

Victory

magazine

Hidden With Christ Ministries
January/February 2023

2023: The Year of Restoration

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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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New Year... New Ventures!

At Hidden with Christ Ministries, we love to discover what is on God's Agenda for each New Year. The Word of the Year we received for 2023 is **RESTORATION**. Our FAITH CORNER article on pages 16-18 addresses that prophetic word in depth for the Body of Christ. But as it applies to HWCM – we foresee a restoration and increase of the foundational activities which birthed the ministry - sharing God's Word around the world. The formats will be new, but the heart to teach the Bible in practical ways remains the same.

One brand new format we are introducing will be a video podcast we are launching in February on YOUTUBE called **BIBLE BASICS FOR EVERYDAY LIFE**. It will be a "talk show" style podcast where we share ideas about living life from a Biblical worldview. HWCM media director Stephen Langeland and executive director Rita Langeland will discuss topics that impact people in their daily lives from walking by faith, to marriage and parenting issues to overcoming spiritual strongholds.

You can access all our video and audio teaching resources on our YOUTUBE channel by typing www.youtube.com/@hwcm into your browser.

Don't forget to join us for our weekly encouragement WORD FOR WEDNESDAY videos at the YOUTUBE channel mentioned above or on our FACEBOOK pages for Hidden with Christ Ministries or MY EVERYDAY BIBLE.

Lastly, join us as we go through the entire BIBLE in 2023 with our MY EVERYDAY BIBLE APP – which is FREE in the APPLE APP store or Google Play store. If you prefer – you can listen to the same daily MY EVERYDAY BIBLE episodes on YOUTUBE or on the www.myeverydaybible.com website.

Let 2023 be your New Year of venturing further into the Word of God! It will change your life!



A page from my African Journal

by
Rita Langeland
Executive Director
Hidden with Christ Ministries



It is the third of December and not yet noon here in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, but the sun is scorching anything and anyone not under the cover of shade. A University graduation is underway. It is being held outdoors without sufficient tents for the crowds that have come to celebrate the achievements of loved ones. To avoid the punishing effects of the sun, plastic chairs which sat outside the tents have been dragged to nearby buildings with small overhangs. Meager slices of roofing provide a bit of shade for those taking shelter there.

Pastor Kioko and I are among those hiding from the heat of the African sun. Tanzanian families surround us, dressed in their Sunday best, the young women sporting beautifully braided hairstyles. A small multitude of young children sit quietly, exercising incredible patience despite the interminable waiting and the oppressive heat. Some have simply fallen asleep from the stifling hot air or perhaps sheer boredom.

The sound system being used for the ceremony is faltering, unable to reach all those gathered to witness this important milestone in so many young lives. The words being spoken by guest speakers and University professors are totally lost on a large section of the crowd including ours. As the announcer drones through a list of more than a thousand students, the names are unintelligible. We all await the final blast of trumpets from the brass band which will mark the official end of the graduation, and the release to get up and find the student we came to honor.

Despite the imperfect conditions, this particular graduation is extremely significant to me. **It is the graduation of the very first child who walked through the gates of Treasures of Africa Children's Home fifteen and a half years ago.**



Rita Langeland with Mary Migiro on her graduation day at Muhimbili University

It is our precious Mary. And this is Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences.

Mary's chosen field of study for her bachelor's degree - Microbiology and Immunology - was no walk in the park! She studied long and hard and finished near the top of her class. Her next step is a one-year (unpaid) laboratory internship that is required by the government to receive a certification to run her own medical lab. She was assigned to serve her internship at the top hospital in the country which is the only one featuring a fully automated laboratory. It is located here in the largest city in the nation - Dar Es Salaam.

The majority of hospital laboratories in Tanzania do not possess the latest technology and as a result, all lab work must be done manually. The favor of God upon Mary's life was demonstrated in this top internship appointment. We rejoice over God's faithfulness in Mary's amazing life story!



We are deeply grateful to every single supporter of Treasures of Africa who has helped us over the years. You played a vital part in Mary's incredible journey which has brought her to this day of celebration. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Please consider donating to our TOA KIDZ EDUCATION FUND. You can have a part in shaping the life stories of the TOA KIDZ following in Mary's footsteps!
www.hiddenwithchrist.org/donate

SELF-ENTRAPMENT: THE INNER VOW



by Marcia Chang Vogl

An excerpt from
Training to Reign with God:
The Christian Guide to Spiritual Maturity

...vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble.

Psalm 66:14

The devil's tactic is to get you to do his dirty work.

Yes, that could be you or me. When the enemy of your soul can get you to set your own traps, he only has to sit back and watch you squirm. One kind of trap that is particularly sneaky is trapping yourself with inner statements that are in agreement with the devil and contrary to the word of God. Vows are very strong statements that should not be made lightly.

When things happen to you, you make inner statements without knowing you are doing it. The inner statement will either draw into what you have decided or will repel things that are contrary to it.

When in high school, I was always the last to be chosen on the physical education teams. I was not particularly athletic and stood only 4'10". My inner statement said, "I am always the last one chosen." Although it was a fact in the physical education class, it showed up in other parts of my life.

I was chosen to be on the homecoming court *after* the dance. I came in last in the student body election for treasurer. I became the assistant director of the Choraleers because no one else knew how to direct a chorus. I was chosen to

be a speaker at a retreat because the one first chosen had to drop out. At first, I consoled myself with being a "pinch hitter." This inner statement had to be broken as the Bible says, "I am the head and not the tail."

The magnetic field I had set up around myself was to "always be the last." This statement kept me from being grateful whenever I was first. In high school, I was editor-in-chief of the school yearbook, I was the school organist, and I was the president of the statewide Episcopal Young Churchmen. Somehow these "firsts" were hidden from me. I could not be grateful or enjoy those honors.

This statement trapped me from being who I was supposed to be. The Lord set me free when I repented of making the inner vow and coming into agreement with the lie. I forgave myself for setting my own trap. Today I can be either first or last accepting where the Lord puts me. The inner statement of "I must be first or nothing" drives some people to be first in everything to the point of obsession. They become depressed and dissatisfied if they did not get a promotion, did not win the scholarship or are not chosen for the internship. Then, some hang back to make sure they will "always be the last." These avoid recognition for something good or may even sabotage their success to fulfill their inner statement of always being last.

Repent for agreeing with any statement the devil has used to make you trap yourself. Break those inner statements. You can be joyful where the Lord puts you. You will be the head and not the tail, above and not beneath.

What "promise" have you made to yourself that is keeping you from prospering? "I'll always be poor," "Having money is bad," "I can't get what I want." Any of these will limit you. You find yourself doing anything to keep the vow, including sabotaging others and yourself. But if you desire to be free, God is willing to help you break off inner vows.

Use this prayer to break inner vows:

*"Lord I repent for agreeing with the lie of the enemy that says: _____
I forgive myself for living out that inner vow. Thank you for forgiving me. I now renounce that statement and no longer give it power in my life. I declare that you are Lord over my life."*

Marcia Chang Vogl is an ordained minister with many years of experience in Bible teaching and Biblical counseling. You may access her materials and resources on her website: www.marciachangvogl.com and her books are available on Amazon.com.



TOA Christmas Reunion Joy

When the Treasures of Africa KIDZ were all safely placed in families in mid-2021, one of our concerns for them was that they not lose touch with the “brothers and sisters” they had grown up with at Treasures of Africa Children’s Home. That is when the idea of an Annual TOA Christmas Reunion Banquet was born. (See photo above - Getting ready for the banquet!)

December 9th (2022) marked the 2nd Annual TOA Christmas Reunion Banquet in Moshi, Tanzania, and it was a beautiful and fun event. All foster families who are hosting the Treasures of Africa KIDZ in their homes as well as the “new” TOA KIDZ who are now having their education supported by Hidden with Christ Ministries were invited to attend. It was great to see the children greet one another with hugs and laughter and to see how they had grown and matured!

Christmas stockings with school supplies and sweets were distributed to all the students. Christmas food parcels containing 5kg of rice, 5kg of beans and 3 liters of cooking oil (staple foods of Tanzania) were prepared by our staff and distributed to each family. We are so grateful to every donor who supported this important event. It was enjoyed by all!

All the students who attended this event (and others who could not attend due to University exams) are being fully sponsored for their educational expenses by the generous supporters of Hidden with Christ Ministries. The expenses for this project include yearly school fees, school bus transportation, school lunches, school supplies, uniforms, school shoes, field trips and for the older students in boarding school or college – the high cost of room and board as well.

During 2022 we supported a total of 57 students – 26 Primary school, 14 in Secondary and 17 in colleges and Universities! The total expenditures for 2022 educational expenses in Tanzania was just over \$67,000. (This figure does not include the expenses for the 4 Tanzanian students who were studying in the USA) We are projecting costs of just over \$70,000 for 2023 in Tanzania.

The new Tanzanian school year starts in January, unlike the American system which begins each Fall. We pay the first semester school expenses during the first few days of January. Our college and University students are on a different payment schedule and their fees are due in March. Our second installment for school fees for the Primary and Secondary students is paid in June.

Would you prayerfully consider donating to our EDUCATION FUND to help us meet these ongoing needs? We appreciate gifts of ANY size as we believe God can multiply them like He did with the loaves and fishes!! You can donate online by clicking this link: www.hiddenwithchrist.org/donate



Above: Preparing the Christmas food parcels for families



Shadrak



Rose



Hamidu



Magdalena

Thanks for Giving

An African Perspective

by
Pastor Geoffrey Kioko Simon
Nairobi Kenya

There is a saying in Swahili - "Kutoa ni Moyo" which means "giving takes a heart." The Holy Bible tells us that God loves a cheerful giver. We find these powerful words in Second Corinthians chapter 9 verses 6 – 8:

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

This is not an exhortation article but an article of thanksgiving. You have purposed in your hearts to give and without being forced, you have sown bountifully. On behalf of Hidden With Christ Ministries we want to say thank you again and again. But this does not end here; according to the scripture above, God's grace continues to abound towards you. You will experience sufficiency in all things, and you will continue to abound in every good work. These are not divine suggestions but God's promises for you. Remember He never EVER fails.

Attending many graduations of our Treasures of Africa students over the past years from various schools and colleges has shown me clear evidence that your generous giving towards their upkeep and education since they were young children was essential, vital and pivotal in the transformation of their lives. Their future is now not only bright but also well defined. Your commitment to pour out your heart through giving has been life transforming! You have not grown weary in doing good and in due season you shall continue to reap good fruit.

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Galatians 6:9

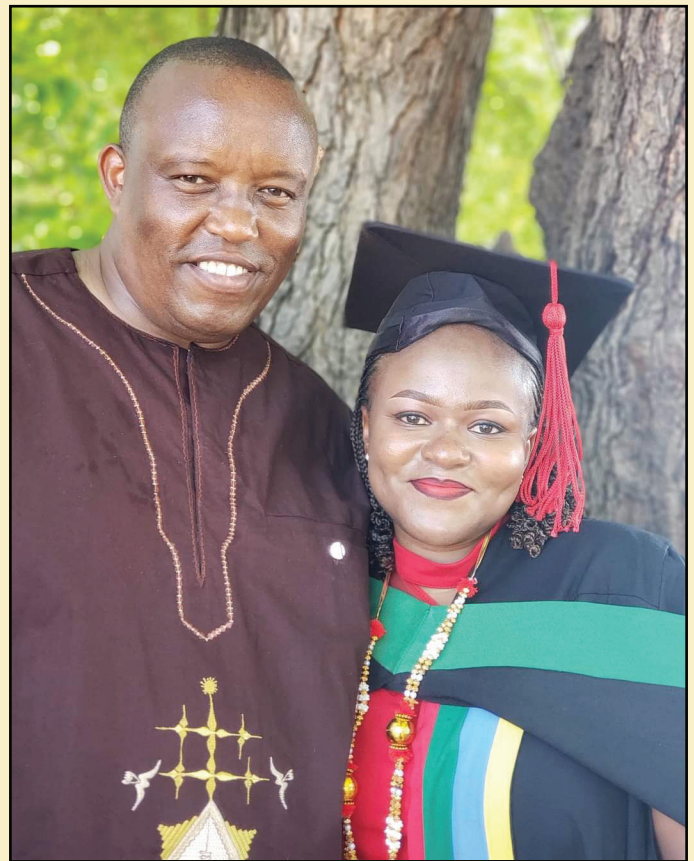
Since we closed the doors of the Treasures of Africa orphanage, and the children were placed in Christian families, HWCM continues to support the children in receiving a good education which is essential for their future. This did not provide a major break to HWCM in terms of expenses (and thus annual budget) as many people have assumed. On the contrary, we are now sponsoring more needy children who were not housed at Treasures of Africa to receive an education in various schools and colleges. And more needy cases are knocking at our office door for help every week.

As much as we have taken a break from housing and other related bills, HWCM continues to sponsor more “Treasures” in order to give them the quality of education they need to become the kind of leaders Tanzania deserves. Some of them come from the unimaginably needy and impossible situations.

East Africa is facing the worst drought in 40 years. I can almost feel the heartbeat of the need. I come from a similar family situation as many of our Treasures of Africa children. Were it not for education sponsors who helped me many years ago (and whom I never got to know in person or even their nationality) I would not be typing this article. To them it might have been an ordinary child sponsorship but to me it was a lifeline to my future which we can now witness. My own five children would not be in school and college today if someone did not pour out their heart in giving toward my schooling, as you have been doing toward the TOA KIDZ.

The bottom line is that I received help when I desperately needed it as a child, and the Treasures of Africa KIDZ are getting the help they need because generous sponsors like you are giving toward their education. Many more are standing in need of similar help. HWCM is appealing to you to continue the good work you have been doing. Please mention this appeal to a friend or someone you know may be interested in giving to this eternal cause. As we partner with God we are investing in His eternal kingdom.

Thank you all!
Thank you a million times over!!!



Above: Pastor Kioko with University graduate Mary Migiro

Pastor Geoffrey Kioko served as a founding Board Member for Hidden With Christ Ministries of Tanzania and has worked side by side with Executive Director Rita Langeland for nearly twenty years in all phases of HWCM's work in East Africa. He has assisted in every step of the development of Treasures of Africa Children's Home. He has been a mentor and father figure to the children of TOA. He knows intimately the impact the generosity of donors has had on the children's lives.

Two Stories

By Stephen Langeland - Media Director - Hidden with Christ Ministries

For many years the young people at the Treasures of Africa Children's Home were encouraged to dream big for their futures. A heavy emphasis was placed on each child taking their education seriously and the monetary cost of schooling was always the largest budget item for TOA. The UN estimates that only 5% of Tanzanians have ANY post-high school education. Every young person that has come of age at TOA has now achieved this mark, statistically out of reach for the average person, not to mention those with an orphaned past. Over the past year we have rejoiced to see our first graduates from the university level. It has been a true miracle, and the culmination of many prayers, dreams, and generous financial support.

Over the years we published promo videos for fundraising wherein the TOA children would state the future dream profession they hoped to enter one day. While many of the children's desires shifted over time, Raymond was steadfast in his interest in aviation engineering, despite the fact he had never flown on an airplane or even entered an airport terminal. However, he remained focused in pursuit of these goals, achieving good grades in school and eventually graduating from a 3-year mechanical engineering diploma program at a Tanzanian Technical college.

During a visit to Tanzania, Raymond and I had a short conversation regarding his next steps. While discussing his desire to pursue aeronautics, it was clear that there were no such programs locally, and that he would have to matriculate outside of Tanzania. At that same time, I was attending graduate school at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, which I knew to have a large aeronautics department. Off the cuff I mentioned this "wild idea" to Raymond. I told him to look up the school and see the requirements for the program in which he was interested. Amazingly, Raymond was accepted into the Liberty University School of Aeronautics FAA certification program for airframe and powerplant (A&P). The program is an intense, year long program that requires not only completing the classroom and hands-on instruction, but also passing multiple FAA-administered tests before a student can receive their A&P certification.

I watched Ray quickly and smoothly make the intense transition to American schooling, in a place unfamiliar to him, and in a new culture and in a second language. Ray's determination helped him bear the workload and hurdle some of the logistical and bureaucratic challenges that arise in university settings. I observed him diligently studying highly technical subject matter with essentially no breaks, passing all his classes and the requisite FAA tests, some which 50% of his classmates failed and needed to retake. This past December, Ray successfully graduated from the year-long, rigidly standardized A&P certification program on time, a feat that was no small task. We are so proud of Ray's achievement, but also extremely thankful for the supporters of the Treasures of Africa Kidz Education Fund who made this financially possible. THANK YOU for believing with us that orphaned and abandoned children and young people can truly succeed. We cannot wait to see where Raymond's next steps will take him!

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Raymond is continuing with one more year of study at Liberty University in order to obtain an A.A. degree. We had originally thought he could go to work right after completing the F.A.A. training course, but we discovered that he could not receive a **work visa** for one year of on-the-job training in the U.S. without completing a degree. So please consider donating to the TOA KIDZ EDUCATION FUND to help us pay these previously unanticipated University fees for his final year in school.



Two Triumphs

Sifa describes her journey from a humble home in the village to her college graduation with a bachelor's degree in Community Development as a "living testimony."

Her mother died when she was young and she and her younger sister, Mary, lived with their elderly grandmother. When the grandmother fell ill and was bedridden, the young girls were forced to steal food to keep the three of them alive. A local pastor was familiar with the family and aware of their desperate situation. He had attended a Pastor's Conference sponsored by Hidden with Christ Ministries and heard that HWCM was planning to open a Children's Home. That pastor contacted Rita Langeland and recommended Sifa and Mary as children who were genuinely in need of care. It wasn't long before Sifa and Mary came to live at Treasures of Africa Children's Home just days after the doors were opened.

Sifa was nine years old when she came to live at TOA. She had not attended much school in the village and as a result was behind academically for her age. This foundational deficit caused Sifa much suffering when she was enrolled in Primary school in Moshi, and she struggled to catch up. By the time she entered Secondary School, those early deficits still caused her difficulty, especially in mathematics, and she was unable to pass her national exams. She was devastated. She could not go on to college without repeating her final year of secondary school and retaking the national exams. She felt humiliated as other students around her moved on. She wanted to give up.



Sifa in 2007 in her village before coming to live at TOA

With lots of encouragement from the Treasures of Africa staff, Sifa humbled herself and repeated her final year of Secondary School and retook the National Exams. Her second effort was successful, and she was able to enroll in college. It was a major victory in her life!

Her compassionate heart led her to choose Community Development as the focus of her college studies. She was particularly concerned for the plight of poor women in Tanzania who suffer greatly, especially if they have children, and the father has abandoned the family or died. Sifa worked hard in college and found success in this area of interest that was so dear to her heart.

On December 16, 2022, Sifa looked stunning in her cap and gown as she and her fellow students were called forward during the graduation to officially receive their degrees. Her smile was irrepressible. It was a day she would never forget, though at one time, she had wondered if it would ever happen! That is why she continues to say, her story is a "living testimony!"



Sifa on her graduation day

Please pray for her as she searches for a job in her field. She has a desire to eventually work with refugees and hopes at some point in the future to work for the United Nations Refugee Resettlement Program.

A Christmas Blessing in a Dry Land

by Rita Langeland

Though the calendar read December, there was little in the East African landscape that revealed Christmas was around the corner. A single flaming red tree, called the Krismasi tree, because it blooms when Christmas is near, was the only hint of the season. Despite the presence of this beautiful tree, the Tanzanian sun burned hot, and the ground was bone dry. Dust swirled in the air coating everything and everyone.

Three consecutive years of drought has had a devastating effect on the people living in the Moduli District of Tanzania. A recent government census reported that the district is 90% populated by people of the Maasai tribe. Traditional keepers of cattle and goats, the Maasai have seen their herds decimated. Unable to find green grass or water, their animals have perished in the heat, dropping dead on the dry ground. Those who have taken up small scale farming of maize to supplement their food supply have seen no harvest in three years. Suffering most, are the Maasai widows and their children.

When a Maasai man dies, his wealth (measured in cattle and goats) reverts to the male members of his family. The widows are left to fend for themselves and their children. Without any education or financial resources, these widows are among the most vulnerable members of the community.



Above: A Krismasi Tree hints that Christmas is near in East Africa

While in Tanzania to attend two college graduations of our very first Treasures of Africa residents, Mary, and Sifa, we had the joy of bringing a small measure of food relief from Hidden with Christ Ministries to the Maasai widows of Salela and Esilalei villages. This "WIDOW'S BLESSING" event was held at Treasures of Faith Church, and spearheaded by our friend and colleague, Pastor Zablon Laizer.

Accompanied by HWCM USA Board member - Olessia Loutsiouk, former Treasures of Africa Chaplain - Christina Oberst, and founding HWCM (Tanzania) Board member - Pastor Geoffrey Kioko, our team made the long road trip from Moshi town to Esilalei village.

When we arrived, the church was full, and the widows were singing. Dressed in traditional Maasai clothing and colorful beaded jewelry, it was a poignant sight. The hungry were rejoicing and giving thanks BEFORE they received the answer to their prayers!

Before distributing the food parcels we had prepared, we talked to the widows about the greatest gift of all...a heavenly Father who loves and cares for them and longs to have a relationship with them personally. With translation from English (Rita) to Swahili (Pastor Geoffrey Kioko) to the Maasai language (Pastor Zablon Laizer), we made sure there was clarity in all that we shared. We invited those who were not Christians to give their lives to Christ. More than 25 widows responded. That day they went home with a double blessing - both physical and spiritual food. This was a true Christmas blessing!

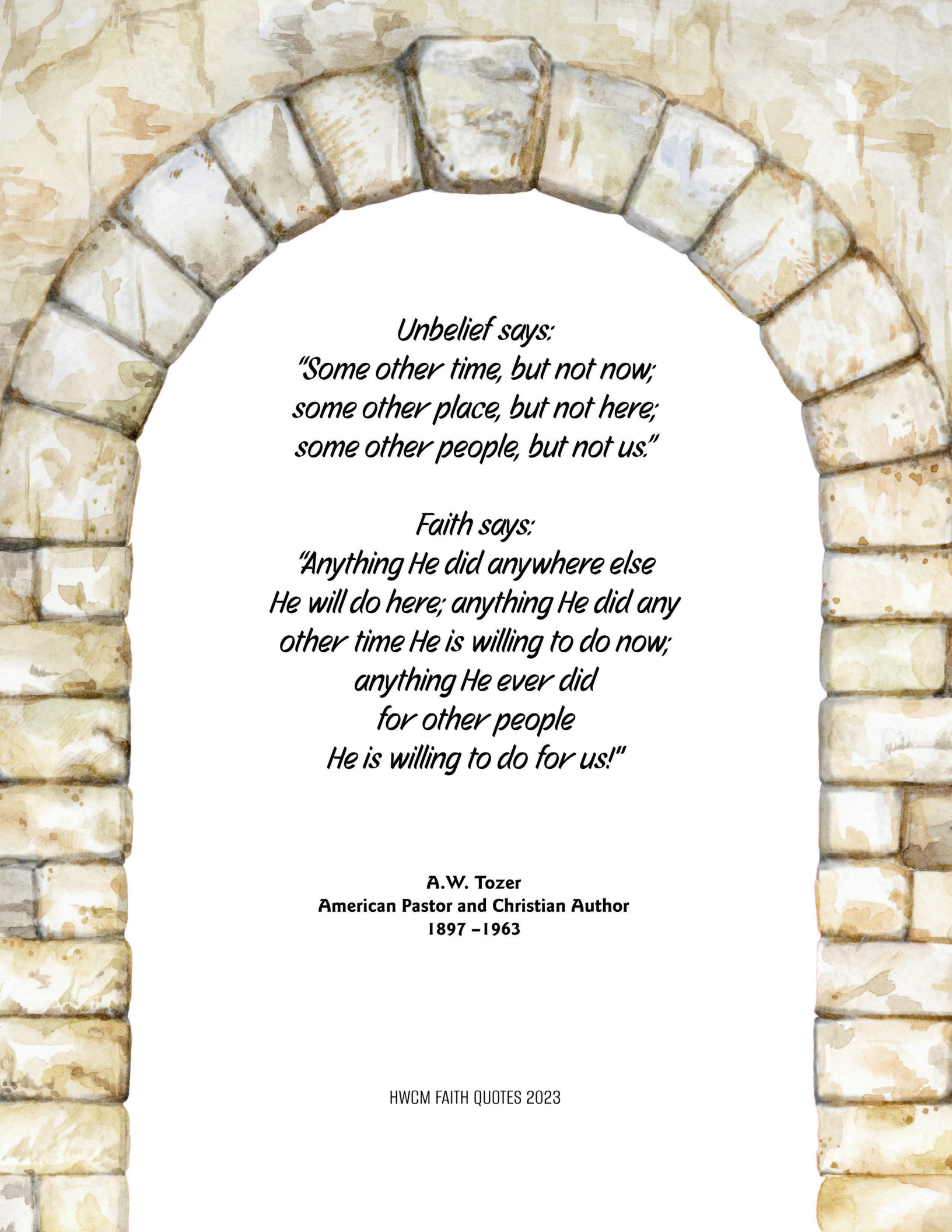


Above: Local government officers assist with distribution of food parcels. From Right to left - HWCM Board member Olessia Loutsiouk and former HWC Missionary Christina Oberst pass out gifts of food to Maasai widows.
Below: Massai widows standing outside the church with their food parcels

Hidden With Christ Ministries seeks to obey the Lord in showing mercy to the poor, the widows and orphans as instructed in scripture. This is the focus of our REHEMA PROJECTS ("REHEMA" is the Swahili word for MERCY). You can donate to Hidden with Christ Ministries and designate it for our REHEMA PROJECTS to help the most vulnerable members of society in Tanzania.

www.hiddenwithchrist.org/donate





Unbelief says:
"Some other time, but not now;
some other place, but not here;
some other people, but not us."

Faith says:
"Anything He did anywhere else
He will do here; anything He did any
other time He is willing to do now;
anything He ever did
for other people
He is willing to do for us!"

A.W. Tozer
American Pastor and Christian Author
1897 - 1963

2023

THE YEAR OF

RESTORATION

BY RITA LANGELAND

*Return to the stronghold, you prisoners who have the hope;
This very day I am declaring that I will restore double to you.*

Zechariah 9:12 NASB

“RESTORE” (from the Hebrew word SHUB) – to return/to bring back/to recover/ to make restitution/to repay (from the Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance with Greek and Hebrew Dictionaries)

One of the most outstanding stories of restoration in the Bible is found in the book of Job. Most people groan when Job’s name is mentioned – remembering only the great tribulations the man endured. Or they know him for the perseverance he developed while undergoing painful trials and thus are familiar with the proverbial expression “the patience of Job.” But the most amazing part of Job’s story is found in the very last chapter which reveals the astonishing restoration God brought about in Job’s life. Job 42:10 tells us:

After Job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored Job’s prosperity and gave him twice as much as he had before. (God’s Word version)

God restored DOUBLE Job’s previous prosperity and if you remember, before disaster struck his life, he had been the richest man in the land! But it was not only his possessions that were restored to him – he eventually had 7 more sons and 3 more daughters and lived to see his grandchildren to the fourth generation. Job’s story is one of amazing personal restoration since one of the tragedies he had endured was the loss of all his children in a single day when a house collapsed during a horrific windstorm.

One important side note: before God restored Job’s prosperity – the Lord instructed him to **pray for his friends**. (See Job 42:10) This required Job to forgive them from his heart – as they had **NOT** been good friends to Job during his crises. Instead of comforting or helping him, they had accused Job of having secret sin in his life that brought on all the tragedy he was experiencing. So, before you ask God for restoration, be sure to ask the Lord if there is anyone you need to forgive!

Many people have suffered hurtful losses over the past few years. I believe God is saying to the body of Christ that He is bringing a year of RESTORATION to His people during 2023. To be able to stand in faith for your own personal restoration, let us examine what the Bible says that God restores. This way we can ask Him to do it in our lives – based upon what we find in His written Word.

What kind of things does the Bible say that God RESTORES?

FORMER PROSPERITY

In the Amplified Classic version of Zec. 9:12 we find this rendering: ***Return to the stronghold [of security and prosperity], you prisoners of hope; even today do I declare that I will restore double your former prosperity to you.*** Many businesses have been severely affected by the pandemic and other economic factors over the last three years. God wants us to trust Him for a restoration of former prosperity in business even taking His word of DOUBLE PORTION RESTORATION to heart!

YEARS LOST

Joel 2:25 gives us this promise: ***So, I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.***

Have you ever felt like you have wasted time – even YEARS of your life? We have all done it. I remember after giving my life to the Lord thinking, “I wasted my entire college career pursuing foolishness and wrong relationships...when I could have been discovering what God designed for me to do in life!” Did you know that God promises that He can and will restore YEARS that the enemy has stolen from you? That may seem like an impossible promise and yet it is the GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE who made that promise. Take it to heart and ask for God to restore “the YEARS the locust has eaten” in your life during 2023. Don’t try to imagine how it can happen, just tell the Lord, “I don’t know how you can do it – but I believe you can. Please do it for me in 2023!”

FORMER POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE AND LEADERSHIP

In the book of Daniel, we find an amazing story about God restoring a person to a position of leadership and influence. The story pertains to King Nebuchadnezzar who was restored to his throne after 7 years of exile in the wilderness where the king lived like an animal because he was out of his mind. But after the king repented for his pride and arrogance, the Lord restored him both mentally and positionally. Daniel 4:36 says: ***At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the honor of my kingdom, and my state counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so, I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me.***

If you have lost a job due to layoffs or business closures, or lost a position of influence for any reason, ask the Lord for a restoration of your former position during 2023. (Remember - the King had to repent of pride and arrogance before he was restored to his former position – so ask the Lord to show you if there is any area of repentance you need to address so that God can bring the restoration you desire.)

PHYSICAL HEALTH

One of the names of God listed in the Hebrew scriptures is Jehovah Rapha – the Lord who heals. (Exodus 15:26) Many scriptures illustrate God’s desire and willingness to restore people to health including these two specific mentions in the Psalms:

The Lord will sustain him upon his sickbed; In his illness, You restore him to health. Psalm 41:3

O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you restored my health. Psalm 30:2 NLT

Let us not hesitate to ask for the restoration of our health in 2023 – the YEAR OF RESTORATION!

MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Psalm 23:3a ***He restores my soul...*** God not only brings healing to the physical body – but the 23rd Psalm speaks of the Good Shepherd “restoring the soul” which is a reference to the mind, will and emotions. If you or a loved one has need of healing for the emotions or the mind – don’t be reluctant to ask God to bring that important restoration this year.

JOY OF SALVATION

Psalm 51:12 ***Restore to me the joy of your salvation and make me willing to obey you.***

There are many people who feel like they have lost the former closeness of relationship with God or the “joy of their salvation” that they once enjoyed as a younger person. Even King David experienced times when he walked away from God into sin and had to pray “***Restore to me the joy of your salvation...***” Let 2023 be the year that you allow God to restore your former relationship with Him and don’t remain distant any longer!

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

The restoration of family relationships is the desire of many in this age of dysfunctional families. We can see God’s heart to restore families by looking at two examples in the Bible – one in the Old Testament and one in the New. In both cases, we see family restoration demonstrated.

In Genesis 37, we can read about a very dysfunctional family. There was favoritism, jealousy, and hatred which resulted in the older brothers selling off their younger brother into slavery. Joseph was the victim of this great betrayal, and yet God enabled him to have both the courage and the desire to forgive his brothers and seek family restoration. God utilized His miraculous power and Joseph’s willing heart to bring about an incredible reconciliation of his entire family.

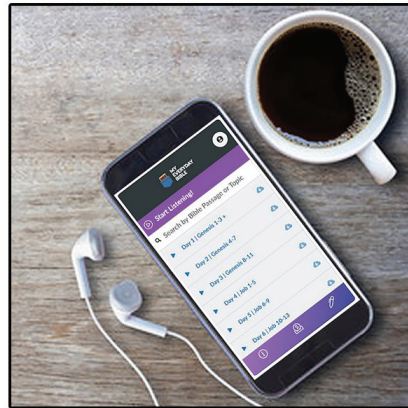
In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus told a parable about a Prodigal son. In that story we see a loving father (who symbolizes God) willing to forgive and receive back a son who had shamed the family through his wastrel lifestyle. God loves to restore families and can repair the most broken and damaged ones you can imagine. He sent His son to the earth to bring reconciliation of mankind to their Heavenly Father. He will do the same for you and your family if you will seek Him for it. Be ready to do anything God instructs you to do to be a part of the supernatural restoration of your family. Let’s believe God for many testimonies of FAMILY RESTORATION during 2023!

How to take hold of the YEAR OF RESTORATION for your own life:

- 1) **Say what God says!** “Lord, I believe that this is the YEAR OF RESTORATION FOR ME AND MY FAMILY!” It is important to maintain a consistent confession of faith even to the last day of the year. During 2022, I consistently declared the prophetic word given by a prophet of God regarding the provision of God coming to the body of Christ in unusual, supernatural, and extraordinary ways. In the last few days of the year, Hidden with Christ Ministries received some extraordinary provision that was desperately needed for our work in Tanzania and fulfilled that prophetic promise. Do not give up on standing in agreement with this word of restoration even to the end of the year!
- 2) **Resist the devil and he will flee from you.** (James 4:7) Do not repeat what the enemy of your soul will whisper to you... “this will never happen for me...I will never get out of debt...I will never be healed...” instead **RESIST** the temptation to agree with those negative statements even if they feel true! Remember God’s people “**walk by faith**” not by feelings! Be diligent to SAY WHAT GOD SAYS – “This is the year of restoration for me and my family!”
- 3) **When you see even a small manifestation of God’s restoration, be quick to acknowledge it!** “That is RESTORATION! THANK YOU, LORD!”

If you are consistent in standing in faith over the next 12 months, you will have great testimonies to share at the end of 2023 of your year of RESTORATION!

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So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
Romans 10:17

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