

Victory

magazine

Hidden With Christ Ministries
September/October 2026

**The Danger
and Delight of
Open Doors**

Pages 17-18

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 SHINING HOPE AND TEARFUL TRUTHS**
- 3 FAITH QUOTE**
- 4 WHO IS THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**
- 5 A BOY NAMED JUSTICE**
- 8 THE VALUE OF THE WIDOW'S GIFT**
- 9 MARY'S MIRACULOUS MOVE FORWARD**
- 11 WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**
- 13 SEARCHING: MY EVERYDAY BIBLE TESTIMONY**
- 14 A GREAT WAY TO GIVE**
- 15 TOA KIDZ MOVE TO THE NEXT LEVEL**
- 17 THE DANGER AND DELIGHT OF OPEN DOORS**

VICTORY MAGAZINE is a publication of Hidden With Christ Ministries. All rights reserved.
Copyright ©2026

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 HWCN 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



Heart



to

Heart

with
Rita Langeland

Shining Hope and Tearful Truths

...we spend our years as a tale that is told.

Psalm 90:9b KJV

Every life tells a story. Some are shining examples of hope in a cynical world and others are cautionary tales valuable (at the very least) for the warning of others.

We love sharing stories from the lives of the Treasures of Africa KIDZ. Their successes are fruit to the account of all the generous donors who have invested prayer and finances into their education and care. But not every story has a storybook ending. The sorrows of this fallen earth are very real.

This edition of the Victory Magazine presents several stories which are of the “shining with hope” variety, and one which carries a sorrowful ending that brought the shedding of many tears.

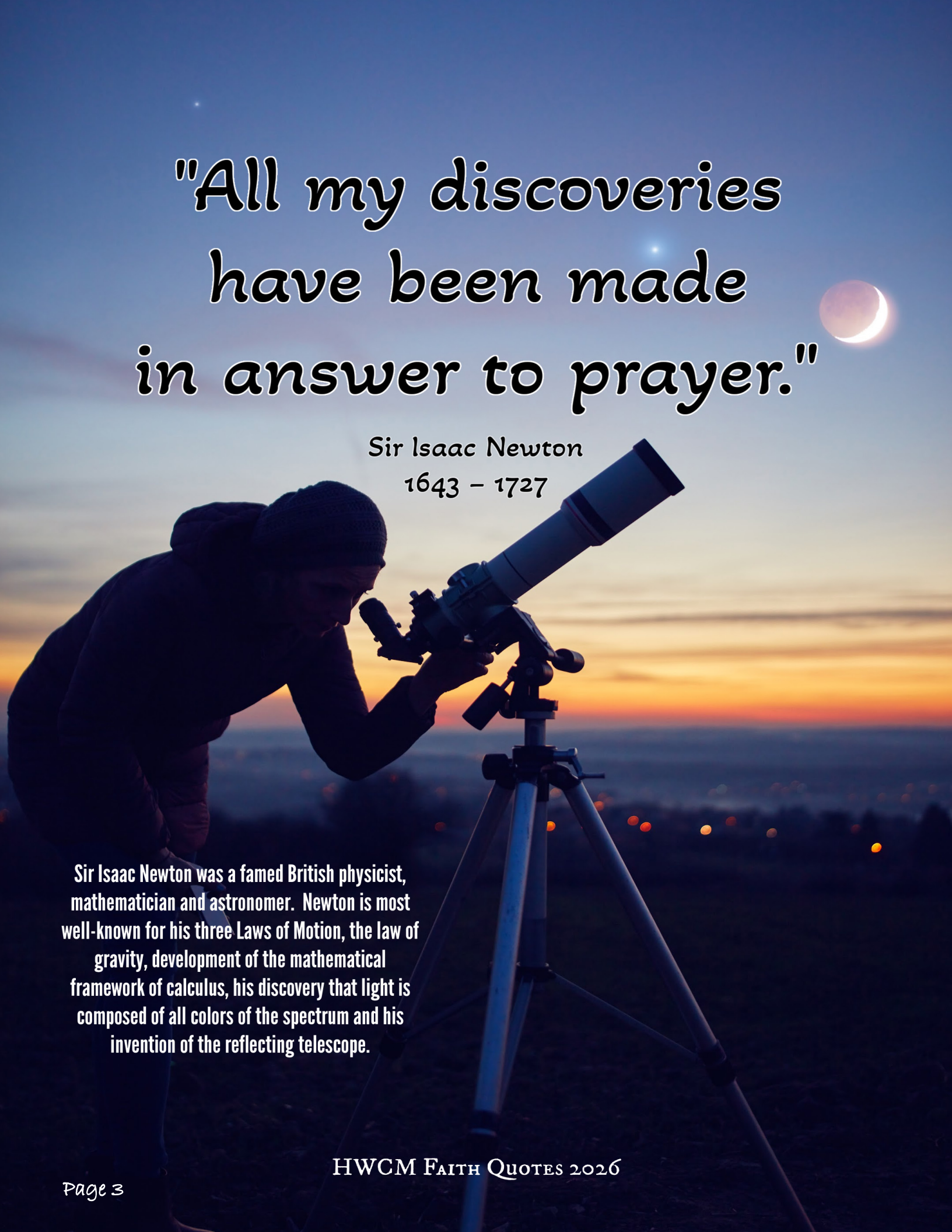
Yet we continue to contend for victories in the lives of all our Treasures of Africa KIDZ. We maintain the core value and belief that, “Every child is a treasure worth investing in.” Our prayer is that many people will be inspired to come up alongside us to help in our mission to see godly young leaders raised up in Tanzania to serve their nation and beyond.

As you read this issue of the Victory Magazine, I encourage you to consider the story you are writing through your own life. It is not too late to write a new chapter! And that new chapter can be the most impactful of all.



**Teach us to number our days
and recognize
how few they are;
Oh Lord,
help us to spend them
as we should.**

Psalm 90:12
The Living Bible



**"All my discoveries
have been made
in answer to prayer."**

Sir Isaac Newton
1643 – 1727

Sir Isaac Newton was a famed British physicist, mathematician and astronomer. Newton is most well-known for his three Laws of Motion, the law of gravity, development of the mathematical framework of calculus, his discovery that light is composed of all colors of the spectrum and his invention of the reflecting telescope.



Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven

by Dr. Marcia Chang Vogl

*At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying,
"Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"*

Matthew 18:1-4 NKJV

Isn't it just like us? We want to know who is the GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) in football, basketball, movies, and TV programs. How many views? How many touchdowns? How many baskets? How many wins? We rely on statistics to identify the greatest.

The disciples asked Jesus the same question. Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?

Jesus does not answer the question directly but instead gives the qualifications of being great in the kingdom of heaven. It is a combination of what you do and do not do.

1. **Humble yourself like a child who is learning.** Accept a lowly position and accept others in lowly positions.
2. **Do not despise those gone astray.** God loves them, too, and will seek for them.
3. **Don't ignore sin.** Address sin in a caring way.
4. **Bind sin and loose repentance.** Bind rejection and loose compassion.
5. **Gather in Jesus' Name.** Keep him at the forefront of your gatherings.
6. **Forgive others** as He has forgiven you.

Jesus does not measure by statistics. The greatest in the kingdom of heaven is you when you display who He made you to be.

*Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,
and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and
become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of
heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child
is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

Matthew 18:2-4 NKJV

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



A Boy Named **JUSTICE**

BY FAITH KALUSE
HWCM ADMINISTRATOR - MOSHI TANZANIA

Justice came to live at Treasures of Africa Children's Home at the tender age of 9 months, after the death of his mother. He was not a strong baby and was not yet crawling. We found out a few months later, after undergoing medical testing, that he had contracted a disease from his mother, that would affect his health for the rest of his life.



Justice in 2011
Age 4

He was placed on anti-retroviral drugs at a young age. This medication was necessary to keep his immune system functioning. Year in and year out, he took the medication, morning and night, under the strict supervision of our orphanage nurse Jodie and then nurse Elizabeth. His health was good and he ran and played like all the other children at TOA.



Justice in 2007
9 Months old

But as Justice became a teenager, he began resisting the medication, undoubtedly tired of the long regimen of pill taking that his condition required. Though he attended a monthly clinic at the Regional Hospital where he met other young people who, like himself, were required to take the medicine to stay healthy, Justice continued to rebel against the routine. Despite the advice of the medical professionals along with all the adults in his life who cared for him, Justice struggled to follow that vital counsel. So, when he went to boarding school for his

Secondary education, and was responsible for taking his meds himself, he stopped following the regimen. Sadly, that decision would have life threatening consequences.

Justice's Last Journey

In early May, Justice came to see me at the office with a painful swelling under his armpit and another swelling at the back of his neck. The swelling under his armpit was growing rapidly and seemed to be extending toward his chest. Deeply concerned about his condition, we agreed that he should go immediately to Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC), our Zonal Referral Hospital, for examination and treatment.

After several medical tests, on May 22, the doctors found signs that suggested lymphoma. However, there was some uncertainty about the diagnosis, as the doctors were trying to establish whether it was lymphoma or sarcoma. They requested additional tests to establish the correct diagnosis. After further investigation, the results became clear on June 4. Justice had lymphoma.



Justice age 13 - 2020

Justice began his first chemotherapy treatment on June 15. His second dose was scheduled for July 6. Sadly, Justice was nowhere to be found on that date, and as a result, he did not receive his second chemotherapy treatment on time. When he returned to Moshi on July 12, he was very sick and weak.

On Monday, July 13, we took Justice back to KCMC, where he was admitted for treatment. He was suffering from severe complications. The medical team provided close care, supportive medication, and continuous monitoring. For a while, Justice showed some improvement, and we continued to hope and pray for his recovery.

Throughout his hospitalization, the staff from Hidden with Christ Ministries remained close to him. Each day, when Sunday, Glory and I visited Justice at the hospital, we spent time with him. We prayed together and encouraged him with the Word of God. We talked to him about the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and reminded him that God loved him, cared for him, and would never abandon him, even in the midst of his suffering.

One of the most precious moments during this difficult journey came on Friday, July 24. I had the opportunity to pray with Justice and lead him back to Christ. Justice gave his life to Jesus. Although we were deeply concerned about his physical condition, we were grateful for the opportunity to share the hope and love of Christ with him. It was a deeply meaningful moment that we will always remember.

Sadly, in the early hours of Monday, July 27, at around 2:00 a.m., Justice's condition suddenly changed. He developed a very high fever and experienced difficulty breathing. The hospital staff called me in the morning, and when I arrived at the hospital, Justice was already unconscious. Despite the medical team's efforts, at around 9:00 a.m., Justice went to be with the Lord. He was 19 years old.

Although his passing was painful, we are grateful that Justice did not walk through his final days alone. He was surrounded by people who cared for him, prayed with him, encouraged him, and reminded him of God's love. Most importantly, he had the opportunity to give his life to Jesus before he passed away.

We are deeply grateful to Hidden with Christ Ministries for standing with Justice throughout his illness. The ministry provided financial support for his medical bills and also covered the burial expenses. Through this support, Justice was given an honorable and dignified burial. (continued on next page)



**Justice Joseph Mbando
2007 - 2026**

The ministry's commitment demonstrated once again what it means to care for vulnerable people not only in their moments of joy but also during their most difficult seasons. Justice's burial was also a special reflection of the family that has been built through the Treasures of Africa (TOA) program. Former staff members and former TOA residents came together to mourn with Justice's family and to offer their support during this painful time. Their presence showed the strength of the relationships and bonds that have been created over the years. Although many of them are no longer working with the ministry or living together as TOA residents, the love and connection remain.

Justice's story is one of struggle, faith, and love. His journey from the first signs of illness, through the diagnosis of lymphoma and treatment, to his final moments was not easy. Yet, through it all, he was surrounded by people who cared for him. His life reminds us of the importance of standing with one another in times of suffering and of sharing the love of Christ with those who are hurting.



Justice's Funeral - July 31, 2026

We mourn Justice's passing, but we also give thanks for the life he lived, the relationships he formed, and the opportunity he had to return to Christ. We thank God for allowing us to walk with him during his final days and for giving us the privilege of sharing His love with Justice.

May Justice rest in the loving arms of the Lord, and may his family, friends, former TOA staff, former residents, and everyone who loved him find comfort in God's presence. His memory will remain with us, and the bonds created through the Treasures of Africa family will continue to remind us that we belong to one another.



**TOA Family - former residents (now grown)
attended the burial**



The Value of **The Widow's Gift**

Then Jesus sat down opposite the Temple alms box and watched the people putting their money into it. A great many rich people put in large sums. Then a poor widow came up and dropped in two little coins, worth together about a halfpenny. Jesus called his disciples to his side and said to them, "Believe me, this poor widow has put in more than all the others. For they have all put in what they can easily afford, but she in her poverty who needs so much, has given away everything, her whole living!"

Mark 12:41-44

J.B. Phillips New Testament

Have you ever hesitated to make a donation because the amount seemed too small to matter? The widow in the Gospel story above may very well have felt the same way. Yet Jesus honored her in front of his disciples by saying, ***"Believe me, this poor widow has put in more than all the others!"***

God does not look at people or situations the way we humans do. In fact, the Bible teaches this principle very plainly in 1 Samuel 16:7 – ***"... for God does not see as man sees, since man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."***

Every Gift Matters

At Hidden with Christ Ministries, we are deeply grateful for every gift we receive. Each contribution helps keep this work moving forward, no matter the amount. Monthly gifts of all sizes make a meaningful difference. Faithful giving helps sustain the steady, month-after-month costs of our ministry, including:

- providing monthly support and school fees for our students in Tanzania;
- responding to urgent needs through our mercy ministry, the Rehema Projects;
- helping address medical emergencies that are sometimes life-threatening, and
- continuing to publish God's Word across the world over the internet.

These gifts may seem small individually, but together they form a vital foundation for the work God has entrusted to us. Don't despise a small gift given from the heart - God doesn't!!! He honors it. And so do we!



venmo



**Donate by
Credit Card**

Send money with Zelle

From your banking app tap
"Scan QR code to pay with Zelle."

hiddenwithchristmin



MARY'S MIRACULOUS MOVE FORWARD

BY RITA LANGE LAND

When we first met 7-year-old Mary out in Chekerini village in Tanzania, her hunger for education was evident. We were amazed to find a child so young who saw the value in education and seemed so incredibly determined. She became the first resident to walk through the gates of the newly opened Treasures of Africa Children's Home in March of 2007. At that special moment, we could not have imagined the heights this little girl would achieve.

Her fierce determination fueled an incredible work ethic. Her scholastic ability became more evident year after year as she successfully moved from one grade level to another. Then in 2025, Mary became the first of our Treasures of Africa KIDZ to earn a Master's degree. Her field of study, Microbiology and Immunology, required phenomenal effort and dedication. She graduated as the top student in her department. Her stated plan was to seek a position as a lecturer at a Tanzanian University, with the hope of later studying for a PhD. But secretly, she had applied for a scholarship to study for a PhD in Immunology at Kumamoto University in Japan, encouraged by her mentor professor who had received the same scholarship more than a decade before.

Out of an abundance of applicants, Mary made it to the final round of selection. She was the youngest among the seven remaining candidates. She had to take a zoom video proctored examination where she was observed as she took the test and worked out problems without a calculator. She later said the calculations were impossible to complete by hand within the short, allotted timeframe, and felt sure she had failed! Because of the time difference between Japan and Tanzania, she had begun her exam at 3 am. After two hours, she was given a one-hour rest period and then had to appear on zoom video for a grueling panel examination and interview. She had been up all night by the time she was interviewed and was exhausted.



Mary in the village
Feb 2007

Though she lacked one of the elements the application had stated was desired for an ideal candidate (paid work experience in the field of Immunology), Mary was awarded the scholarship. It felt so miraculous considering the sheer improbability of Mary receiving this scholarship out of such a large field of applicants. This generous scholarship from the government of Japan will provide 4 years of study along with a stipend for room and board at Kumamoto University in Japan.

Mary's achievement is nothing short of monumental. The University selection committee informed her that when she completes her PhD studies focused on the immunology of SARS COV-2 (the virus causing covid-19) and HIV, she will be the top expert in that field of research in the nation of Tanzania. This is a fulfillment of so many prayers and the dream we have held on to since 2007, that our Treasures of Africa KIDZ would become leaders in their nation.

Hidden with Christ Ministries will need to provide money for food, lodging and transportation for the six-week period Mary will be in Japan prior to the start of her government stipend. If you would like to be a part of "Mary's Miracle" you can make a donation to help cover Mary's initial travel/living expenses and specify that as your donation designation. She will fly in mid-September from Tanzania to Japan. She will be moving from the land of majestic Mount Kilimanjaro to the land of iconic Mount Fuji in pursuit of her God-given assignment.

But the commencement of her PhD studies in Japan is not the only life-changing news in Mary's life. She has become the first of the TREASURES to become engaged to be married. We will share more on that happy subject in the next issue of the Victory Magazine. We will be hosting an "engagement party" of sorts for Mary and her fiancée at the HWCM Mission House in Moshi. This is a Tanzanian tradition in which the family of the Groom comes to

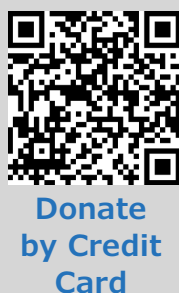
meet the family of the Bride and the families exchange gifts. The groom's family lives in the capital city of Dodoma, an 8-to-9-hour drive from Moshi. This meeting of the families will take place just prior to Mary's departure for Japan.

We are thrilled to share this amazing news of the "first fruit" of our Treasures of Africa KIDZ. We want to ask for your prayers for Mary as she has a long (four year) road ahead of her in a foreign country, amid an unfamiliar culture and language in a very challenging field of study. Please keep her in your prayers!

We are deeply grateful to every donor to the Treasures of Africa project over the past twenty years. Your gifts – both small and large – have borne remarkable fruit in the lives of so many Tanzanian students - with Mary leading the way!



Mary presenting a research paper at the Univ. of Dodoma Health Conference in July 2026



Send money with Zelle
From your banking app tap
"Scan QR code to pay with Zelle."

hiddenwithchristmin





Where Are They Now?

Part 2 - Magdalena

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



Magdalena at Mzumbe University graduation

In November 2025, Magdalena graduated near the top of her class with a bachelor's degree from Mzumbe University in Morogoro, Tanzania—a respected institution whose alumni include Tanzania's current president.

Despite this achievement, Magdalena entered a labor market with limited opportunities, even for college graduates. Many TOA KIDZ alumni who graduated from universities a few years before her, struggled to find paid employment and often had to accept unpaid internships for more than a year simply to build experience for their résumés.

Magdalena stood out by becoming the first Treasures of Africa college graduate in Tanzania to secure a paid position within just a few months of graduation. She bravely accepted a position in the capital city of Dodoma, a place she had never visited before.

She was hired as a Project Assistant by BRAC – one of the largest NGOs in the world – to begin work in March 2026. According to their website (bracinternational.org) the organization was founded in 1972 as a small relief and rehabilitation project to help refugees return to post-war Bangladesh. They quickly realized that aid alone could not stop poverty and shifted focus toward community empowerment and self-reliance. They expanded their work outside Bangladesh over the years through BRAC International, operating in countries across Asia and Africa, including Tanzania.

The project in which Magdalena is involved, has the aim of empowering young women between the ages of 12 and 35. They target girls between 12-18 years to provide education support and women aged 19-35 to provide business assistance so they can provide for themselves and their families.

Her duties include working in the community to take household surveys to identify girls and women who could benefit from their programs. She commented that her University studies focused on numbers and evaluation of projects (including hospitals) to see if their targets were being reached. Magdalena says though she had never worked in a community setting, that she has discovered that she enjoys collaborating with local government leaders to come up with solutions for the women in the community.

Magdalena reports that she has observed that when help is offered, the recipient must be willing to exert effort to make their own life better, or the help extended is wasted. She told of a case in which a young woman expressed interest in starting a business and after consultation and business training, BRAC agreed to provide the necessary items the woman needed to start a business. Three months later, when she and the team stopped by to see how the business was progressing, they found the lady had never begun, and all the supplies she had been given were piled in a corner untouched.

On the other hand, she has seen the power of assistance, which was both appreciated by the recipient and matched with effort, diligence and determination. Her favorite example was one in which two ladies were helped with opening a daycare center. They were given all the equipment they needed plus one year of rent for a building in which to

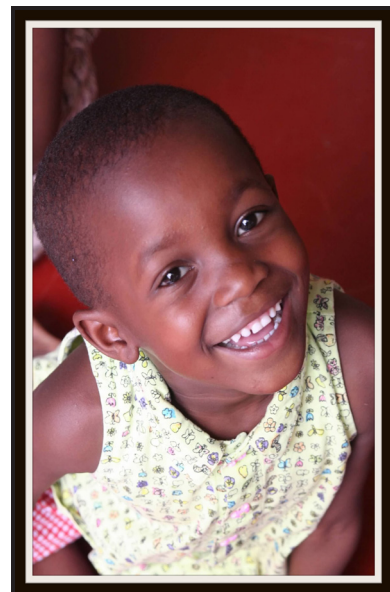
start the daycare center. When the Project assistant from BRAC came to evaluate their project after one year had elapsed, they found that the ladies had successfully opened two more daycare centers. Hard work and determination met with opportunity and produced business success.

When asked if she could see herself growing with the organization, Magdalena stated that she hopes to be promoted in the future to a position involving more monitoring and evaluation, the subject of her bachelor's degree studies. In ten years, she hopes to be working with an even larger organization, such as the United Nations.

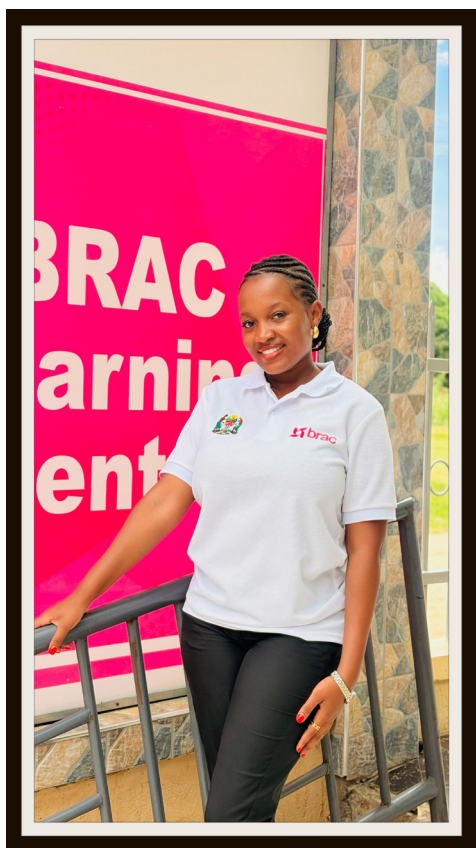
We are so blessed to see Magdalena succeeding in her young adult life. Watching her progress from the lonely 4-year-old child who came to live at Treasures of Africa after the death of her mother from cancer - to a confident young woman working with purpose to help others, is inspiring. Magdalena's story demonstrates the critical importance of our Treasures of Africa KIDZ donors. Your consistent financial support changes lives – just like Magdalena's!

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

www.treasuresofafrica.org.



Magdalena at Treasures of Africa in June 2007



Magdalena standing in front of one of her work sites in Dodoma, Tanzania - 2026



venmo



**Donate
by Credit
Card**

Send money with Zelle
From your banking app tap
"Scan QR code to pay with Zelle."

hiddenwithchristmin



SEARCHING

*A Testimony
from
My Everyday Bible*



Hi Rita,

I love your APP and teaching. I have been looking for exactly what you're doing - reading the Bible and explaining its meaning.

I have tried several times in my life to read the Bible only to say, "what did I just read?"

Your explanations are excellent. So at age 73... I think I will finally get though the Bible and understand it.

I was more than happy to donate to something I'm really getting something out of. Keep up the good work. You have a fan in Florida. Thanks again for all your good work.

*T J
Sanford, Florida*

Scan to get
the App



Apple App
Store

Scan to get
the app



Google Play
Store

A Great Way To Give

Your donations to Hidden With Christ Ministries help us to spread God's Word and God's Love through our international ministry projects. Donations can be made to HWCM by check, credit or debit card, PayPal, Venmo and Zelle. We appreciate and value every gift that is given by whichever banking platform our donors choose to use.

This month we would like to highlight the **Zelle payment platform**. With Zelle your donation reaches the ministry within minutes and without any transaction fees subtracted from your gift. It is also an easy way to make one time or recurring monthly donations.

The simplest way to use Zelle is directly through your banking app, which means no extra accounts to create and no extra passwords to remember. You can also use Zelle with a computer by logging into your online banking account.

To Donate with Zelle:

- Using your smart phone or tablet open your banking app. **(This step is key as the QR code below won't work unless you scan it from your banking app).**
- Next tap the "Send money with Zelle®" option on your dashboard or main menu.
- Select Send from the Zelle options.
- Tap the QR Code icon located at the top right of your screen.
- Point your camera at the QR code and follow the prompts.



Alternative Method to using the QR code from your smart phone, tablet or computer:

- Open your banking app or your online banking website
- Tap Send money with Zelle
- Tap Add (recipient)
- In the "Recipient name" field type in **Hidden With Christ Ministries**
- In the "Recipient's Zelle tag" field type in **hiddenwithchristmin**
- In the "Recipient's email address" field type in **rita@hiddenwithchrist.org**.
- Tap the **Add Recipient** button
- Finally, follow the prompts to complete making the donation. You should also see an option to set up repeat donations

Please note that these are general instructions and the exact steps may differ from bank to bank. Once you have setup Zelle pay and added Hidden With Christ Ministries to your recipient list you will find that Zelle is a convenient and rewarding way to make a difference around the world.

Treasures of Africa KIDZ

MOVE TO THE NEXT LEVEL

By Glory Ngowi
Administrative Asst.
HWCM Moshi, Tanzania office

Celebrating Our Standard Seven Graduates

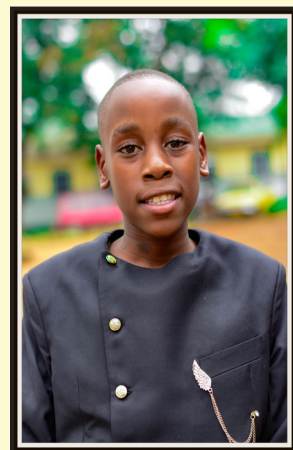
This year is a special one for our Treasures of Africa KIDZ Project as we celebrate **four students who have successfully completed Standard Seven**. This is the largest group we have had in one year. They will move to a new level in January, from the simplicity of Primary School to the challenges of Secondary School.

Each student has a unique story filled with growth, challenges, determination, and hope. As we celebrate this important milestone, we also recognize the families, teachers, sponsors, and everyone who has supported them along the way. Most importantly, we celebrate the students themselves - their hard work, perseverance, and courage to keep learning. We are proud to highlight the journeys of these four graduates:

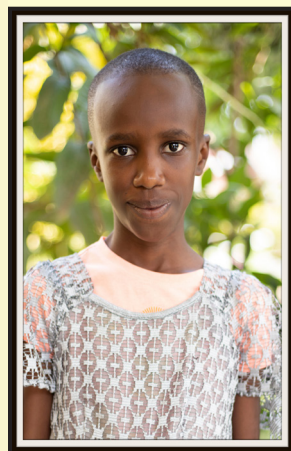
Hamidu: A Creative Young Man with Dreams

Hamidu is one of our four Standard Seven graduates this year. His school held their graduation ceremony on August 1st, 2026, from Kibo Shanty Primary School in Moshi, marking a proud and memorable milestone in his education journey.

The graduation was a special day for Hamidu, filled with joy and excitement as he celebrated completing primary school with his family, teachers, and fellow students. He is especially happy to be moving on to the next chapter of his education, looking forward to new opportunities to learn, and taking another step toward his future.



Hamidu



Gladness

Hamidu has been a dedicated student throughout his primary school years. His creativity and love for art have also made him stand out. In recognition of his exceptional creativity, artistic talent, imagination, and dedication to expressing ideas through art, Hamidu received a special award from his school at his graduation.

Looking ahead, Hamidu dreams of becoming an Electrical Engineer. With his creativity, dedication, and passion for learning, he is excited to continue growing and working toward making his dream a reality.

Gladness: A Step Closer to Her Dream

Gladness is another one of our four Standard Seven graduates this year. She is looking forward to successfully completing her primary education at Masama English Medium Primary School in September, marking an important milestone in her educational journey.

Completing Standard Seven has brought Gladness a great sense of happiness and excitement. She is grateful for the journey she has completed and is especially excited to take the next step in her education as she begins a new chapter in her academic journey.

For Gladness, moving forward is not only about starting a new level of school, but also about getting closer to the future she dreams about. Her goal is to become a teacher. She looks forward to continuing her education, gaining new knowledge and skills, and working hard to achieve her dream. As she begins this new chapter, she carries with her hope, determination, and excitement for what the future holds.

Ebenezer: Building Toward His Dream

He will complete his primary education at New Beginning Primary School, reaching another important milestone in his educational journey.

Completing Standard Seven is a proud achievement for Ebenezer, and he is excited about moving forward to the next stage of his education. He looks forward to gaining new knowledge, experiencing new opportunities, and taking steps toward the future he hopes to build.

Ebenezer's dream is to become a Mechanical Engineer. As he continues with his education, he hopes to develop the knowledge and skills needed to achieve his dream and build a meaningful future through his career.



Ebenezer



Junior

Junior: A Young Graduate with a Dream

Lastly, we celebrate Junior from Koboko Primary School in Siha District, who is reaching an important milestone after years of learning, growing, surviving the heartache of losing his father, and preparing for the next stage of his life.

For Junior, completing Standard Seven is a moment of happiness and pride. He is excited to leave primary school behind and begin a new chapter in his education. He looks forward to new experiences, learning more, and taking steps that will bring him closer to the future he imagines for himself.

Outside the classroom, Junior enjoys playing football and farming, activities that reflect his active and hardworking nature. Looking ahead, he dreams of becoming a soldier. As he continues with his education, Junior carries this dream with him and hopes to work hard to make it a reality.

Four students, four different journeys, and four dreams for the future. Their completion of Standard Seven is more than an academic achievement, it is a reminder of the possibilities that education can open for a young person. We are grateful to everyone who has walked alongside them and supported their education journey. The faithful financial and prayer support from the TOA KIDZ donors have brought them this far!

Congratulations to our four graduates! May this milestone be the foundation of an even brighter future.

Editor's Note:

Both Gladness and Ebenezer need sponsors! Please consider becoming a TOA KIDZ Education sponsor.



venmo



**Donate
by Credit
Card**

Send money with Zelle

From your banking app tap
"Scan QR code to pay with Zelle."

hiddenwithchristmin



Doors

Part 2

The Danger and Delight of Open Doors

BY RITA LANGELAND



Many years ago, while attending a fellowship meeting of ministers, I heard a pastor declare with great conviction, "If a door opens, I am going through it!" As I listened to him speak, his presumption seemed crystal clear. If a door of opportunity opened, he assumed it was from God and he was ready to charge ahead. At the time, I was a young pastor's wife, and I was very cognizant of the fact that I did not have the years of ministry experience this man had. But I was concerned that his outlook was not a wise or Biblical one.

After four decades of ministry, I can now sum up my understanding of this issue in four simple statements. Not every open door is from God. Not every closed door in your life is the work of the devil. Sometimes open doors are traps laid to entice you. Sometimes closed doors are a gift of divine protection.

NOT EVERY OPEN DOOR IS FROM GOD

There can be danger lurking behind doors that open in our lives, and we need wisdom and discernment to know which open doors to avoid. Additionally, you will need inner determination to reject pressure from people who may advise you to go through an open door that is not from God.

King Jehoshaphat was known as one of the godliest kings in the history of the kingdom of Judah. On the contrary, his contemporary, King Ahab of Israel, was infamous for being one of the most wicked kings in Israel's history. The following story from the book of Second Chronicles illustrates the danger of entering doors God did not instruct you to pass through and giving in to the pressure of others.

King Jehoshaphat was invited to feast with King Ahab. At the royal dinner, King Ahab pressured King Jehoshaphat to join him in fighting a battle with the Syrians to retake the city of Ramoth Gilead, which had been captured years before. Imagine the setting of that royal feast, with food and wine flowing liberally, and the pressure of a fellow king urging Jehoshaphat to "team up" with him to recapture an important city. (2 Chron. 18:1-3)

King Jehoshaphat succumbed to Ahab's influence and agreed to join him, but he wanted to hear God's opinion on this plan. So, Jehoshaphat asked King Ahab to call for one of the Lord's prophets. (2 Chron. 18:4) Despite the fact that the prophet, Micaiah, warned the kings that their attempt would end in disaster and death, King Jehoshaphat still went along with Ahab's plan. As it turned out, just as Micaiah had prophesied, the kings failed to retake the city, King Ahab was killed, and King Jehoshaphat barely escaped with his life. (2 Chron. 18:28-34)

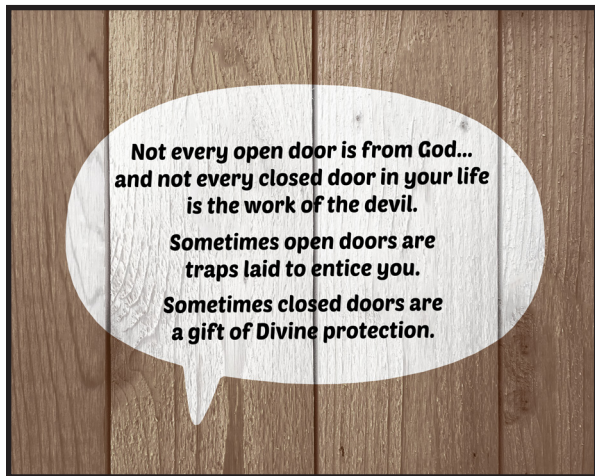
When an open door presents itself in your life, don't just run through it. Ask God for His wisdom and don't let the opinions of others override what the Holy Spirit says. It is vital to remember, not every open door is from God.

NOT EVERY CLOSED DOOR IS THE WORK OF THE DEVIL

Many Christians fall into the trap of disappointment and discouragement when a door they want to enter is closed to them. They may even "blame the devil" for hindering them. But the reality is that not every closed door in your life is the result of the enemy of your soul working against you. Sometimes, it is the protection and wisdom of God. Consider the Apostle Paul, whose incredible missionary journeys from AD 46-57 were described in detail across nine chapters of the Book of Acts. We can observe that the Holy Spirit (not the devil) closed doors to him and his companions at certain times, in certain places.

Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. Acts 16:6-7 NKJV

Here we can see that it was the Spirit of God that prevented Paul and his associates from entering through doors of opportunity for evangelization in two different regions of Asia. The text does not specify the reason the Lord closed those doors. We can surmise that God's wisdom regarding the timing in which the Gospel message could be received by the people of those regions, and by extension, protection for the missionaries, may have been the reasons for these closed doors. We know from reading 1 Peter 1:1, that there were disciples of Jesus in Bithynia at a later date, as scholars believe that First Peter was written between AD 62 and 65. God's timing is wiser than our timing. So don't be discouraged by a closed door today. His open door for you will come at just the right time, and then – it will provide great delight to your heart!



THE DELIGHT OF GOD'S OPEN DOOR

The apostle Paul's first missionary journey throughout cities in Galatia (modern day Turkey) took place from AD 47 – 48 and was filled with both triumphs and adversity. He preached with zeal to both Jews and Gentiles but was met with great resistance from his own Jewish brethren. They even attempted to stone him to death. Yet despite those painful encounters, Paul's joy over the salvation of many Gentiles was irrepressible. When Paul and his associates returned to Antioch to give his missionary report to the believers who had prayed for their success, you can imagine the DELIGHT he had in sharing the blessing of God's OPEN DOOR!

From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. Acts 14:26-27

When God opens a door in your life, the joy you experience is exhilarating. This does not mean there will be no hardships encountered and no mountains you will have to move by an exercise of your faith. When we began working in Tanzania more than twenty years ago, I could not have imagined the difficulties we would face or the faith that would be required to accomplish the mission God had in mind. But partnering with God and walking through His open door has brought a level of delight no earthly pleasure can match.

www.hiddenwithchrist.org www.treasuresofafrica.org www.myeverydaybible.com

Whether you turn to the right
or to the left, your ears will hear
a voice behind you, saying...

"This is the way; walk in it."

Isaiah 30:21
New International Version

