’s story on pages 7-8.)

Four and a half years later, Dave and I stood in front of our home and watched Raymond drive away towing a U-Haul trailer behind his truck. Inside were a few basic furnishings and his most prized possession: a huge toolbox filled with the tools of his trade - aviation mechanics. We felt both joy and sadness as he left to begin his career in Lincoln, Nebraska. But one thing was certain - the arrow had been launched.



A person wearing a dark puffer jacket and jeans is sitting on a large, circular wooden platform. They are looking towards a street lamp that is covered in numerous stickers. The lamp is illuminated, casting a warm glow. The background shows a body of water under a clear sky.

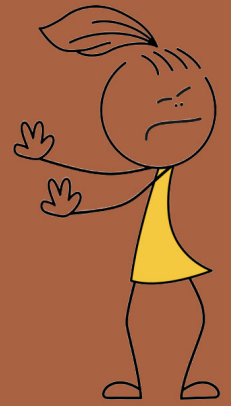
**Forgiveness means
we give up the right
to punish
the other person.**

Ruth Bell Graham
1920-2007

Do you know how to...



LOVE YOUR ENEMIES?



by Dr. Marcia Chang Vogl

*"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."*

Matthew 5:42-44

In the Old Testament, the word translated "hate" does not mean a strong intense emotional negative emotion. It means to "not to give preference to, to oppose, or to refuse the corrupt behavior."

I keep the gate on my property locked so that my dog does not run into the road. I love him. I put my baby in a safe car seat, because I love her. I put the cleaning materials in a locked cabinet, because I love my children.

Whenever you take measures to keep someone safe or out of trouble you are showing your love for them. I lock my car doors in the mall parking lot to keep thieves out. I love them enough to not give them reason to commit a crime. I have a Ring camera and intruder lights on my home to let people know what my boundaries are and to deter them from committing a crime of burglary or intrusion.

Don't confuse drawing boundaries and safety measures as hate. Allowing others to hurt, harm, or destroy you or your property is not love. You are opening the door for them to fall under judgment.

When someone does hurt you, as an "enemy," you will be forever connected to them. The careless driver, the bully on campus, or the abusive husband, are all "enemies." How do you love them? Your hurt will not be healed with warm fuzzy feelings.

You do not have to allow someone to take advantage of you because you have the wrong definition of "loving" them. You don't need to retaliate. But you may have to walk away. Jesus did.

Set up boundaries and eventually forgive them. Forgiveness breaks the sin-tie between you and the offender whether or not they have reformed or have been punished. You forgive your enemies for **your** sake to be set free from the offense.

The commandments in the Bible are boundaries. Jesus forgave the thief on the cross to release him from judgment. It didn't get him off the cross. He didn't avoid punishment. It granted him freedom from the ultimate judgment.

Jesus did not come to change the law. He came to fulfill the law.

Marcia Chang Vogl has been involved in personal prayer ministry since 1992. She holds a Masters and Doctorate in Practical Ministry from Wagner Leadership Institute with a specialty in women's ministry, deliverance, and workplace ministries. She is an ordained minister in partnership with Hidden With Christ Ministries. You can email her at: Marcia.prayer@gmail.com

An Act of Love for a Hurting Family

by
Glory Ngowi
Administrative Assistant
HWCM - Moshi, Tanzania

Stories
from our
Rehema Projects

As part of its mission to demonstrate God's love through practical acts of mercy, Hidden with Christ Ministries recently extended food assistance to a vulnerable family from the Maasai tribe, consisting of three orphaned children living in a household of two widows.

Two of the children lost both parents to illness and a car accident and are now under the care of their widowed grandmother, who is elderly and unemployed. Due to her age and lack of income, meeting the family's daily needs has become extremely difficult. Access to food, school supplies, and other basic needs remain a constant challenge. The third child, aged 2 1/2, still has his mother who is a young widow and the daughter-in-law of his grandmother.

Among the three children, only one (8 years old) is currently attending school, but under very difficult circumstances. Without funds to purchase school materials or school uniforms, and the lack of a supportive learning environment, the child's academic performance has been negatively affected. The difficult home situation, including food insecurity, continues to create barriers to education and overall well-being.

Moved by compassion and Christian love, Hidden with Christ Ministries reached out to this family by delivering a supply of three months of food assistance to help reduce the burden at home. In addition, the ministry engaged in discussions with the teachers at the local Primary School to explore ways of helping the 8-year-old return to school, while also making arrangements for the second child (age 4) to begin pre-school when the new school year begins. Furthermore, the older child was given school uniforms, school shoes, school supplies, a backpack and support for the required school fees to help improve access to education.

The youngest child, needed medical care for a skin condition. HWCM arranged transportation to a nearby city to seek a medical exam and paid for the appointment and prescribed medicine.

These acts of kindness brought encouragement and relief to the grandmother and the children during a very challenging season, giving them renewed hope for a better future. Through this support, the ministry continues to reflect the love of Christ by standing with vulnerable families and reminding them that they are not forgotten.

We are so grateful to our donors whose hearts for the "Rehema Projects" have led them to give specifically to this fund. It allows us to be prepared to answer the call when we are made aware of a needy family facing an emergency situation.



**Delivering food to a Maasai family
of widows and orphans**

The Swahili word "rehema" means MERCY. We invite you to join us in showing mercy to "the least of these" in Tanzania – by making a one-time donation OR by designating part of your monthly giving to our Rehema Projects. See the bottom of Page 6 for ways you can donate.

Bringing Hope in a Time of Need

by
Sunday J. Joseph
HWCM Project Coordinator
Moshi, Tanzania

The late Mr. Baraka Maseri, a dedicated employee of Hidden With Christ Ministries, was the primary provider for his family. His passing left a deep void in the lives of his loved ones and created significant financial challenges that continue to affect his family.

Mr. Maseri left behind a widow and four children, three daughters and one son. Since his death, the family has struggled to meet their daily needs because the widow does not have a stable source of income. As a result, basic needs such as food, school supplies, and household essentials have become increasingly difficult to afford.

The family's situation has become so challenging that they often survive on one meal a day. The lack of adequate food has not only affected their health but has also impacted the children's education. The children face difficulties concentrating in class and keeping up with their studies due to hunger, stress, and the hardships they experience at home. Their academic performance has been negatively affected as they try to cope with the loss of their father and the ongoing financial struggles facing their family.

After the H.W.C.M. office found out about the family's condition, Hidden With Christ Ministries responded with compassion and practical support. The ministry delivered food assistance to help meet the family's immediate needs. A provision of food supplies sufficient to sustain the family for three months was given to ease the burden they have been carrying.

Additionally, the ministry provided maize seeds to enable the family to participate in this year's farming season, giving them an opportunity to improve their food security and build a more sustainable future. The children have also been added to the Treasures of Africa KIDZ Education Project in order to have their school fees covered.



Rehema Project - food delivered to Baraka Maseri's widow and children

This support has brought encouragement and renewed hope to the Maseri family during a difficult period. Their story highlights the importance of standing together as a community and supporting vulnerable families. Through the generosity of the donors to Hidden With Christ Ministries, the family has received not only material assistance but also a reminder that they are not alone in their journey toward recovery and stability.



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AGAINST ALL ODDS:

*From Childhood Dreams in Tanzania
to Repairing Corporate Jets in America*

by Pastor David Langeland

Many children express ideas at a young age about what they want to be when they grow up. But in most cases, those dreams change as they mature and are exposed to new possibilities for their life. In Raymond's case, he never wavered. Since the time he arrived at Treasures of Africa at the age of 6 1/2 years, he enjoyed drawing crayon pictures of cars and planes.

In 2014, the Hidden with Christ Ministries media director videotaped the children at Treasures of Africa Children's Home asking about their dreams for the future. Without hesitation, a young teenage Ray answered, "My dream is to become an airplane engineer." He already spent his free time taking apart and repairing his bicycle at every opportunity. But his access to airplanes was non-existent. And what he didn't know, was that his home country of Tanzania, had no training facilities for aviation mechanics whatsoever. Yet God had a plan that would defy all the odds stacked against that childhood dream.

After graduating from Secondary School, Raymond headed to the best technical college in Northern Tanzania. After three years, he received a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. But his dream of working on airplanes had never diminished. At the suggestion of my son, who at the time was a graduate student at Liberty University, Raymond applied to the School of Aeronautics at L.U. in Lynchburg, Virginia. Raymond was accepted and Hidden with Christ Ministries donors generously stepped up to help cover the enormous cost of private university tuition for an international student.



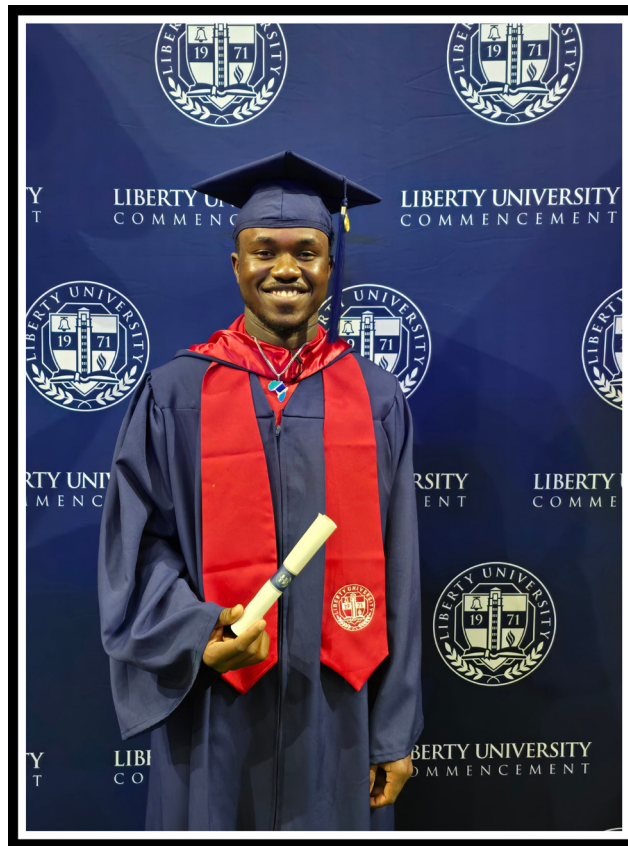
Ray at Treasures of Africa 2008

Raymond excelled at the School of Aeronautics, and after two years, he completed an Associate of Science Degree in Aviation Mechanics. Ray also passed the rigorous FAA certification exams for Air Frame and Powerplant on his first attempt. He was ready to try his hand at working in the field he had always dreamed about. His student visa allowed one year of working in the USA in his field of study. With his degree and FAA certifications,

Raymond quickly secured a position at a company in Amarillo, Texas. I drove with him from Virginia to Texas in December of 2023 to launch out into his first career related job.

After his year of work experience, Ray was ready to complete his bachelor's degree and chose Aviation Maintenance Management as his target, wanting to add management to his resume. So, he returned to school at Liberty. In May of 2026, Raymond completed his degree requirements and graduated from Liberty University (again!) with that coveted bachelor's degree in hand.

Before the graduation ceremony even took place, Raymond had already been recruited, interviewed and offered a position with Duncan Aviation in Lincoln, Nebraska. The largest privately owned business jet service provider in the world, Duncan Aviation specializes in Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul services of corporate and government jets. This well-respected company has tremendous growth opportunities for its employees and is an amazing gift from God for Raymond. With a bachelor's degree in a STEM related field, Raymond is legally allowed to work for up to 3 years in the USA. So please pray for him that this will continue to be the case, since there are currently many governmental changes happening with visas for citizens of East African countries.



**Raymond Kitali - Graduation Day at
Liberty University May 14, 2026**

There are not adequate words to express the appreciation we feel toward the donors of Hidden with Christ Ministries. Your investment in the lives of students in Tanzania has been nothing short of transformational for the TREASURES OF AFRICA KIDZ. We hope that by reading these stories you can get a sense of the power of your long-term generosity. Only heaven will be able to reveal the depth of it. Thank you for your love and grace toward the children of Treasures of Africa.



Where Are They Now?

Part 1

CATCHING UP WITH THE FORMER RESIDENTS OF TREASURES OF AFRICA CHILDREN'S HOME

You were there while I was being formed in utter seclusion!

You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe.

Every day was recorded in your book!

Psalm 139:15-16 The Living Bible

Diamond was an infant when she came to live at Treasures of Africa in 2007. A tiny, beautiful baby, weighing less than 5 pounds, she was immediately surrounded with love from staff and children alike.

As she grew up and started school, it was quickly apparent that she was bright and began to excel academically. Her gentle temperament and sweet spirit were a delight to all who met her.

God had a plan for Diamond's life that would eventually take her across the globe. In December of 2020, at the age of 13, Diamond boarded a plane heading for America to join her newly adoptive parents, Warren and Christina Oberst. Former Directors of Treasures of Africa, the couple had fallen in love with Diamond when she was just a baby.



Christina and Warren Oberst during their first year on the mission field holding little Diamond in 2008.

Diamond and her family now reside in the greater Nashville, Tennessee area, where they serve in leadership at Regeneration Nashville, a dynamic church headed by Pastors Kent and Candy Christmas. Diamond loves playing the keyboard, leading worship and is a part of the worship ministry at Regeneration Nashville.



Diamond graduated from high school at the end of May. When asked about her future plans, she shared the following:

"As of right now, my plan is to attend college to become a pediatric nurse practitioner, but I continue to lean into the Lord's guidance for my future. I also really enjoy leading worship, and the desire of my heart is to bring people into encounters with the Lord and His

love. To someone who feels discouraged about the future and feels like nothing can ever change, I would say to them, 'Always have hope in the Lord and trust that He knows what He is doing.' God has done things in my life that have far surpassed anything I could ever imagine. Sometimes I look back on my life, and I am in awe of the goodness of God. I am forever grateful for how far the Lord has brought me and for all He continues to do."

We are deeply indebted to our Treasures of Africa donors whose generosity brought stability to the lives of so many children like Diamond, during the most vulnerable moments of their lives. This wonderful story is fruit to your account!

Won't You Be My Sponsor?



Charity Joy

Charity Joy has one of the saddest stories that ever brought a child to live at Treasures of Africa Children's Home. Her abandonment at birth in a filthy public latrine, would touch even the hardest heart. But God saw her and rescued her, bringing her to Treasures of Africa Children's Home where she received round-the-clock loving care.

One of the most important people in those early months of Charity's life was our orphanage nurse – Elizabeth. Nurse Elizabeth served Treasures of Africa for more than ten years. Her faithfulness and love for the children was exemplary. She cared for the tiny infant diligently and prayerfully. God planted a special seed of love in her heart for little Charity Joy. She had never had children of her own, and she began to dream of adopting Charity Joy.

The Social Welfare Office saw Nurse Elizabeth as a natural choice for a foster parent since she had bonded with the infant during her first few days of life. Nurse Elizabeth received the Welfare Office's approval and Charity went to live with her.

Charity Joy is now nine years old and in 4th grade. She attends an excellent school in Moshi called Kibo Shanty Primary Academy. We are determined to help every former resident of Treasures of Africa Children's Home receive an excellent education so they can become leaders in their nation of Tanzania.

Josiah was born May 19, 2020. He was extremely premature, weighing just over two pounds at birth. Tiny but beautiful, this precious boy was abandoned by his birth mother at the hospital. After a three month stay to gain weight and strength, little Josiah was discharged from the hospital to Treasures of Africa Children's Home in Moshi, Tanzania, weighing just under five pounds.

Josiah's first year of life was rough, as he had to undergo several surgeries. Nurse Elizabeth, our longtime orphanage nurse, cared for him night and day. She spent 24-hour shifts at the hospital with him to make sure he was stable during those weeks he was admitted for surgery. The two developed a strong bond during those long nights in the hospital.

When the opportunity arose to become a foster parent for a child at Treasures of Africa, Nurse Elizabeth did not hesitate. She applied to take in little Josiah. Because of his delicate health condition and her nursing experience, the Social Welfare Office deemed Nurse Elizabeth the most appropriate choice as a foster parent. Josiah went to live with Nurse Elizabeth and her previously fostered "treasure," Charity Joy, in May 2021.

Now at six years old, Josiah is running and playing like any other child his age. He attends Kibo Shanty Primary Academy with his foster sister, Charity Joy.



Josiah

Shalom is the firstborn daughter of our beloved HWCM staff member, Sunday Joseph. He has been part of the ministry team in Tanzania for more than 15 years. Our trusted staff members have worked hard to further the vision God gave us to raise up godly leaders for the nation of Tanzania from the orphaned and vulnerable children God placed in our care. Sending the Treasures of Africa KIDZ to the best possible schools has been a key component of that vision.

It is our heart that the children of our HWCM staff in Tanzania would have equal opportunities for their children to have an excellent education. So, Shalom is a student in our Treasures of Africa KIDZ Education Project. Shalom is eight years old, in the 4th grade and wants to be a fashion designer when she grows up.



Shalom



Ebenezer

Ebenezer is the firstborn son of our former Treasures of Africa Children's Home house parents, Anna and Eliya. They are currently the foster parents for Mark Thomas, one of our former TOA residents. Ebenezer has the special distinction of having been born as the result of a special love story which started at Treasures of Africa, since his parents met while working at TOA. (Anna was a caregiver and Eliya was a security guard) They were later married with a multitude of the Treasures staff and children participating in their wedding. After their marriage, Anna and Eliya became live-in house parents at Treasures of Africa. A few years later, Ebenezer was born and he grew up under the same roof, playing with all of the TOA KIDZ, not knowing he was any different from them. Ebenezer is thirteen years old, is in the 7th grade and wants to be an engineer when he grows up.

If you would like to become an Education Sponsor for any of these students, you can scan the QR code below or make a donation on our website:

www.treasuresofafrica.org.

When you reach the donate page - there is a box which asks you to specify the child's name for sponsorship.



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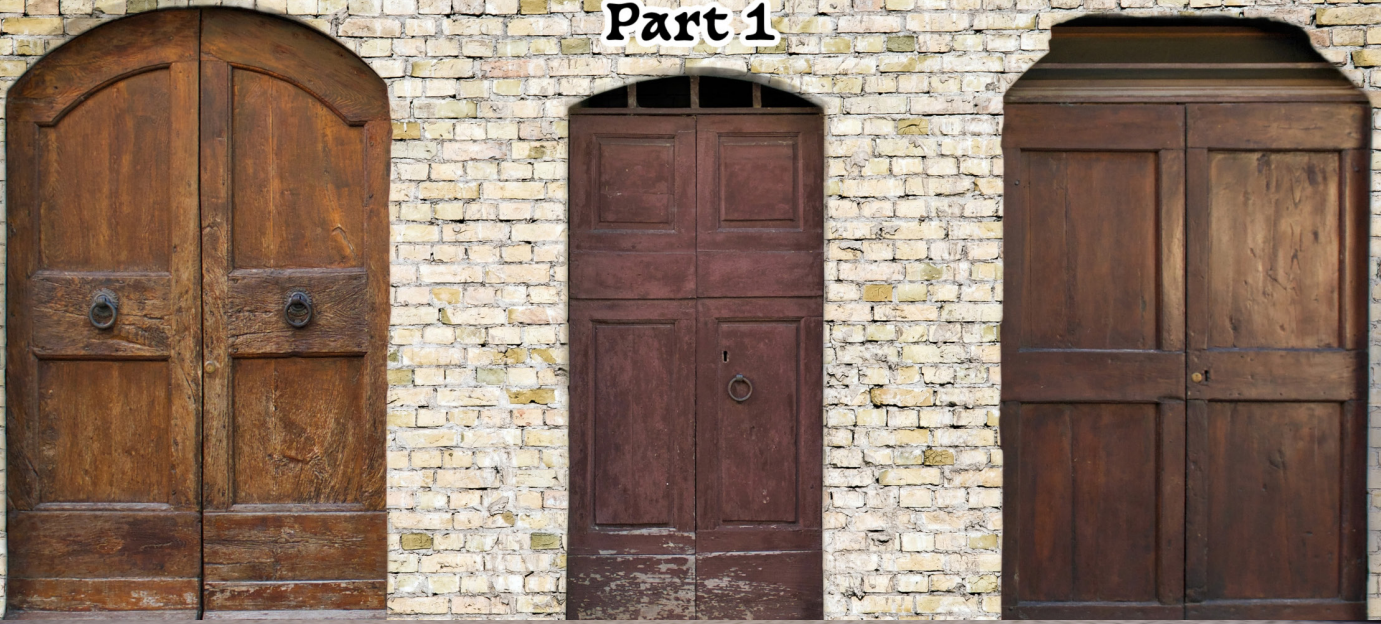
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DOORS

Part 1



The Pain and the Promise of Closed Doors

By Rita Langeland

Scrubbing floors in the spacious homes of well-to-do families in England in the 1920's, a young parlor maid dreamed of becoming a missionary to China. She was from a working-class family, and her education ended when she began working as a housemaid at the age of 14. For years she had heard and read about the work of the famous British missionary Hudson Taylor and his organization, the China Inland Mission. One day, she boldly went to their office in London and applied to become a missionary.

Though skeptical because of her low level of education, the CIM allowed her to join a three-month preparatory class for consideration as a missionary trainee. But that door soon slammed shut when the mission determined her to be unsuitable for missionary service. They felt her age (28) and lack of education would hinder her from learning the difficult Chinese language.

This disappointment was painful, but God had a divine purpose in this closed door. Gladys did not allow herself to become bitter over this rejection but instead became even more determined to go to China. She worked harder than ever and saved every shilling she could to purchase her own passage to China.

Someone who knew of her interest in China, gave her a prayer letter from an elderly missionary living in Yangchen, a mountainous area just south of present-day Beijing. The missionary was a widow, Jeannie Lawson, and she was asking for a missionary assistant to come to China to help her. Gladys wrote to her and offered herself in service. Jeannie Lawson welcomed her to come as soon as possible. Without that closed door from the China Inland Mission, this door would never have opened.

When she had saved enough money to book passage to China, she began a treacherous journey that included trains, boat, bus and mule and required crossing frozen territory where the Russians and Chinese were at war. When she finally arrived in Yangchen in 1930, she joined the elderly missionary, and together they embarked on a novel plan to spread the Gospel. They opened a small Inn that catered to mule drivers who carried goods across the mountains to remote villages. They offered hearty meals and told Bible stories as "entertainment." The mule drivers took those stories and repeated them all across the mountains. Gladys quickly learned the local dialect, despite the predictions made about her by the Missions Board in London. A year after Gladys arrived, missionary Jeannie Lawson died. Gladys continued the missions work and began to take in many orphans.

In the early days of World War II, the Japanese bombed the town of Yangchen. Many townspeople died, and most others fled wherever they could. Gladys undertook a perilous two-week trek with nearly one hundred orphans over mountains and the fast-moving Yellow River, headed toward the promised safety of a city called Xian. After a series of miracles, the bedraggled and hungry group arrived safely. Gladys was hailed as a hero by the Chinese for achieving this near-impossible feat. She went on to serve the Lord in China for many years, later moving to Taiwan where she started an orphanage. She died there in 1970 at the age of 68.

The painful closed door that Gladys initially experienced was necessary for her to find God's specific path for her life. It allowed a new door to open which brought the promise of going to China in God's perfect timing and placing her in the center of His perfect will.

If you are struggling with disappointment over a closed door, consider the following insights we can glean from missionary Gladys Aylward's story.

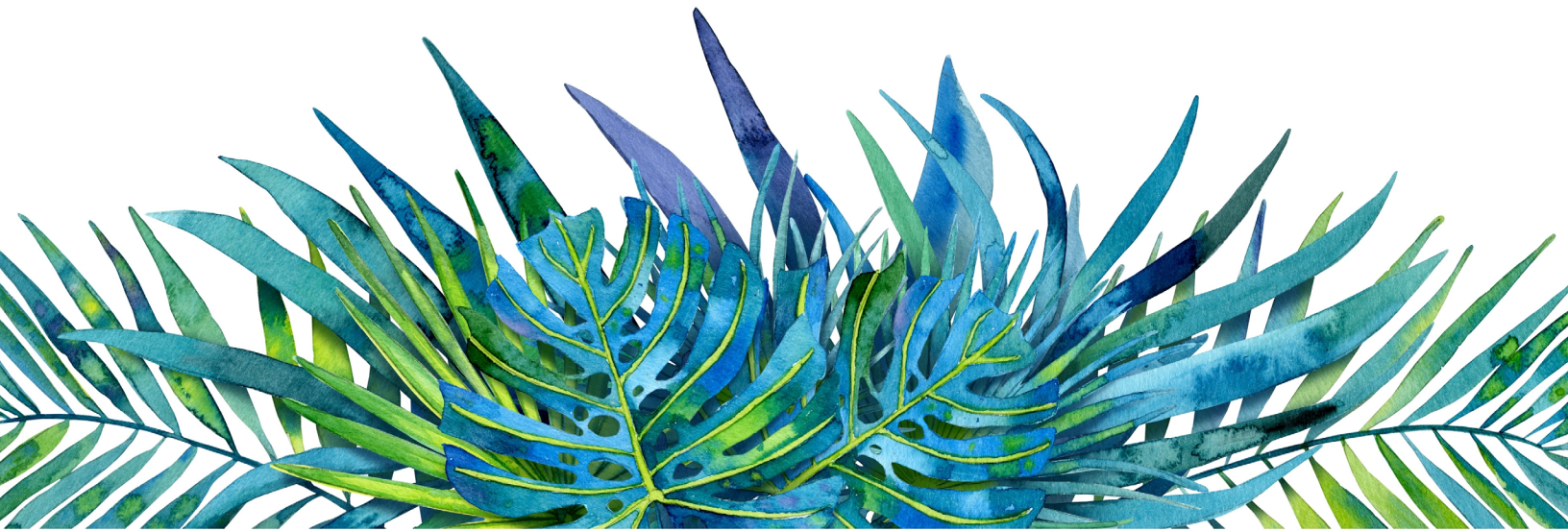
- 1) Don't allow discouragement to take root in your heart and steal the dream God has given you. ***Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*** Joshua 1:9 NIV
- 2) Reject all temptation to become bitter at the "door closers." Remember - they have helped move you toward God's open door! Bitterness will destroy you and block every door. ***See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;*** Hebrews 12:15 ESV
- 3) Be intentional in praising God during this season. His plan is far better than the door that closed. ***For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.*** Jeremiah 29:11 NLT
- 4) Do everything within your power to prepare yourself to walk through God's open door. ***Joshua said to the people, 'Make yourselves ready to serve the Lord as His holy people. Tomorrow, the Lord will do great miracles among you.'*** Joshua 3:5 Easy English Bible

God has a specific path for you to take, and it will lead you to the "open door" He planned for you before the foundations of the earth. But to find it, you will have to fight off the enemies of discouragement, fear, bitterness, disappointment, and hopelessness. Commit yourself to trusting God with all your heart and He will be faithful to direct your path and do great miracles to get you there!

***Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.***

Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV

To read more about the remarkable life of Gladys Aylward, consider these biographies:
A London Sparrow: The Inspiring and True Story of Gladys Aylward by Phyllis Thompson
Gladys Aylward: The Adventure of a Lifetime by Janet & Geoff Benge (great for young readers)



**Some people make cutting remarks,
but the words of the wise
bring healing.**

Proverbs 12:18 NLT

