

Victory

magazine

Hidden With Christ Ministries
March/April 2023



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Keep On Believing

by Rita Langeland

Executive Director
Hidden with Christ Ministries

Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "...only keep on believing."

Mark 5:36 Amplified Classic Bible

Have you ever had a vision or dream from the Lord and felt SURE He was directing you to pursue it, but made little or no progress toward its fulfillment? Time passed, obstacles arose, and the vision seemed further away than ever.

What should you do in such a case? Do you give up? Do you write it off as a figment of your own imagination? Or do you KEEP ON BELIEVING despite natural circumstances which appear impossible to overcome? The choice is yours to make.

When this ministry first began its missions work in East Africa and felt led to establish Treasures of Africa Children's Home, the obstacles to success seemed overwhelming. From the lack of finances to the cultural complexities, to the governmental barriers which arose continually - the temptation to give up on that dream beckoned daily!

Yet the Spirit of God nudged us on with the ever-present whisper, "...keep on believing." By His grace, we clung to that word of encouragement to trust the Lord despite intense pressures from every side which seemed to prophesy impending failure of the vision.

The doors to the Children's Home did eventually open and scores of orphaned and abandoned children were fed, clothed, housed, loved, and educated. The vision of those children being taken through University level education and prepared to become leaders for their nation is manifesting now, as I write these words.

One thing I learned through that lengthy process is that walking by faith requires an unwavering decision to BELIEVE GOD beyond what you see, hear or feel that appears contradictory to what God has said. There will always be circumstances that arise that make the dream seem impossible to attain. God is not asking you to do the impossible – He is requiring you to believe HE CAN DO THE IMPOSSIBLE.

As a ministry we are constantly seeking the will of God in all that we undertake. Currently, we have two visions from the Lord that we are praying into and pursuing by faith. One is a project in the USA and the other is in Tanzania. The first is a Christian Retreat and Restoration Center called Wildwood. (You can read about it on page 12 of this Magazine.) The second is for a school to be built on the land we purchased in Tanzania years ago to be called TREASURES OF AFRICA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY. It will offer quality Christian education with a leadership development emphasis. Orphans will be allowed to attend for free and other students from the community will pay tuition so that the school can eventually become self-sustaining.

Both of these visions appear quite impossible – but we have made a decision to KEEP ON BELIEVING! Will you join us in faith-filled prayer for these two projects?

And whatever God has spoken to you, no matter how many years have passed, we encourage you to also make that unwavering decision to KEEP ON BELIEVING.

***Only it must be in faith that he asks with no wavering
(no hesitating, no doubting).***

James 1:6 Amplified Classic Bible

My seamstress mother sewed dresses and wedding gowns for family and friends. These dresses were so beautiful. As a little girl, I always wanted to “help.” When she allowed me to help by removing the pins, I felt like I contributed to this beautiful wedding gown.

As I grew older, she taught me how to sew my own clothing. They were simple things but I made them myself—mostly shorts and pajamas—nothing fancy to be worn outside the house. My first big project was sewing my school uniforms which consisted of a pleated skirt and a sailor midi top. Yes, this was in the 60s. Being a uniform, it looked just like all the clothes other students were wearing.

Because of my petite size, commercial garments were too large for me. By sewing clothes for myself, I had something unique. I didn’t have to look like I was wearing my big sister’s clothing. Upon moving from home after college, my mother gave me her portable Singer sewing machine as a “must have.” Later on, together my mother and I sewed my wedding gown. As we shopped for fabric and patterns I had memories of the wedding gowns she sewed years earlier. This one was unique for my big day. It wasn’t just a beautiful wedding gown, it was one I made myself.

In my early career as a musician, I missed having a product to show or keep like a painting or sculpture. Unless the performance was committed to tape or video, it would be gone when the sound dissipated. No matter how great or inspired the performance was, it evaporated, never to be reproduced in the same way again.

While sewing, I can get lost in the process for hours creating simple garments, pillowcases, and decorations. I get such joy out of creating a finished product. Besides clothing for myself, I have enjoyed sewing clothing for my grandchildren, Superman capes for Vacation Bible School, Halloween costumes, and skirts for Tanzanian orphans. The tools and gadgets available today are fantastic for making sewing much easier and even more enjoyable. When my eyesight lost its acuity, I bought a sewing machine with an automatic needle threader. How fantastic is that!

Reworking an old garment is called alteration and repair. In my work as a prayer counselor, I often put the pieces of people’s broken lives back together. I meet fractured souls torn by life’s adverse events. Some need guidance on what the pieces of their lives are and how they fit together. Putting them together through prayer is like sewing them into a new garment or maybe a new wineskin. Even better, they can have a spiritual wedding gown for a new beginning.

The Wedding Gown



BY DR. MARCIA CHANG VOGL

*Dr. Vogl has many years of experience in prayer counseling through her ministry – Bethany Projects. She does her appointments by Skype or Zoom and does not charge for her services. If you need spiritual help, you can contact Dr. Vogl by email at marcia.prayer@gmail.com. She is the author of three books: **THE PATH FORWARD**, **DANCING WITH GOD** and **TRAINING TO REIGN WITH GOD**. Her books are available on www.amazon.com.*

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Investing in the African Church

By Sunday Jeremiah Joseph
Project Coordinator
Hidden with Christ Ministries
Moshi, Tanzania

I would like to thank God for the way He has been involved in the work of Hidden with Christ Ministries as well as for all the activities and projects managed by HWCN in Tanzania. One of the most recent projects undertaken was to assist a church in the Maasai area near Lake Manyara, with some renovations to its church building. Hidden with Christ Ministries built this church back in 2008. Over the past 15 years, the building has deteriorated due to the harsh weather conditions.

The climate in Tanzania brings many challenges. This is especially true during the spring and summer. During the dry season, strong winds bring dust from the mountain areas and the dust passes through the place where the church is located and negatively affects the building. The wind has often loosened the metal roof



Above: Church in need of repairs and renovation

Right: Church interior gets an overhaul

of the church. The window glass has been affected, and the hot sun has bleached the paint on the outside of the building. During the rainy season water flows freely through the area causing water damage. The water also causes erosion around the exterior church walls and had damaged the quality of the cement, and even caused the interior plaster and paint to deteriorate.

When I first arrived at the church with the repair technicians, we began to inspect the church inside

and outside, including the roof, to determine the damage and wear and tear of the building and to see how it could be repaired. We found the following problems: interior ceiling of the church was very worn, the paint inside and outside was damaged, many cracks on the walls of the church, the interior cement floor of the church building was full of



craters, windows and doors without shutters, broken latches on the window and doors, many windows without glass, erosion of the walls of the entire exterior of the building, the church sign board was very worn, the roof of the church had damaged or loose roofing sheets due to the strong wind.

The first step taken by the construction workers was to demolish the entire floor of the church to prepare for installation of a new cement floor. At the pastor's request, they also demolished the small interior pastor's office that was located inside the church. More space was needed for chairs since the number of attendees had outgrown the building.

The second step was to prepare the interior for pouring a new cement floor. This was accompanied by sealing all the cracks that were inside and outside the church.

Then the construction workers moved to the outside and began repairing the eroded walls. They also poured a cement slab to create a floor for an outer porch being constructed at the main entrance.

Then a roofing technician started making repairs on the roof of the church and began roofing the area over the new church front porch.

A glass technician installed new thicker glass in all the windows and doors. Also new handles and locks were installed for the windows and doors, replacing broken or missing ones.

The painting work inside and outside the church followed, and it was very good because it changed the appearance of the church building. After the painting was completed, the church looked better than ever.

Finally, a new church signboard was painted and installed, announcing the times of all church services.

This project took one month and two days to complete in its entirety. After all the renovations of the church were completed, the church's appearance was very pleasant. The Pastor and assistant Pastor, as well as other church leaders, church members and even the neighbors around the church were so happy. They sang Christian Maasai songs and jumped up and down for joy. Some of the neighbors came and



Above: Church gets a new signboard

congratulated the church on the good work that had been done and said it was a very good job.

I glorify God for the way that HWC Ministries has been touching lives in the Tanzanian community, through its ministry to churches, children, widows, and the helpless who are blessed by its work. May the God of heaven bless every good work done through this ministry and bless those who have supported HWC in Jesus' Name, Amen.



Above: Church after addition of front porch and wall repairs

Hidden with Christ Ministries invests in the African church through its "Church Development Projects." Some of these projects are practical in nature such as the one described in this article and others are through leadership conferences for pastors and church leaders. If you have a heart for the African church, you can donate through our website www.hiddenwithchrist.org/donate and choose CHURCH DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS on the dropdown menu.

The Gift of **DIGNITY**

***A Story from HWCM's
Rehema Projects***

You shall give due honor and respect to the elderly, in the fear of God.

Leviticus 19:32 TLB

Imagine your mother or grandmother living in a home for the elderly that has no indoor toilet facilities. Her only option is to use the outdoor latrine which has no flush toilet. But what does she do in the middle of the night? For that, they offer her a bucket.

The above scenario does not exist in our modern western culture. Such a place would be shut down as not “fit” to care for the elderly. Yet it is the harsh reality in East Africa.

In African culture, elderly people are traditionally cared for by the family. There is no common practice of sending the aged to live in a “home” to be cared for by non-family members. However, what happens to those who have no family left to care for them? Perhaps they outlived their children or never had children at all. Unable to continue working to earn a living, many would end up begging on the street for food.

It was this exact situation that caused the local government in Moshi, Tanzania to set up a “Nyumba ya Wazee” or Home for the Elderly a few decades ago. Everyone living there qualified for residency by having no other family to help them. It is a humble place, with multiple buildings built of concrete blocks, in which two elderly people each share a small room. The compound was set up with outdoor latrines as described above. They have running water available outside at a spigot, but no indoor sinks, toilets, or showers. Life is lived very simply.

Hidden with Christ Ministries became familiar with this Home for the Elderly many years ago. Our children from Treasures of Africa Children’s Home would go each Christmas to bring gifts to these lonely and often forgotten souls. Over the last two years, HWCM has taken a serious interest in helping the elderly through our REHEMA PROJECTS. (REHEMA is the Swahili word for MERCY)

It was our deep desire to help remedy this lack of indoor bathrooms and bring some dignity back to these precious senior citizens. Because of some very generous donations to our REHEMA PROJECTS – we were able to begin the construction of indoor bathrooms at this Home for the Elderly. It was a huge undertaking. We hired a well-respected contractor who had a heart for the project, and with his diligent effort, this project came to fruition.



Above: A resident at the home for the elderly in Moshi Tanzania

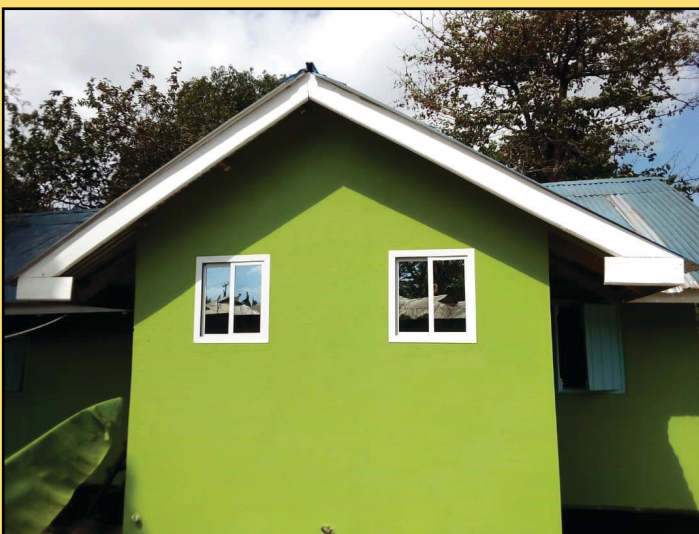
Right: One of the buildings in the Home for the Elderly compound

To say that the residents were thrilled with the shiny new bathrooms, sinks and showers, would be an understatement. We can honestly say they are the nicest bathrooms in town! The local government officials were so amazed and grateful when they inspected the project, that they sent Hidden with Christ Ministries a “Certificate of Appreciation.”



The Bible tells us to “*give due honor and respect to the elderly ...*” and we believe this extends to the elderly in our communities. Though this was a very unusual project for HWCN to undertake – we are very grateful to all our generous donors who helped us give the **gift of dignity** back to these dear grandmothers and grandfathers in Tanzania.

*The next project that we hope to undertake at this Home for the Elderly, is to build an outdoor Dining Gazebo where the residents can take their meals under the cover of shade but with the benefit of fresh air. Currently, the residents eat in their rooms, while sitting on their beds, because they have no room for a table and chairs. There is also the continual problem of spilled food residue attracting rodents. We are having the same contractor draw up plans for this next project. Please consider donating to our **REHEMA PROJECTS** to help us provide this blessing to the forgotten elderly in Moshi, Tanzania. You can donate on our website www.hiddenwithchrist.org/donate*



Above: Bathroom addition from the outside view

Right: New bathroom interior





Students Achieve High Scores on National Exams

By Faith Kaluse

Administrator

Hidden With Christ Ministries

Moshi, Tanzania

The Tanzanian education system operates on the 2-7-4-2-3+ system. The first two years of education are for Pre-primary school, then 7 years of Primary school, followed by 4 years of Ordinary level Secondary school, labeled as Form 1 to Form 4. Then if a student qualifies, he may attend 2 years of Advanced Secondary School, covering Form 5 and Form 6. If successful in Advanced Secondary School, then the following 3+ years are for University education.

During each level of education, students are required to take National Examinations. Even in Primary school students take National exams and the results of those exams are used to determine selection of students into what is known as "O Level" or Ordinary level Secondary education. The results of Form Four exams are used to select which students will be allowed to pursue "A Level" or Advanced Secondary school, join colleges for Certificate and Diploma courses, or join technical schools or vocational schools.

The results of Form Six examinations are used to select students for different Universities or other training colleges. All these selections are dependent upon a student's performance on the National Exams. Every student in Tanzania understands the importance of their National Examination score because it determines the future of their further education and whether they will be able to pursue their dreams!

Last year, in 2022, we had three students at the FORM FOUR level who have been supported for many years by Hidden with Christ Ministries under the program of **Treasures of Africa KIDZ**. This program provides



Above: PRINCE - an aspiring Civil Engineer

education support for both orphans (most who were former residents of Treasures of Africa Children's Home) and other vulnerable and deserving children. These three students, Neema, Melkizedek and Prince, completed their Form Four National Examinations, and the results were just recently released. We give the glory to God as all three of them passed their exams with Division One scores – the highest attainable passing marks.

Both Neema and Melkizedek want to attend Medical college to study Clinical Medicine while Prince desires to study Civil Engineering.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support that has enabled these students to get the best possible education and achieve these tremendous results. God bless you as you continue praying and supporting the **Treasures of Africa KIDZ Project**. This vital education support for orphans and vulnerable children is helping students in Tanzania pursue their dreams of becoming doctors and engineers.



Above: MELKIZEDEK - dreams of becoming a Medical Doctor



Above: NEEMA - an aspiring Doctor

*You can be a part of educating orphans and vulnerable children in East Africa by donating to our **TOA KIDZ Project**. Mail your tax-deductible donation to:*
HWCM P.O. Box 745 Forest, VA 24551
Or if you prefer - donate online at
www.treasuresofafrica.org or
www.hiddenwithchrist.org

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TreasuresofAfrica.org

**God loves
with a
great love
the man
whose
heart
is bursting
with a
passion
for the
impossible.**

**William Booth
1829 - 1912
British Preacher
and Founder of the
Salvation Army**





WILDWOOD

Yes - There Can Be Rest For The Weary!

BY PASTOR DAVID LANGE LAND

In previous Victory Magazines, we have announced our intention to develop a new area of ministry that we are calling the Wildwood Conference and Retreat Center. Wildwood is a vision from the Lord to prepare a place of Rest and Restoration for the Body of Christ. The plan is to have a retreat center, prayer center, meeting rooms for Bible teaching conferences and a Rest and Refreshing House for missionaries on furlough. A more detailed description of the Wildwood vision can be found on the HWCM website: www.hiddenwithchrist.org/global-outreaches/wildwood-conference-center/

One of the key purposes for the Wildwood Conference Center is to provide a place of restoration and refreshing for God's people. The Apostle Peter in Acts 3:19 made a statement urging those listening to him to pursue the purposes of God so that ***"times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord [restoring you like a cool wind on a hot day]"*** (Amplified) The Strong's Dictionary definition for the word "refreshing" is: a recovery of breath, i.e. (figuratively) revival. We believe that Wildwood will be a place where God's presence will be honored and that His presence will bring times of refreshing, recovery, and revival to those who come with a desire to seek His presence.

There is a special group of people whom God has challenged us to help find refreshing, recovery, and revival at Wildwood, and that is missionaries. A truly great need in the body of Christ that Wildwood could help solve is the dilemma that foreign missionaries often face when returning to the states on furlough. Long term missionaries often give up their homes in the USA to go out into the mission field. When they return, they often need to stay with family or friends who have limited extra space. This means that they have little privacy and almost no chance for the uninterrupted rest that they so desperately need. We have personally watched missionaries who have sacrificed so much to live and minister in a second or third world country not be able to make the most of their limited furlough time because they did not have the option of a private, peaceful, and family friendly place to stay.

I have also experienced this dilemma firsthand having been raised in a missionary family. Our family lived in Liberia, West Africa, in the 1950's and early 1960's. When we returned to the US for furlough and then again at the completion of my parents' mission assignment, we stayed with my grandparents. While it was a blessing to "visit" our grandparents, it also brought quite a few logistical difficulties that needed to be overcome whenever we returned to the USA. Looking back on those times, I can only imagine what a huge relief it would have been for my parents had we been able to stay in a dedicated missionary accommodation in a peaceful setting. I'm sure my parents would agree that a more restful environment would have better prepared them for returning to their challenging missionary work in Liberia.

One of our first goals for Wildwood is to establish the Missionary Rest Center. We continue to seek the Lord for the location of Wildwood and for the financial provision that will be needed to fulfill each step of the vision. Thank you for praying with us. We believe God will make the Wildwood Conference Center a reality!

If you would like to sow a seed into this vision, you may donate online through our website www.hiddenwithchrist.org/donate and choose WILDWOOD CONFERENCE CENTER from the dropdown menu. Or scan the QR code :



The Step of **YES**

BY RITA LANGE LAND



Perhaps you are a Christian and at some point in your life, you made a decision to follow the Lord, receive his gift of forgiveness, and embrace a new life in Christ Jesus. If so, that was the beginning of your “**step of YES.**”

But it doesn't end there, it only begins there.

The **step of yes** is the decision to answer **yes** to everything God asks of you. I believe as you are reading this article, that you may know of a certain thing that God has asked you to do. And yet, you have struggled to do it. Most likely it is because you have reasons which you believe prevent you from immediately obeying what God has called you to do. Those reasons might sound logical, reasonable, and understandable to anyone else who would listen to your arguments. Yet God is still waiting for you.

One of my favorite Christian autobiographies is “God's Smuggler” by Brother Andrew. Brother Andrew was a Dutchman who grew up in Holland during World War II when it was invaded by the Nazis. After the war was over, and he was old enough to do so, he joined the Dutch army and was sent overseas to fight in a war to retain some Dutch colonies in Indonesia. He was wounded when a bullet shattered his ankle. He returned home frustrated, spiritually lost and physically lame. He did not have a relationship with God at that point in his life, yet God was calling to him.

When he finally surrendered his life to the Lord, God began to speak to him about becoming a missionary to countries behind the Iron Curtain. Andrew had many excuses why he could not do it. He didn't have an education that was sufficient to be accepted into a seminary or by any missionary organization, he had no money, and he was physically hindered by his lame ankle. All of these reasons seemed logical, and Andrew was sure as to why he would not be a suitable candidate for missionary service.

One day, as he spent time in prayer, he was determined to settle this issue once and for all with God. Andrew knew in his heart that he had been unwilling to surrender to God's call because he allowed those three reasons to be a barrier in his own mind. He had not trusted God to remove them. He was simply saying NO to God **because** of those reasons. So that day, he decided in his heart that he would take steps toward pursuing what God had for him by trusting God to remove the obstacles. He called his decision, "**The STEP of YES.**"

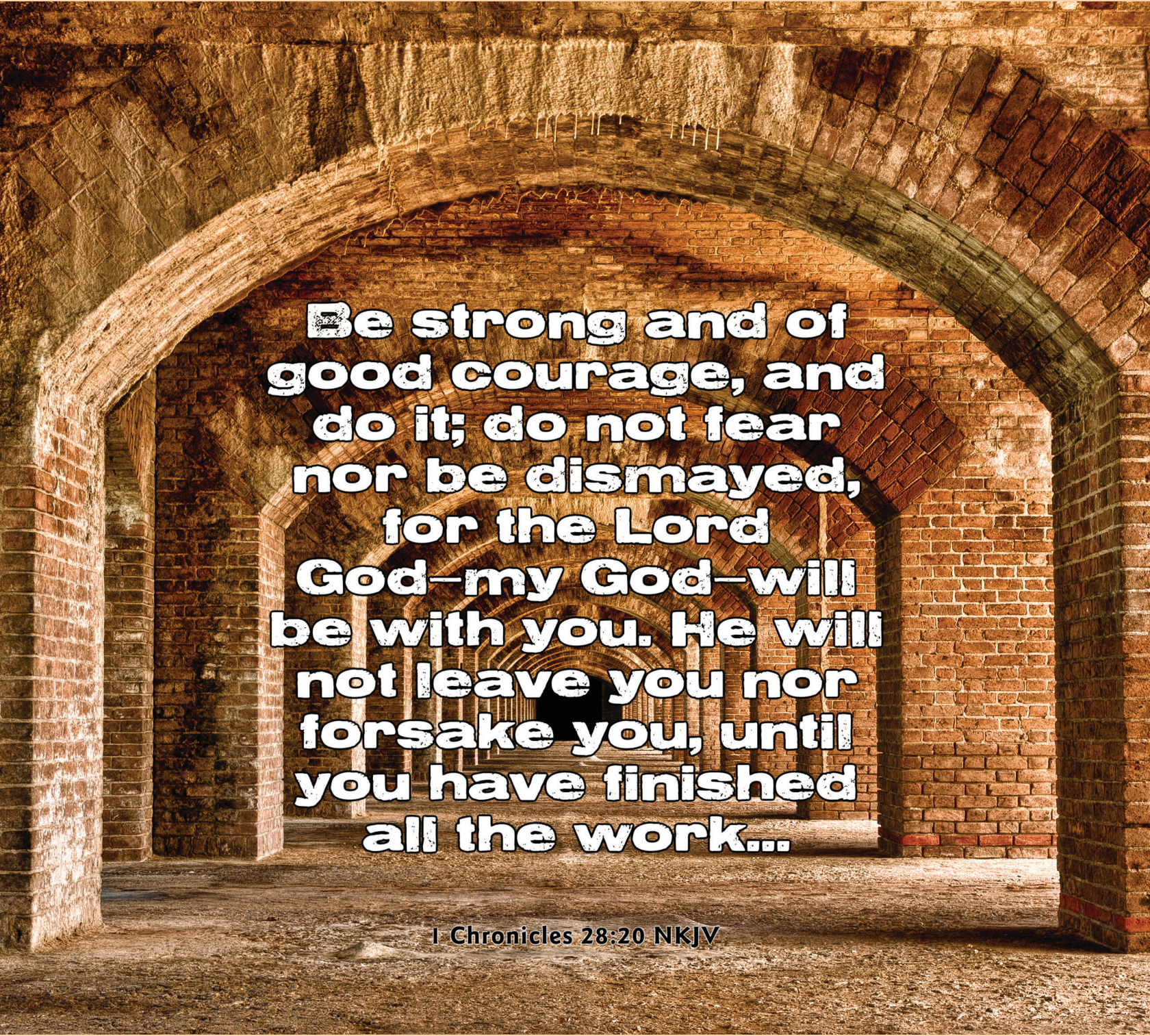
He was praying aloud and told God, "I am going to physically step forward. When I take this step, I am committing to you that this is my '**step of yes.**' I'm saying 'yes' to You, Lord, in this thing You've called me to do."

When Andrew did that, he felt something change in his lame ankle. Later that night, he discovered that two stitches which had been in his ankle since the surgery to remove the bullet, had come to the surface. His wound, which had not healed completely since the time he was shot, healed up quickly. Then he realized he was no longer favoring that ankle and he could move freely as if he had never been injured. God had met him at his "**step of yes.**"

After that, a series of incidents occurred which enabled Andrew to enroll in a 2-year Missionary Training College in Glasgow, Scotland, even though his grasp of English was minimal. The finances needed to attend the college were miraculously provided. All the obstacles that seemed to prevent him from fulfilling the calling on his life were being removed one by one, as he trusted God for the impossible. He went on to successfully complete the WEC Missionary Training College. Afterwards, he began an outreach behind the Iron Curtain, smuggling Bibles and bringing encouragement to persecuted Christians in countries officially "closed" to the Gospel. Brother Andrew became one of the most successful and revered missionary figures of the twentieth century.

God will meet you when you take the "**step of yes.**" God is not waiting for you to remove the obstacles that are between you and fulfillment of God's calling on your life. He is waiting for you to say YES **in spite of** the obstacles you can see before you. He is waiting for you to trust Him to remove those obstacles. He is waiting for your agreement with His plan and your faith to believe He is able to do abundantly above all you could ask, think or imagine. He is waiting for you to take your "**step of yes.**"

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



**Be strong and of
good courage, and
do it; do not fear
nor be dismayed,
for the Lord
God—my God—will
be with you. He will
not leave you nor
forsake you, until
you have finished
all the work...**

1 Chronicles 28:20 NKJV