

# Victory

magazine

Hidden With Christ Ministries  
May/June 2022



*Encouragement:  
The Anointing of  
Barnabas*

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## **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.

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# DOUBT VS UNBELIEF

BY  
MARCIA CHANG VOGL

*Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence,  
they still would not believe in him. John 12:37*

*"Help overcome my unbelief!" were the words of the father whose son was delivered from epilepsy. He had come to the disciples for help and none of them could do anything. When Jesus arrived on the scene, Jesus cast out the demon and the boy was set free. The Dad watched the whole thing and found it hard to believe this miracle had happened.*

*Unbelief sets in when we see the wonders of God and yet do not believe he can do that. The Israelites saw God open the Red Sea, rain manna from heaven, and bring water out of the rock. Still, they would not believe God could take them into the Promised Land to conquer the giants. Because of their unbelief, they wandered in the desert for 40 years until the next generation, who had not seen all the miracles, believed God would do as He said He would.*

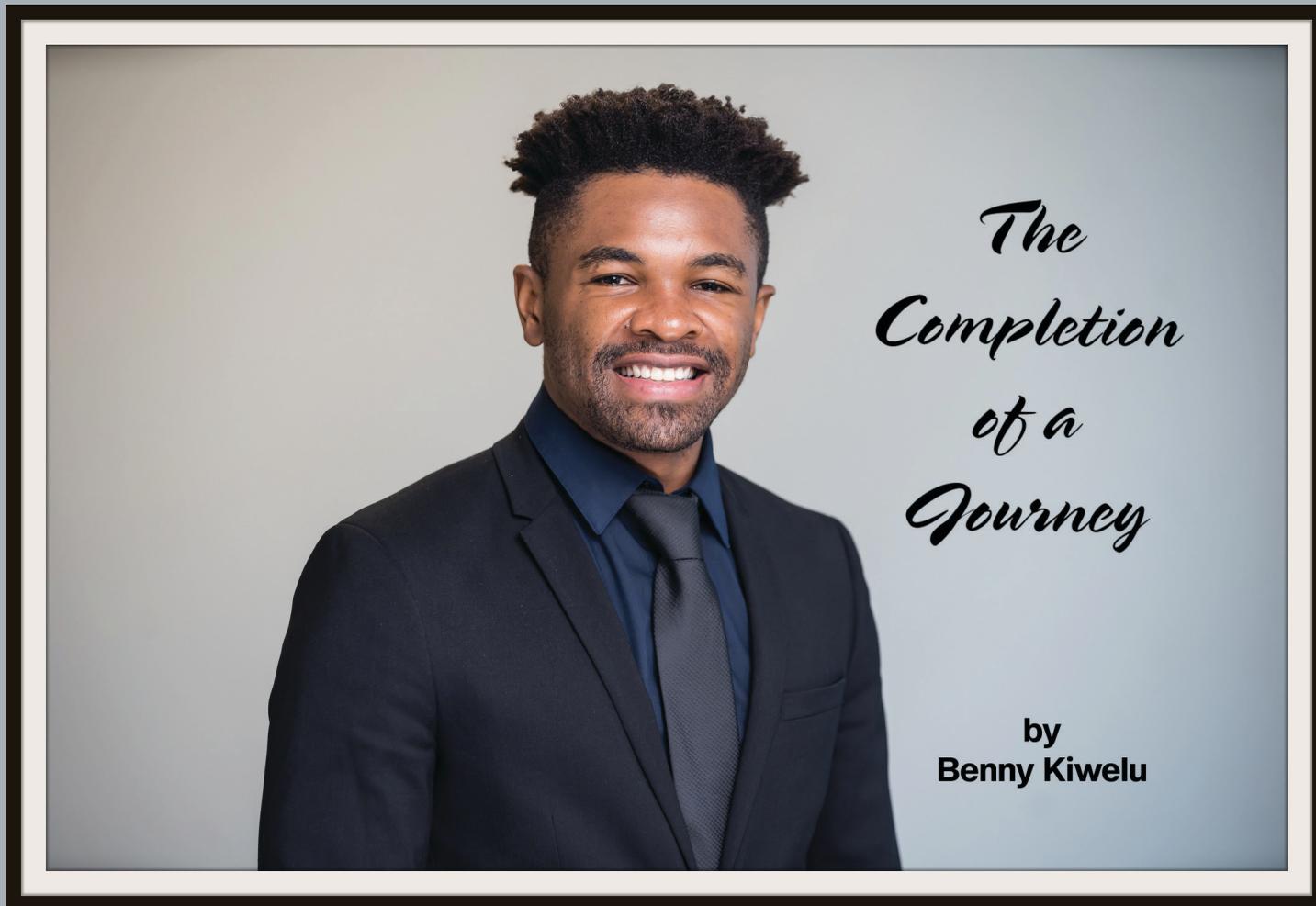
*Doubt on the other hand, does not see any evidence of what you are asked to believe. Thomas doubted Jesus rose from the dead because he was not there to see the post-resurrection Jesus with the other eleven disciples and the women. He wanted evidence. When Jesus appeared to Him personally in the second meeting with the disciples, Thomas believed and did not need to touch the evidence he was looking for.*

*When I am in the gym, I doubt I can run a mile in 30 minutes. There is no evidence I have the strength and stamina. The practice runs do not point to such a success. However, there is evidence that I can dead lift a 100-pound barbell. Those who watch me and still say they don't believe it - are in unbelief. Those who doubt I can lift that barbell, will stand in disbelief when they see it.*

*Look for evidence. When you see the goodness of God, believe He will continue to be good. When you see miracles, you will be able to cast off unbelief. Don't let unbelief erode your faith in God so that you do not go forward with Him.*

*Marcia Chang Vogl is the Founder and Director of Bethany Projects and is the author of two books - The Path Forward and Dancing With God. She is an ordained minister who partners with Hidden with Christ Ministries. She also ministers through personal prayer sessions, mentoring workshops, and retreats. Marcia received both Masters and Doctorate degrees in Practical Ministry from Wagner Leadership Institute, with a specialty in women's ministry, deliverance, and workplace ministries. You can follow her at:*

<http://bethanyprojects.org> and  
<https://www.marciachangvogel.com>



For the last 3½ years, I have been living in Tulsa, Oklahoma, attending Oral Roberts University, and majoring in Finance. My time at ORU has been one of the most challenging of my life. Yet, at the same time it was very fulfilling and rewarding.

I started my journey at ORU in January 2019 with excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to attend such a great school as ORU. But also, deep down, I was nervous. I knew it was not going to be easy to settle into a new place again and adjust to a new environment with different people. Also, I knew it was necessary to bring my A-game when it came to my studies.

Going to ORU was the door to a new season that God opened for me, and even though I was nervous, I was confident He would give me the grace to thrive in that new season. Things were not easy, especially in my first semester, but I held on to hope, knowing that things would get better. I only had to focus on my part, which was to study hard, excel in my classes, and trust God with the rest.

I am glad to announce that on April 30, 2022, I graduated from Oral Roberts University with a Bachelor's degree in Finance. I am so grateful for God's faithfulness through this past season of my life. I am also thankful for all your support and generosity. I wouldn't have made it to this point without your commitment. Thank you for believing in me and supporting me throughout this journey. I am hopeful and excited for this new season as I search for a job and work for a year before I go to Graduate school. Thank you again for your support.



**Editor's Note:**

Because of the generosity of many donors to Hidden with Christ Ministries, Benny, a former resident of Treasures of Africa Children's Home, has been here in the USA for 5 years on an F-1 Student Visa. That visa gave him the privilege of attending school in this country. Upon graduation, a student is allowed to legally obtain one year of employment in their field of study for the purpose of gaining work experience and developing skills they can take with them when they return to their home country. Benny has a short window of time left before he must return to Tanzania if he does not find employment. If anyone reading this article has a lead on a job in business or finance, please contact Benny directly via email: [bennykiwelu1@gmail.com](mailto:bennykiwelu1@gmail.com) Thank you!



By Rita Langeland

The first half of 2022 has been one of great transition for Hidden with Christ Ministries. We moved the ministry headquarters across the country to the state of Virginia and searched for office space that would meet the needs of HWCM. Having sold the condo-office in Tustin, California, which had housed the ministry since 2001, we had a certain amount of money to work with and hoped to buy a small house that could be utilized as an office. Driving around the city of Lynchburg, Virginia, and the surrounding environs, is like taking a drive through history. Old houses abound! Many small brick homes built in the 1950's have been converted to professional offices for lawyers, realtors, and accountants. I thought something like that would work well for HWCM. But God had another idea.

After unsuccessfully surveying one brick house after another with our realtor, she mentioned an Open House that was happening on Leesville Road in Lynchburg. I had driven up and down that road several times and felt quite drawn to it, though I had never seen a suitable house for sale. When I looked at the photos online, I did not want to consider the house. But something inside nudged me to go to the Open House despite my assessment of the online pictures!

When I drove up to the house, I was unimpressed. But when I stepped on the ground and walked around a bit, I had the overwhelming feeling that this was the place the Lord wanted us to buy. To say I was surprised would be an understatement. It didn't look anything like what I was expecting. (Have you ever noticed God seems to like doing that?)

I had not yet walked inside the house when I had this strong sense that the property was going to increase in value quickly and that a developer would want to purchase it from us. It is a corner lot with enough room to build another building. The city is growing in that direction, there are no grocery stores, fast food restaurants or gas stations nearby, and an entire new neighborhood is under construction within a block. This investment and the resulting sale could eventually help us with funding the start of the WILDWOOD CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER we are still believing God to bring to pass.

So, we made an offer on it, and a bidding war ensued. The owner received many “above asking price” offers. We had offered \$10,000 under the asking price, but with a short escrow and cash. They took the highest offer and the realtor scolded me for making such a low offer in such a “hot” market. I smiled. I had felt that was what the Lord instructed me to do, even though I thought the asking price was fair. I had this strong sense it would fall out of escrow.



Two weeks later, our realtor called. “You’ll never believe what happened!” I smiled again. The house had fallen out of escrow, and they came back to us because of our “cash and quick escrow” offer. But they wanted us to come up to the asking price, which we were willing to do. Then I understood why the Lord had me offer so low. We had room to go up and still stay within budget.

The house was built in 1910. Undoubtedly it was once a small farmhouse. Over the years, the surrounding land has been sold off, divided into small parcels where other houses have been built. We set up offices in the 2 bedrooms, and a conference table and chairs grace the dining room. The living room welcomes guests and the whole house is decorated with artifacts from our missionary endeavors in Africa. My favorite part is the front porch, complete with an inviting porch swing. The other thing that made me smile about THIS OLD HOUSE, was a wooden signpost frame that I like to imagine once advertised “Farm Fresh Eggs” or something like that. We designed and ordered a sign to hang in that frame, announcing HIDDEN WITH CHRIST MINISTRIES had taken up residence.

We are so grateful for this quaint and humble place to set up the Hidden with Christ Ministries office. And we are especially thankful for all our supporters who have hung in there with us amid so much transition. Moving across the country required a tremendous amount of both time and effort! Buying an old house brought with it repair issues I never imagined and trying to find honest repairmen has taken time as well. (I should have watched a few episodes of THIS OLD HOUSE to get a clue!)

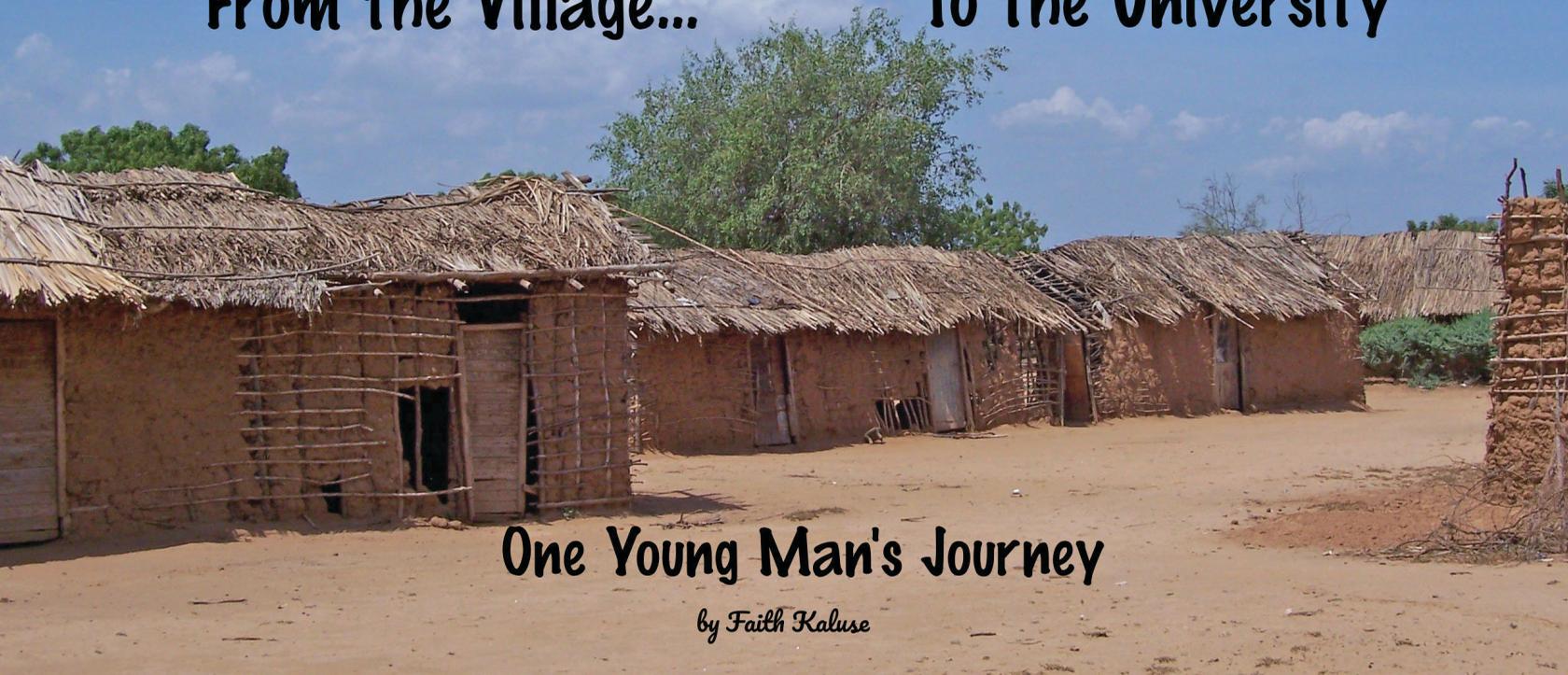


As a result, we have not been able to keep up our communication with donors at a level that is important to us. Would you please forgive us for that? We’re almost back to normal, a few dozen more boxes of files to unpack and we should be good to go.

In the Fall, the colorful autumn leaves are spectacular throughout the nearby Blue Ridge Mountains and Shenandoah Valley. If you are planning a trip in this direction, please consider stopping by the HWCM office. We would love to invite you to sit on our porch swing and “stay awhile.”

# From the Village...

# To the University



## One Young Man's Journey

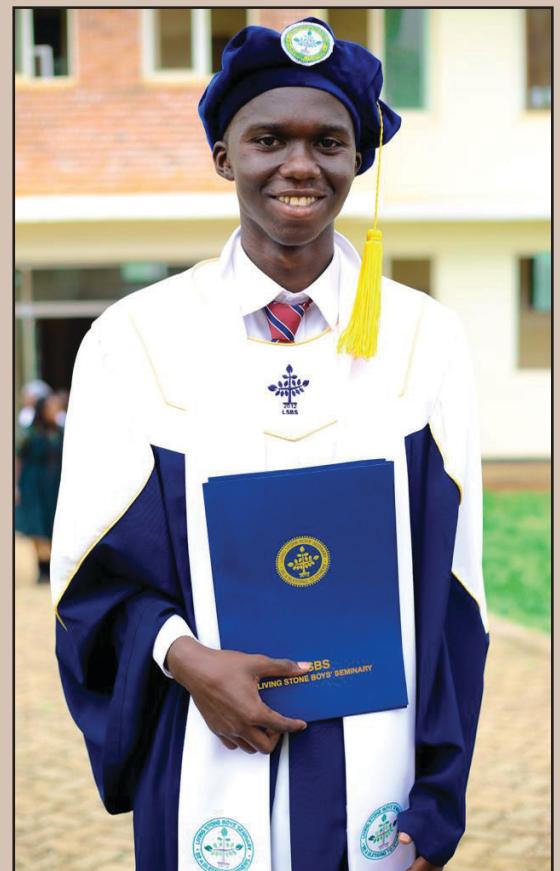
*by Faith Kaluse*

Samweli came to live at Treasures of Africa Children's Home at the age of 4 in July, 2007. Before coming to Treasures of Africa, he was living with his mother in a small mud house in a village called Newland in the Moshi District. He lived with his mother and his older sister, Witness. Their father abandoned the family when the children were very young. In late May 2007, their mother died, and they were left with their great grandmother who was very old and had no means to provide for them.

Samweli was a very friendly kid, highly energetic with a love of many activities. He always enjoyed learning and working with puzzles. He was not afraid or shy to try to speak English. He was excited to learn new words in English. His efforts helped him to learn English faster than any other child at Treasures, even the older ones. At the age of 10, he asked for Swahili-English dictionary as a gift because he wanted to become a great English speaker. His determination helped him to become very fluent in English.

Samweli is a diligent student and has been doing very well in his studies. When he returns home for school holiday breaks, he helps other children academically and advises them to be diligent in their studies. This has made the other children respect him and call him brother.

Samweli's desire is to study Medical Science at the University level. He has just graduated from high school (called Advanced Secondary School in Tanzania) and is



*Samweli on Graduation Day*

waiting to join the University. I believe because of his hard-working spirit he will do very well in the medical field and become a great person in his chosen career field.

We are so grateful to the Hidden with Christ Ministries supporters who have helped us over these many years to prepare him academically for the halls of the University. Thank you for helping Sam reach for his dreams and become a blessing to the nation of Tanzania.



**Above:**  
*Samweli as a young boy  
in his village, just before  
coming to live at  
Treasures of Africa*  
**Right:**  
*Samweli now; ready  
to enter university*



# MY ADVENTURE IN AMERICA

By Jesca Soka

When I first heard from Mama Rita that I was going to have a chance to go to school in America, I thought that I was dreaming.

I could not imagine it. Would it really ever happen? Would I really leave Tanzania? I soon found out how hard it is to travel to America. We spent months praying to get passports and visas. God helped us all the way and we finally received the documents we needed. But when we drove to the Kilimanjaro Airport and climbed up the steps into the big KLM Airlines plane, that was when I knew that I was not dreaming.

I arrived in America on December 14. I will never forget that day. The weather was cold. I felt happy. Everything looked so different. We were welcomed at the airport by Mama Rita's family, and it made me feel welcomed to a new country. Auntie Jaimee gave us jackets which helped us a lot because it was so cold! The only other things that I remember is that I felt so tired from the long journey, and we ate French fries and chicken nuggets as we drove home from the airport.

The next day, one of the first things we did was to go to a place to get our ears pierced. Mama Rita didn't want anyone mistaking us for boys because of our short hair. In Tanzanian schools, every student must have their head shaved. If you came to school with long hair, you would be spanked. So, that is why Ester and I had very short hair, which in America makes you look like a boy. Even on the plane, someone told Mama Rita we were really "cute boys." Then Mama Rita made sure we got our ears pierced. And then we felt good.

Christmas in America was so different than Tanzania. Everywhere we went people decorated their houses with Christmas lights. My favorite part was when the whole family met together for Christmas. Then I saw snow for the first time. We had fun playing in the snow and throwing snowballs!

Ester and I started school at Liberty Christian Academy in January. At first, I felt nervous. I didn't know anyone, and it was such a big school. The hardest part was learning how to do every homework assignment on the computer and sending it to the teacher online. But after a while, I became familiar with their system. By the time school was over at the end of May, I felt ready for the next school year. I will start seventh grade in August.

I know that going to school in America is a big privilege. Not many people in Tanzania ever have this chance. I feel very blessed.

I dream that one day I will become a doctor. And I will never forget this part of my life and my adventure in America.





# The Power of Educational Sponsorship

by  
Stephen Langeland  
Media Director  
Hidden with Christ Ministries

One thing I have observed working with orphaned and abandoned children in multiple countries over the years is that every child longs for a family and a home to call their own. As Treasures of Africa has transitioned from an institutional setting to a family/home setting style of care for the children of Treasures of Africa, we have loved seeing this heartfelt desire met for each of our “treasures.” Beyond love and care, our long-term goal in Tanzania has been to raise up leaders for the nation of Tanzania from the ranks of orphaned and abandoned children. As almost everyone will agree, a solid education is often a necessary steppingstone for any individual looking to have influence in society.

Thanks to our new decentralized method of care, we have entered a new phase of being able to help a greater number of children in the Kilimanjaro Region attain an education. To avoid the moral hazards that could arise from “paying” families to foster an orphan child, we instead pay the school fees for one of the host family’s biological children, for each “treasure” that they have taken in. The children attend school together, in local English-language private schools, which is not only a great financial blessing for each family, but typically provides a higher quality of education than the average Tanzanian family could ever attain. With the cooperation of the regional Social Welfare Department, we have also been able to take on the educational expenses for several other local young people in acute need who had not previously lived at Treasures of Africa Children’s Home.

In Tanzania, a decent education (or simply more years of education) can make a dramatic difference in an individual’s long-term prospects. A high school-level education is the exception, rather than the norm, and college-level education is rarer still (see “Key Stats” from Tanzania above). Managing to obtain a High School diploma (“Secondary School”), places a Tanzanian in a very distinct and above average category. See the "Key Stats" box to understand the massive droppoff in educations levels.

Government schools in Tanzania are no longer fee-free, and the schools are taught in the Swahili language which effectively prevents these pupils from passing government-sanctioned exams that require English proficiency to enter higher education. Thanks to Treasures of Africa’s steadfast supporters, we are currently providing for the education of young people spanning from elementary school to university. This will give them a massive advantage in their own lives and is the first steppingstone on the path to becoming leaders who can influence their country.

Economist Bruce Wydick has studied the effectiveness of various forms of international aid projects. In his excellent book entitled *Shrewd Samaritan* (2019), Wydick notes that person to person financial sponsorships are one of the most efficient methods of aid to the developing world. Specifically, his studies show that sponsored young people typically experience improved education outcomes. Wydick largely attributes this to the fact that the sponsorship logistically enables the child to continue their education, but also notes that the sponsored children often feel some sense of inspiration from the knowledge that someone on the other side of the world is invested in their life progress and is rooting for them to succeed!

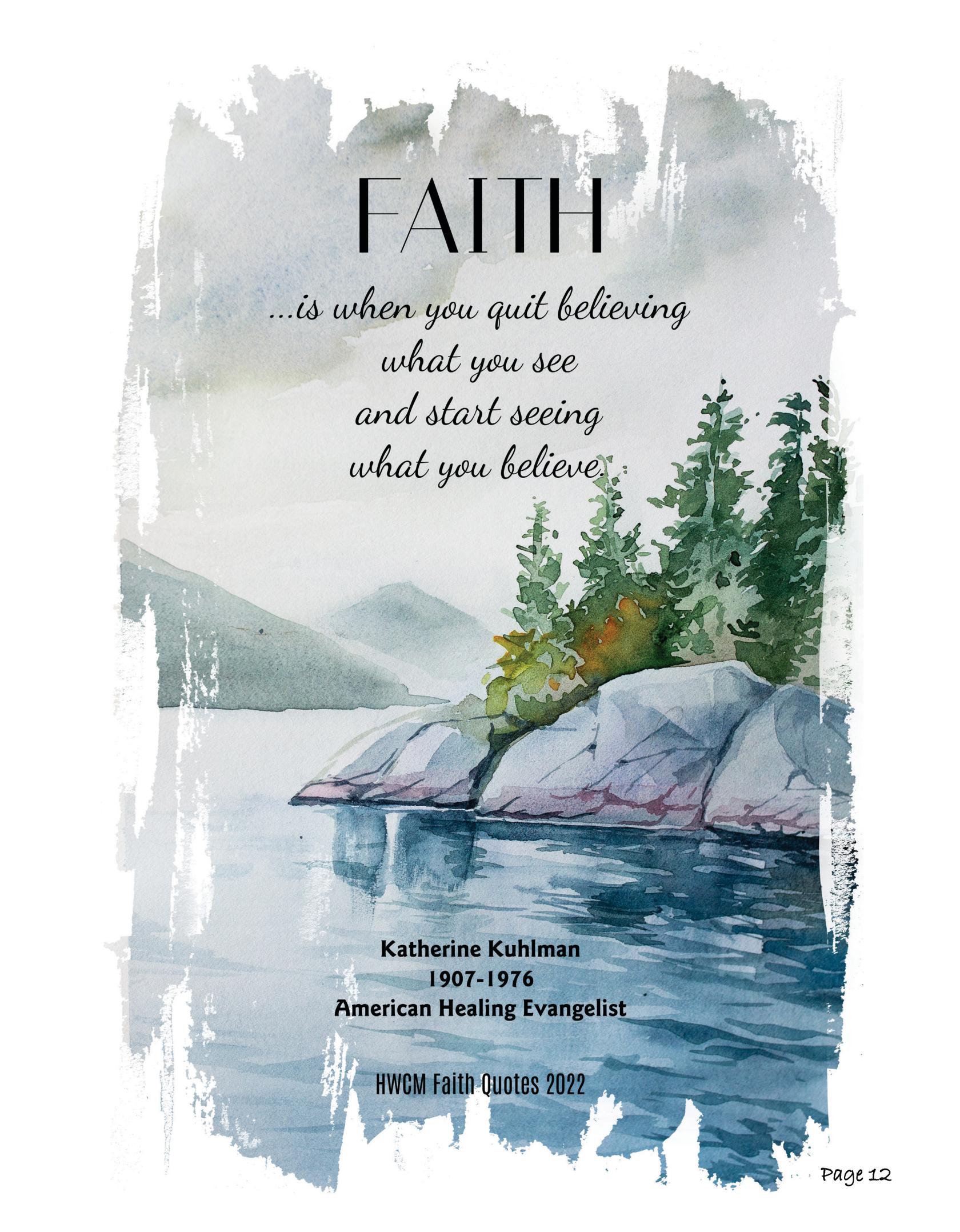
***Do you want to have a part in educating the future leaders of Tanzania? Please consider supporting our TOA KIDZ Education Fund. It really does change lives!***

Checks should be written to HIDDEN WITH CHRIST MINISTRIES or HWCM with a note in the memo area “TOA KIDZ Education.” Online donations can be made on either of our websites – [www.treasuresofafrica.org](http://www.treasuresofafrica.org) or [www.hiddenwithchrist.org](http://www.hiddenwithchrist.org) and can be designated for education on the dropdown menu of the donation page.

## Key Stats

% of primary school-age population enrolled in school – **94%**  
% of secondary school-age population enrolled in school – **29%**  
% of tertiary school-age population enrolled in school – **4%**  
Mean years of schooling – **6.1**  
% of Population with at least some secondary education  
(25 years and older) – **14.4%**

Source: <https://www.hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/TZA>

A watercolor illustration of a serene landscape. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the sky and the surrounding environment. To the right, a rocky shore is covered with lush green trees and bushes. In the background, soft, hazy mountains rise against a light sky. The entire scene is rendered in a soft, painterly style with visible brushstrokes and a gentle color palette of blues, greens, and greys.

# FAITH

*...is when you quit believing  
what you see  
and start seeing  
what you believe.*

**Katherine Kuhlman**  
**1907-1976**  
**American Healing Evangelist**

**HWCM Faith Quotes 2022**

## ENCOURAGEMENT:

THE ANOINTING OF

# Barnabas

By Rita Langeland



It is hard to imagine the famed apostles – Peter, James or John – handing out nicknames to the New Testament disciples. Yet we find an occasion in the Book of Acts where they did exactly that. There was a man from the island of Cyprus whose name was Joseph. But he has been forever memorialized by the name “Barnabas,” a nickname given to him by the apostles as recorded in Acts 4:36. Why would the apostles bother to change a disciple’s perfectly respectable Jewish name? The name Barnabas means “Son of Encouragement.” Joseph’s gift of encouragement was so outstanding that the apostles couldn’t help but call him by the anointing they saw in his life.

Perhaps when you think about spiritual gifts, the gift of encouragement doesn’t sound too important in comparison to other gifts mentioned in the New Testament. Yet it is a profound gift that can change people’s lives. The word “encouragement” means to impart courage, whereas the word “discouragement” means “to take courage away.” We live in a day when people are being inundated by discouragement. Many are having their courage taken away by discouraging words spewed forth through the media. When someone has the anointing to “impart courage” to others through their words, it is both powerful and life giving!

Barnabas is only mentioned a few times in the New Testament, but one reference gives us insight into the way his gift changed someone’s life. The story is told in the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts.

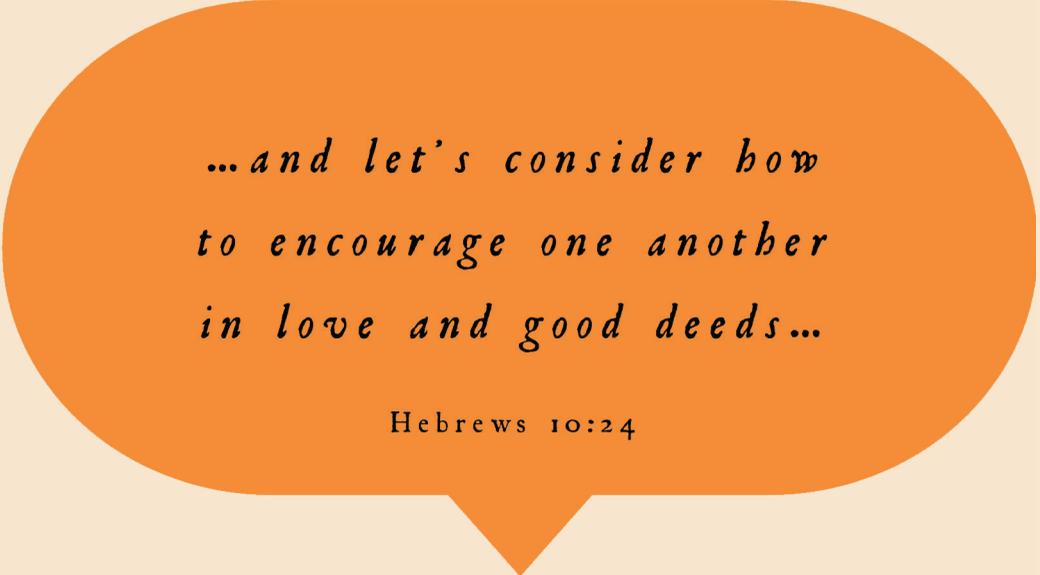
Saul (later known as the Apostle Paul) had just surrendered his life to the Lord after a dramatic encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. He immediately began preaching in the synagogues that Jesus was the Messiah and proving it from the scriptures. But when he went to Jerusalem and tried to fellowship with the Christian believers, they did not believe he was genuine. They knew he had persecuted the followers of Jesus and even dragged them to prison with authority from the Jewish High Priest. They must have thought this was a new scheme Saul had devised to find out the names of more Christians so he could imprison them too. They avoided him like the plague!

Then Barnabas entered the scene and used his gift of encouragement to change Saul’s life. Acts 9:27 tells us: **But Barnabas took him (Saul) and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had**

**preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.** Barnabas encouraged the apostles to believe that Saul's conversion was authentic and urged them to accept him into their fellowship. We know from the following verse that Barnabas' encouragement was heeded by the apostles and Saul was welcomed to freely move among the believers: **So he (Saul) was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out.** (Acts 9:28)

Barnabas' encouragement was life-changing for Saul. He became fully accepted by the believers in Jerusalem and later became an apostolic leader of the New Testament church.

People are often unaware of the profound impact of encouraging words upon the hearers. In two written accounts by survivors of the holocaust, the power of uplifting words to impart courage to endure adversity can be observed. Both authors were imprisoned by the Nazis in concentration camps during World War II. Half-starved and weakened in body, they were on the verge of giving up all hope of surviving their ordeal. Then,



*...and let's consider how  
to encourage one another  
in love and good deeds...*

Hebrews 10:24

someone came along and spoke life-giving encouragement that nourished their souls.<sup>1</sup> Their circumstances didn't change immediately, but their hope levels changed because of the words of encouragement. They had heard nothing but hate filled, degrading and dehumanizing speech aimed at them from their captors for a prolonged period. But when a few sincere encouraging words were spoken, it drew them from the brink of utter despair and hopelessness.<sup>2</sup> Encouragement is a powerful gift.

We are exhorted throughout the New Testament to become encouragers. Here are a few examples:

**Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up...1 Thess. 5:11**

**But encourage one another every day, as long as it is still called "today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:13**

**...and let's consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds...Hebrews 10:24**

If speaking words of encouragement does not come naturally to you, you can ask God to give you the "anointing of Barnabas." We are instructed in 1 Corinthians 14:1 to "**earnestly desire spiritual gifts.**" If you will pray for this spiritual gift to begin operating in your life, you can be sure the Lord will be delighted to answer that prayer.

Seek to become an anointed encourager and you will impart courage to others and impact many lives!

**Dedicated to the memory of a true "Barnabas"  
Melvin C. Langeland – February 1931 – April 2022**

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1 Auschwitz #34207 The Joe Rubenstein Story by Nancy S. Geise

2 Lily's Promise by Lily Ebert

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*In Loving Memory*  
of  
MELVIN C. LANGELAND

1931 - 2022

*Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather  
Retired Pastor and Missionary to Liberia*

