

A group of approximately ten African children are gathered in front of a brick wall. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. Some children have their hands raised in a gesture of excitement or greeting. They are wearing various colorful dresses and skirts, including floral patterns, a checkered pattern, and a green and yellow patterned top. The overall mood is joyful and positive.

# HEAVEN'S family

ALL-MINISTRY MAGAZINE | MARCH 2019

*What You*  
MADE POSSIBLE IN *2018*



# COUNTING THE LIVES YOU TOUCHED



## About Heaven's Family

Our mission is to advance the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth. We do that by strategically linking kingdom needs and opportunities with resources that the Lord has entrusted to those who love Him. Through God-given partnerships, *Heaven's Family* invests in reaching the unreached with the gospel, discipling Christ's followers, and serving the suffering—particularly those whom He referred to as the "least of these" (Matt. 25:31-46; 28:19-20).

# A WORD FROM OUR FOUNDER



▲ With a national missionary (and ubiquitous antique American car) in Cuba

Did you ever know something that was so significant that you wish you could shout it from the rooftops? Of course, the gospel falls into that "rooftop-worthy" category.

There is something else on my heart—perhaps not quite as significant as the gospel—that I wish I could proclaim in every church in America this Sunday: "Jesus is not interested in 'Christian converts'! HE WANTS DISCIPLES!"

The proof of that is found in Luke 14:25-35, where Luke described a time when "large crowds were going along with" Jesus. Jesus told those crowds that, unless they loved Him supremely—more than family members, more than their own lives, more than their personal desires for comfort and ease, and more than any material pursuits and possessions—they not only could not be His disciples, but they were utterly useless to Him. There really is no other way to honestly interpret Luke 14:25-35. Jesus wants disciples.

And this, fundamentally, is why *Heaven's Family* exists. It gives all of us—partners, staff members, and investors—opportunities to show Jesus that we love Him more than anything. Because we want to prove ourselves to be His true sheep, and not the self-deceived goats whom He tragically described in Matthew 25:31-46.

This magazine presents numerous opportunities, through *Heaven's Family's* 20 Focused Ministries, to love the "least of these" in whom Jesus lives, and advance His kingdom, and thus show Him how much you love Him. I hope that you will treasure these opportunities, and put this magazine somewhere that you will be reminded to read it in its entirety while listening to the Holy Spirit.

This is our great opportunity. Let us love Jesus as He deserves!

*David*

DAVID SERVANT  
Founder, *Heaven's Family*

**And the King will reply,**  
"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, You did for Me." -Matt. 25:40

**Managing Editor**  
Jeff Trotter

**Graphic Designers**  
Kristin Crandall  
Jeff Trotter

**Contributing Photographers**  
Becky Servant  
Jeff Trotter  
Patty Forney  
(and various ministry partners)

**For Additional Magazines**  
Contact us at 855.333.2211  
or [Info@HeavensFamily.org](mailto:Info@HeavensFamily.org)

**Front Cover**  
These children live in rural Malawi, a small, poor country in East Africa. Once malnourished, their families now grow abundant harvests, thanks to you and the Farming God's Way Ministry (see page 13).

**Mailing Address:**  
Heaven's Family  
P.O. Box 12854  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

1-855-333-2211  
[HeavensFamily.org](http://HeavensFamily.org)







▲ Resident students of the Women of Wellness Center in DR Congo

**PATTY FORNEY**  
Director, Victims of  
Sexual Violence Ministry



Your partnership with the Victims of Sexual Violence Ministry bore fruit in 2018!

Rescued from a damaging, unsafe family situation where her mentally ill father and another man repeatedly abused her, Irene arrived with a broken body and dulled mind. She suffered from incontinence and shame. But thanks to your support, Irene is now beginning to blossom at Divine Holistic Ministries, a *Heaven's Family* partner that rescues and discipless women and children in Jinja, Uganda.

Irene is going to school at DHM and even had her first visit to a zoo! It will take time for her to overcome the physical and psychological effects of trauma, but she receives medical treatment and the daily environment of stability is helping her to gain ground in every area.

Only the love of God, which Irene receives in abundant supply each day, can heal her heart.

### In 2018 YOU Provided:

- Uniforms for 85 students in Naivasha
- Education, room and board for 10 sexually abused girls in Kenya
- Funds to relocate a mother and her 7 children from Ethiopia to safety in Kenya
- Daily discipleship and sewing training classes for several dozen women in DR Congo

You are also supporting other incredible ministries throughout Africa—like the Women of Wellness Center in DR Congo, and Cindi's Hope in Kenya—who also fight to help women overcome poverty and trauma. These ladies, many with HIV, walk for miles to attend weekly meetings.

Not only are women discipled, but their children are also educated and fed through schools that our overseas partners have founded.

In 2018, 2000 women from all over Uganda attended the annual Women of Hope conference! Your 2018 donations to the Victims of Sexual Violence Ministry provided a cow for this event and helped complete a building that is used daily as a dining room and recreational center.

What a blessing you have been! Each of these women are truly precious in God's sight—as are you who choose to be a part of the healing He is bringing through the Victims of Sexual Violence Ministry!



Pain. Struggle. Adversity. These are all words that could define the hardships faced by believers whom the Persecuted Christians Ministry reached in 2018.

There is a very real enemy out there, pushing back against the efforts of our on-site partners. Thankfully, this is not where the story ends. In the face of great adversity, I am thrilled to share all of the incredible things you brought to fruition in 2018.

### The Middle East

Nora is a secret agent for the gospel, dedicated to reaching Taliban-controlled areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. This fearless undercover missionary routinely defies danger to bring new life to those living under the tyranny of radical Islam. She is hunted by religious fanatics who despise her mission.

Throughout 2018, we routinely received prayer requests on her behalf as warrants for her arrest and threats on her life made things especially tricky. But Nora was protected, and you helped equip her to start many underground gatherings for believers, children's outreaches, and even support women who escaped slavery.

### Africa

There are many parts of Africa where becoming a Christian is still very dangerous, especially when converting from Islam. Glenn, a friend and partner of *Heaven's Family*, has taken up the calling to disciple many former Muslims in their new life in Christ. But the dangers for these young men and women remain very real. Some experience death threats from family members or are banished from their homes. Because of your support in 2018, Glenn was able to provide five safe houses where fleeing converts received refuge and discipleship.

There are many other stories I could tell you, from Syria, North Korea, India, and Southeast Asia. Jesus taught us that adversity and persecution are to be expected, and I've watched the inspiring believers we support stand fast through hardship and come out on the other side even more passionate about their mission. Despite the enemy's best efforts, Jesus always wins.

Thank you for ensuring hope for thousands of believers in 2018!

**BEN CROFT**  
Director, Persecuted  
Christians Ministry



70 TONS OF  
EMERGENCY AID  
DISTRIBUTED



93 UNDERCOVER  
MISSIONARIES  
SUPPORTED



18 SAFE HOUSES  
EQUIPPED TO  
PROVIDE REFUGE



59 RESCUED, GIVEN  
MEDICAL CARE AND  
RELOCATED



# EDUCATION



**ELISABETH WALKER**  
Director, Education  
Ministry



**P**urity faced a predicament. Her family lives in Kenya and is extremely poor. Work is scarce. Her life looked grim. The chains of poverty have kept generations of her family destitute, and the only hope Purity had of breaking free was to get a good education—something deprived from her parents and their parents before them.

Thankfully, however, Purity is getting her shot. Because of donors to the Education Ministry, she attends a Christian school, where she is learning to dream—another luxury her ancestors never had much opportunity to do. Purity dreams of one day becoming a nurse so she can save lives.

Purity's school helps 200 children just like her who would have no chance of ever getting an education—with the hope of breaking free from poverty—were it not for this school. These children are also learning about Jesus' incredible love

for them. One day Purity might be saving lives—all because a caring donor like you reached in and lifted her from her predicament.

An estimated 70 million school-age children around the world are not enrolled in school. In most cases it's because of poverty. They either don't have the money to pay for school (including uniforms, books and other hidden costs), or even worse, they have to work—often times at menial, degrading or dangerous jobs—to support their families. An education is the single most important means by which children and families can escape the tenacious clutches of poverty.

Through the Education Ministry, you helped 730 children in 9 schools in 3 countries receive an education! Thank you from the bottom of their hearts.

## Leprosy

### Standing Up for Manesh

**T**hrough the Leprosy Ministry you touched lives in so many places around the world in 2018! Which would be most dear to my heart—India? China? Nepal? Kenya? Brazil? DR Congo? I cannot choose! But there was one particular person who stands out in my mind—a man who actually cannot stand—whose heartbreaking story tragically reflects the tales of so many others around the world.

While visiting the Anandaban Leprosy Mission Hospital outside of Kathmandu, Nepal, last November, I met "Manesh" (name changed to protect his identity). Though just 18, his sad eyes conveyed a loss much graver than the two legs now missing from below his knees. Leprosy has ravaged this young man's once-bright future. Nonetheless, his sweet smile seemed to beckon me to care, and to find some way to help.

After my team fervently prayed for him, we queried our ministry partner, Dr. Deanna, about what could be done to improve Manesh's circumstances and give him some means of encouragement for the future. Stirred by her answers, we were able to come up with a solution made possible by you: a new wheelchair for Manesh, which now enables him to move about the hospital on his own!

But one final and overwhelming obstacle remained: the humble dwelling Manesh and his mother called home needed significant refurbishing. A simple network of bamboo poles plastered with mud—and scarcely waterproof—was certainly unsuitable for a double-amputee. Then a year-end pressing need was quickly met by a generous donor like you, who gave the entire amount in one fell swoop.



▲ *Manesh awaiting a 2nd prosthesis*

**CAROLE COLLINS**  
Director, Leprosy  
Ministry



Construction of a newer, better habitation will begin soon! Your contributions last year also met Manesh's other needs as well—such as a toilet to replace his "squatty potty" (a difficult toilet to use with two good legs, I can assure you); a second prosthesis; the beginnings of vocational training and a program to re-integrate him back into his community. Manesh is overjoyed!

But that isn't the end of our good news from Nepal! One of my team-mates from the November visit has decided to fund a huge research grant that will seek to help prevent infections that cause amputations, and could benefit patients all over the world.

Our joy abounds, even as our gratitude to God is beyond measure for the way He touches the hearts of His people. And thank you, dear friends of the Leprosy Ministry!





A Cuban prison chaplain with his son

BOB COLLINS  
Director, Prison  
& Rehab Ministry



# PRISON & REHAB

## Making disciples

From prisons in Cuba, Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon, Rwanda, DR Congo—and even Texas—to the streets of Israel and Mexico, the Prison & Rehab Ministry is winning souls and making disciples. What a glorious year you made possible in 2018! Every time we ministered to a prisoner, it was your obedience to Jesus' words "I was in prison and you came to visit Me" (Matt 25) that made it happen. What a great privilege it is to serve Jesus and you through the "least of these" in prison!

This work of mercy continues year-round through the many chaplains we support. These faithful men are not only thankful for your financial support, but

“  
I was in prison and you came to visit Me...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me.  
-Matt.25:36,40

feel overwhelmed that someone from another country would care about them. Many chaplains are very poor and minister in the worst prisons imaginable. Yet these brave brothers in Christ continue to selflessly preach the love of Jesus to those on whom society has turned its back!

Your support says to these chaplains, "We value you greatly! We love you, and we are overjoyed to know you and pray for you." One of our supported chaplains who ministers in Cam-

eroon reported over 3,000 souls turned to Christ in 2018, with 250 water baptisms! May the Lord be glorified by the faithful work of our chaplains.



▲ Praying for young men at a juvenile prison in Kenya

I pray that with your support, the Prison & Rehab Ministry can continue to "Go into all the world and make disciples" (Matt. 28:19). Will you "Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them" (Heb. 13:3) along with me? Thank you! so much for investing in souls for the Kingdom of our Lord!

# National Missionaries

REACHING A LOT MORE, FOR A LOT LESS

Ramesh (pictured below) was not really interested in the Christian literature handed to him by Janu Masihi, a national missionary in northern India sponsored by a donor to *Heaven's Family*. For some reason, though, he stashed the literature under his bed.

That same week, he lost his job as a driver. Anxiety and fear welled up in him as he struggled to figure out how he'd provide for his family. As his unemployed days dragged into weeks, he became despondent and listless.

Then Ramesh remembered about the literature under his bed. What would it hurt for him to read it now? That night, Ramesh dreamt that this person Jesus he'd read about in the literature came and spoke with him. He decided that he had to talk to Janu again—and this time Ramesh would ask him for a Bible!

National missionaries can reach the hardest to reach of their own countrymen—for a lot less—than Western missionaries

After some searching, he eventually ran into Janu back on the streets

of his village, passing out more literature. "I must have a Bible!" he pleaded. Janu happily complied. Ramesh immediately began devouring his new Bible.

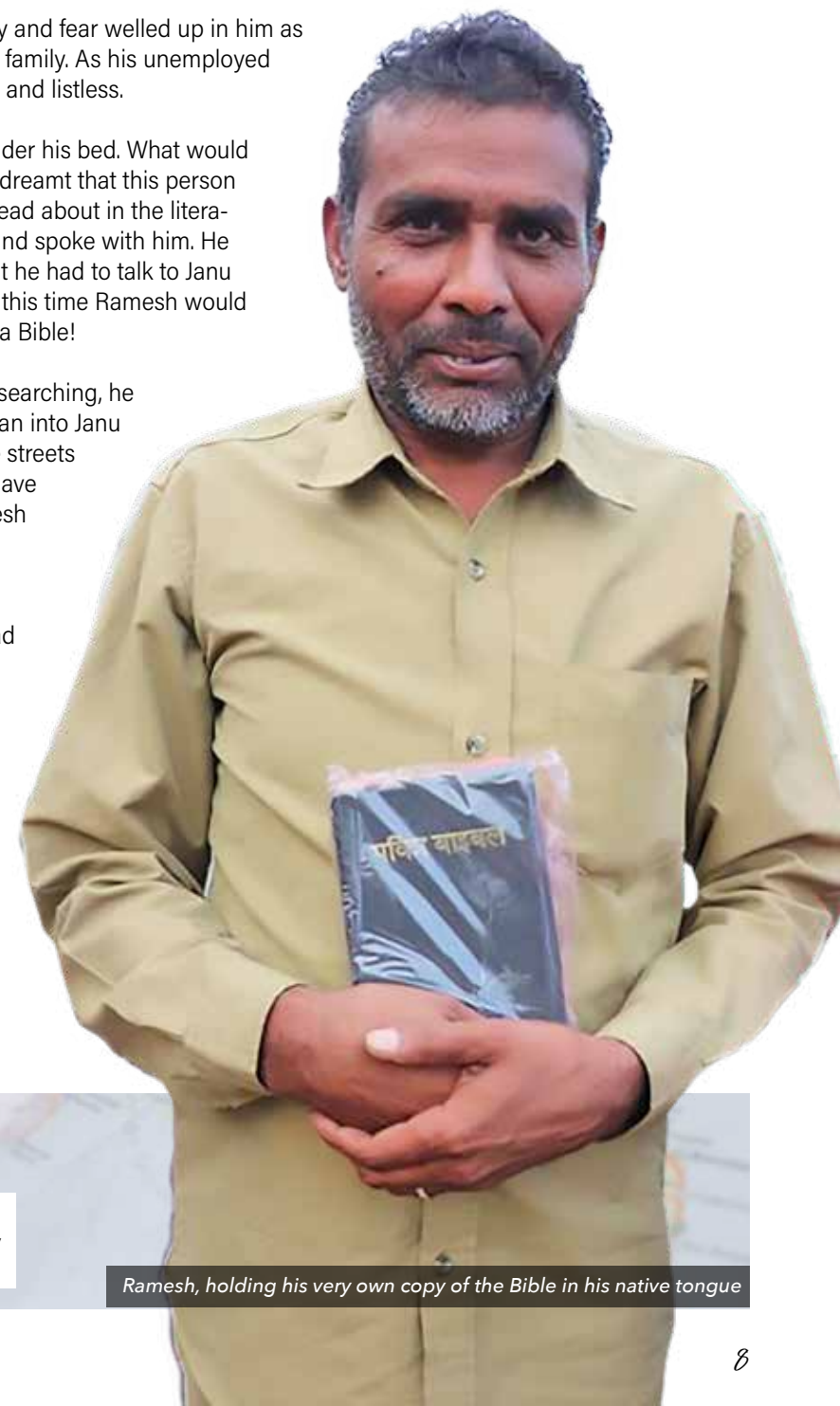
Then a miracle happened! Ramesh was offered a job—an even better paying job than the one he had before! He firmly believed the Lord orchestrated this on his behalf, so he surrendered his life to Him. Ramesh now eagerly joins Janu in sharing the gospel with the people of his village.

Thank you so much for playing a vital role in Ramesh's salvation by supporting the National Missionary Ministry.

Through the National Missionary Ministry in 2018, you supported 60 missionaries in 8 countries, and over 20,000 people made the decision to put their trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior!

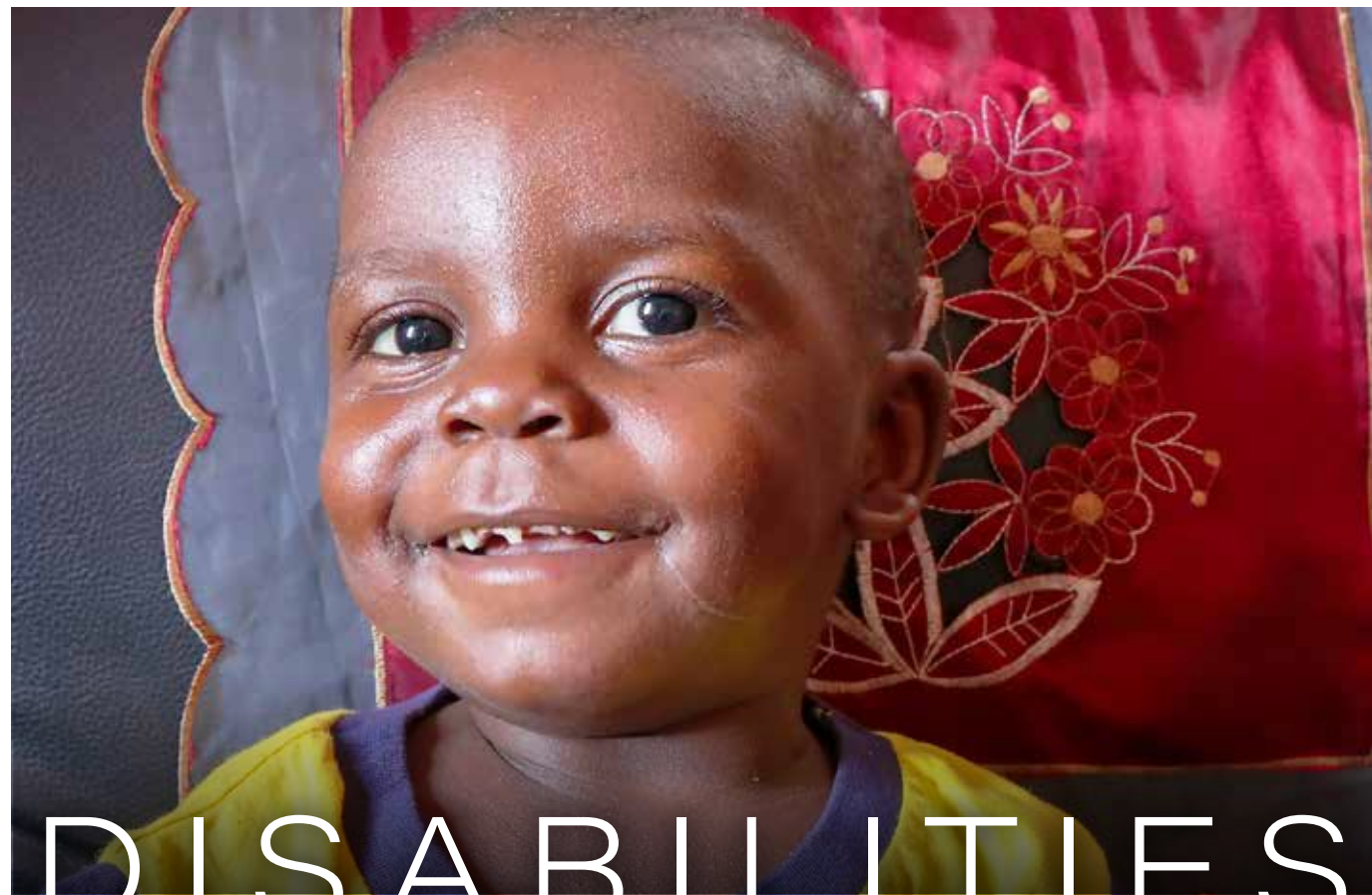


ELISABETH WALKER  
Director, National Missionary  
Ministry



Ramesh, holding his very own copy of the Bible in his native tongue





# DISABILITIES

## Welcome Home, Moses

It's such a joy seeing lives changed, isn't it? And it especially thrills me to see those with broken bodies—those who often receive terrible neglect and abuse from their fellow humans—find joy and peace in their Creator. That's what the Disabilities Ministry is all about.

We also do our best to heal those broken bodies, or at least to improve mobility, reduce pain, and show them that they're loved—the greatest medicine.

You helped us succeed at those goals for a little boy named Moses. An emaciated, abandoned infant, he was taken in by our beloved partner Victoria in Uganda. Moses received an outpouring of love and care. His contagious smile spoke volumes about the healing that had taken place within that precious boy's heart and body. He gave that love right back to all who knew him—even those who could only read about him (see last year's Hope magazine).

But our joy also turned to sadness late last year when the Lord received Moses into His presence. The early physical damage was just too much to overcome in this world, so Jesus brought Moses into His lap so he could get a new body. Joy and sorrow. In this life we must embrace both. I have dis-

covered that even a short life can be blessed—we just need to look up at the Son, rather than down in the mud. My faith rests easy in the assurance that Moses is now smiling with his heavenly body! That is the true blessing you helped make happen through your support and prayers for Moses.

Through the Mighty God we serve—and your continued generosity—we came to the rescue of more than 2 dozen physically and mentally challenged children last year. These individuals, from Malawi, Guatemala, Kenya, Uganda and Haiti, all received help with their disabilities; but even more importantly, their spirits were uplifted by loving care and discipleship in Jesus.

To God be the glory, great things He has done! And thank YOU for acting on the compassion Jesus has placed within your heart.

CARMEN PARISE  
Director, Disabilities Ministry



# DISASTER RELIEF



▲ Ruth and her children standing in front of their brand new home

JEFF TROTTER  
Director, Disaster  
Relief Ministry



**“When my house was destroyed by the storm wind, my life and that of my children were in great problem...My children were crying each night as they [were attacked by insects as they slept in the open] and rained on by the night rains.”**

Ruth, a recent widow with three young children, survived a cyclone that struck rural Malawi last year, but felt death by starvation and exposure crouched nearby. She knew there would be no emergency services, no Red Cross, no government assistance of any kind coming to the rescue.

The history books will record 2018 as a relatively quiet year for natural disasters.

But don't tell that to thousands of poor villagers in Guatemala who lost everything last summer—including the lives of friends and loved ones—under a killer blanket of volcanic ash; or the scores of impoverished farmers in Malawi who lost their homes and everything they owned to a cyclone; or those who suffered an earthquake and tsunami

in Indonesia; or poor brothers and sisters who lost their homes to severe flooding in the Kerala region of India.

Statistics don't matter when it happens to you. A cry out to God explodes from deep in your spirit, because that's all you can do in that moment.

But help came to Ruth, her children, and many others in 2018 from you and many other compassionate members of “heaven's family” around the world. Emergency supplies of food and safe water came first. Then blankets, medicine and clothing, followed by tarps and metal roofing sheets to protect their families. Most importantly, these all came in a package of encouragement and love that brought survivors to tears, and knees, in gratitude to Him who touched hearts like yours.

They were reminded that they are cared for and loved by you. They remembered they aren't alone. Thank you for making that happen.





JEFF & KARIN TROTTER  
Directors, Human Trafficking  
& Slavery Ministry



# Human Trafficking = Slavery

## A Precious Thank You

He will never abuse my sister again! Alejandro's sense of justice welled up as never before, propelling him to strike his abusive, drunken grandfather with a piece of firewood he'd just collected and then flee with his terrified 8-year-old sister in his arms.

Few tragedies grip our hearts more painfully than the plight of innocent children—who are so near and dear to the heart of Jesus—those who are mercilessly exploited for sex or labor. In many developing nations, an ox that pulls a plow is valued more than a child because it means the family can eat for another season.

During 2018 the Human Trafficking & Slavery Ministry has been actively at work in the countries of Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines and Mexico. And

among those nations, no stories gripped our hearts more intensely last year than those of the precious children in Mexico whom we've helped rescue and restore from unspeakable sexual and physical abuse.

Names like Ines, Alejandro, Fernanda, Mareli, Emiliano, Ana Marie and Noemi touched our hearts deeply. We know their life stories—stories you've helped change from hopeless to heavenly! Do you remember them? Without you, none of these stories of rescue, hope and love could now be told.

This year we've expanded our efforts into the slums of Yangon, Myanmar, and are working on new outreaches elsewhere. We hope you'll partner with us to rescue, restore, educate and provide skills training to many more girls, boys and young women. Thank you on their behalf.



▲ Van Par Mawi (3rd from left) with some younger children at the orphanage she once called home. Many more children await reunification with their families.

STEPHEN SERVANT  
Director, Orphan's  
Tear Ministry



## ORPHAN'S TEAR

*"I'm going home!"*

Van Par Mawi was first introduced to orphanage life at the age of 3. Her mother had recently died and her father, very poor, believed his daughter would be better off in an orphanage. The director of the orphanage promised to care for Van and provide her with a good education.

But instead Van experienced abuse and neglect from the orphanage director and his wife. As soon as she was old enough, they required her to do most of the cooking and caring for the other children. She only was allowed to visit with her father on school holidays—times she longed for.

In 2016 the director agreed to cooperate with the Orphan's Tear Ministry's plans to return the orphanage's children to their families. But he dragged his feet. He knew this would mean the end of his orphanage—and his source of income.

During our team's assessment process of the orphanage and the children living there, Van ran away. We soon discovered that she had fled to her aunt's home not far away. Her aunt was then about to return Van to the orphanage—but

our team intervened. We told her what had been happening to Van at the orphanage, and she agreed to help.

Although her father was very poor, Van refused to live with anyone else—she wanted to go home. Once our team determined that the living environment would be safe with her father, Van's wish finally came true! Our staff helped coordinate the assistance needed so that she could thrive in her new environment. And, after a year of monitoring Van—who is now emotionally stable and thriving with her father—we could close the case on the girl once thought to be an orphan.

Because of your support, the Orphan's Tear Ministry actively worked on the cases of more than 100 children in 2018 to reunite them with their families, and 17 of the cases were successfully closed! You placed 43 children in safe families where they are thriving and being loved once again. There are many more children like Van Par Mawi who need help—your help. Thank you for making a difference in their lives.



# FARMING GOD'S WAY

## Feeding & Growing Disciples



**JERRY JEFFERSON**  
Co-Director, Farming  
God's Way Ministry



**DICK SAMUELS**  
Co-Director, Farming  
God's Way Ministry



Imagine you must farm your 1- or 2-acre plot of land just to feed your family, but each year your meager harvests are never enough to feed your family even the most basic staple (a tasteless, poor-quality corn mush) until next season's crop is ready. That's when the "hunger season" begins, and your family suffers. Disease finds easy targets. The weak die.

But that grim reality faced by millions of poor subsistence farmers in Africa is a thing of the past for those farmers who've learned and faithfully implemented the methods taught by indigenous Farming God's Way trainers.

We poured more of ourselves into the lives of these trainers in 2018, and what a year it's been as we witnessed huge harvests of both crops and souls!

Advanced farming techniques are only half of the equation for transformation and success—the crucial other side are God's Love Groups. These tight fellowships meet regularly to learn biblical principles of farming and finances, help each other through thick and thin, and become stalwart disciples.

These groups not only help each other, but many are reaching out to their communities to care for orphans and widows, help rebuild the homes of those impacted by natural disasters, and even build bridges—by hand! They are gradually becoming like a tsunami, powerfully advancing the kingdom of God to the impoverished countryside of nations like Malawi, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Rwanda. And they've only just begun...

During 2018 our team of incredible trainers, pictured above, continued to strengthen God's Love Groups by: teaching them how to manage their finances, building healthy families, and reaching out to the youth in their villages. They also continued to disciple members to even greater maturity.

We've begun an exciting 5-year plan for financial independence, empowerment and interdependence among our African brothers in Farming God's Way, and we hope you'll join us in this incredible adventure that seeks nothing less than the transformation of every African into self-sufficient disciples of Jesus Christ.



▲ Children from the feeding program enjoying a hot meal



**DIANE SCOTT**  
Director, Food Ministry

## FOOD

The tears are gone. Now there are smiles. That's because these children, once suffering malnutrition due to successive drought, flood and pestilence—made worse by poor farming methods and government corruption—now know what it's like to have a full belly once again.

So, what changed?

In 2018 you rescued the children of Nang'ombe, Malawi, from hunger. They are among the poorest of the poor in their rural community, some having been abandoned, some destitute orphans and some suffering with AIDS.

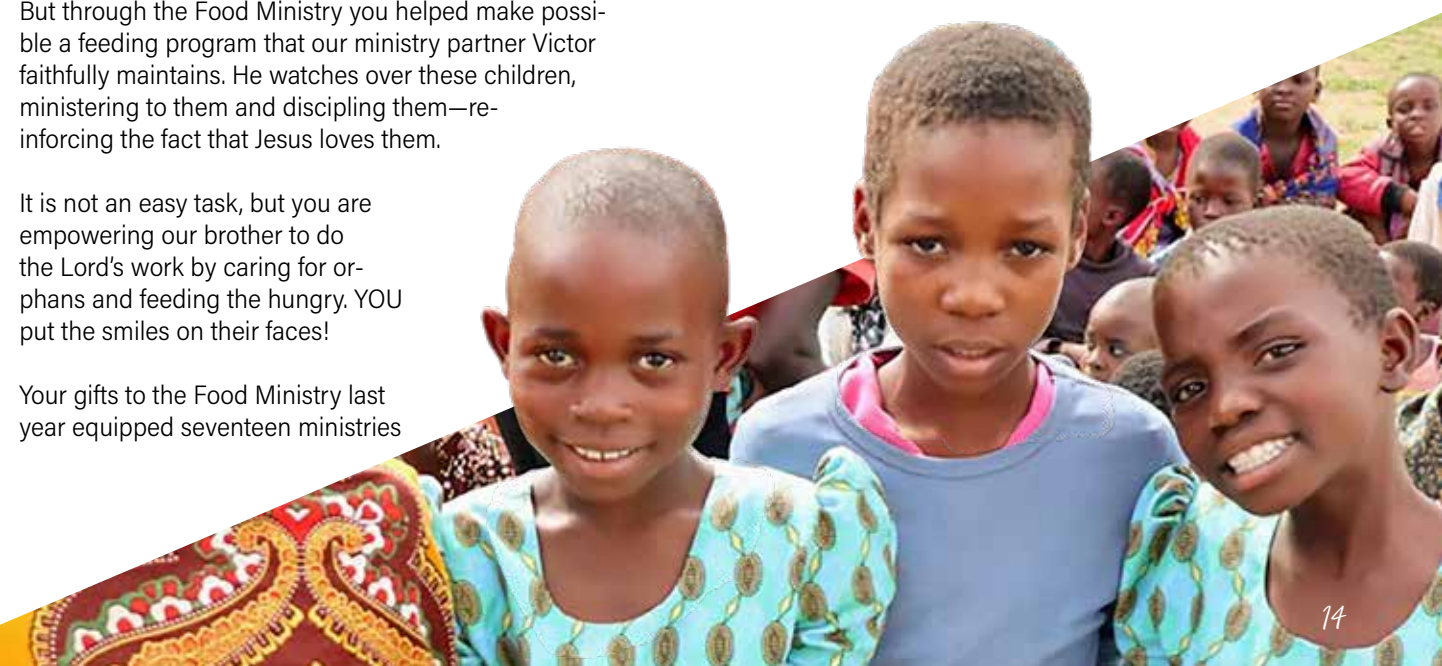
But through the Food Ministry you helped make possible a feeding program that our ministry partner Victor faithfully maintains. He watches over these children, ministering to them and discipling them—reinforcing the fact that Jesus loves them.

It is not an easy task, but you are empowering our brother to do the Lord's work by caring for orphans and feeding the hungry. YOU put the smiles on their faces!

Your gifts to the Food Ministry last year equipped seventeen ministries

in 9 impoverished countries to provide nutritious food, milk to drink and, whenever possible, self-sustainable sources of food such as cows, chickens, and rabbits. Livestock not only feeds a family, but provides a source of income (e.g., by selling eggs or meat). You provided innumerable daily meals to approximately one thousand children, mothers, homeless people and prison inmates.

Thank you for sharing from your abundance so these vulnerable children are not sent away hungry. May we continue to serve Jesus and His "little ones" with joy and thankfulness in 2019!







DIANE SCOTT  
Director, Safe Water Ministry



## "My life is good now"

Fanny sat down in front of her small, humble home for an interview with our team. Let me describe her home: a plain, undecorated, one-room windowless structure made of mud bricks. And her neighborhood, a poor village in rural Malawi. She has no electricity, no plumbing, no smart-phone, and no bank account.

Now let me tell you what she does have—safe water for her family of 6 children! Your gifts to the Safe Water Ministry in 2018 drilled a well in her village! For Fanny life doesn't get any better than this:

“**We are not sick anymore...the children are very happy to have clean water...the well is a few minutes walk [and] I am farming now.**

The hours of time this widow spent each day gathering water from distant, contaminated sources and carrying it on foot, on her head, for miles back to her home (a full 5-gallon jerry can weighs 44 pounds), she now spends learning how to farm with Farming God's Way, a sister ministry at *Heaven's Family* that teaches effective farming methods to subsistence farmers, as well as disciples them in the Lord (learn more on page 13).

Your compassionate gifts to the Safe Water Ministry in 2018 are the reason Fanny's life has changed.

The Safe Water Ministry also completed 14 other well projects, 4 cisterns, distributed water filters in 6 countries, and repaired 10 existing wells in 10 of the poorest countries in the world! What an act of love, bringing those who benefit to come to know Jesus, who is the “well” that will never run dry! Thank you so much.

# CRITICAL MEDICAL NEEDS



▲ Two young children who have received treatment thanks to you!

LAURA CROFT  
Director, Critical  
Medical Needs Ministry



Sitting ducks. That's what poor families sleeping unprotected in rural Malawi are to blood-thirsty mosquitos. And as they feast on their unsuspecting victims, many leave behind the malaria parasite—which often kills young children and pregnant mothers. It's a problem all over sub-Saharan Africa, and over 4 million cases were reported in Malawi alone last year. We didn't like that statistic, and we knew that Jesus didn't either.

The Critical Medical Needs Ministry typically helps save the lives of those who are already ill, but in 2018 we had the opportunity to administer “an ounce of prevention” by supplying many orphaned children with mosquito nets. Those were your nets—inexpensive life-protecting mesh that now helps more than 130 orphans sleep better. Here are two of their testimonies:

“Praise God! I am filled with great joy because you have rescued us from mosquito bites which we suffered every night. We thank God for leading you to come to us to help us. When we were told last month to go...receive nets, it was all like dream.” – Aubrey

“Every year, every one of us children, twice or thrice spend weeks in hospital due to malaria diseases...our bodies are full of rashes and sores. Thank God that now...we are enjoying the sleeping...without beating ourselves in trying to scare the mosquitoes. How wonderful that God has answered our prayers and rescued us! May God bless our donors as well.” – Yamikani

Medical emergencies are never planned and never pleasant. They are exponentially more terrifying and difficult when there is no access to medical care or ability to pay. The Critical Medical Needs Ministry is designed to lift the financial burden of urgent medical situations for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are in great need of healing so they can continue to bring God's light to their communities.

God has used YOU to provide the resources of joy, love and light to these kids, as well as many others. And it's no small thing. May He bless you as you have blessed others! Thank you for being a part of *Heaven's Family*, touching others through the Critical Medical Needs Ministry!





PETER WRAY  
Contributing Writer

▲ The spread of technology to developing nations has opened new doors for sharing the gospel

# BOOKS FOR DISCIPLESHIP

*Equipping men and women to equip others*

Imagine you're a pastor in rural Africa, but you've never been to Bible school or seminary. In fact, you've only got a sixth-grade education. You love God and long to teach your flock about how to understand and obey the Bible, but you feel hopelessly under-equipped for the task before you.

Thousands of preachers and teachers in developing countries around the world find themselves in similar situations.

David Servant, the founder and president of *Heaven's Family*, has ministered to Christian leaders in more than 40 countries for over two decades, teaching thousands of pastors how to equip their members to follow Jesus. He decided to compile those teachings into a 500-page training manual entitled *The Disciple-Making Minister*, tens of thousands of which have been distributed in several languages around the world.

The book has been called "a tuition-free Bible school in our hands," and widely valued by pastors as the most important book in their possession besides the Bible.

So in order to help even more pastors and teachers, many more translations—in 38 major languages as of 2018—have been made available, free of charge, on our website. Now anyone in the world can access the book if they can connect to the internet. One teacher in Pakistan, we've learned, discovered the Urdu translation of *The Disciple-Making Minister* while searching online for teaching materials for his Bible school students. He printed the entire book out (using about one ream of paper to do so!) and carries it with him.

Each translation was driven by the desire to equip ministers to disciple men and women so that they will in turn "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19), in response to David's foundational conviction that every Christian leader "should be making disciples who obey all of Christ's commandments."

You've made it possible for the Books for Discipleship Ministry to impact thousands of lives for eternity in 2018—thank you!



Widows and abandoned women trying to make a living selling in their former open, vulnerable marketplace

# WIDOWS AND ABANDONED Women

KRISTIN CRANDALL  
Contributing Writer



## A Stone of Help

Ebenezer, a name that, for many of us, brings to mind that cranky, selfish protagonist in *A Christmas Carol*—but few know its true meaning.

In 2018 you indeed brought to life the meaning of the Hebrew name Ebenezer—"stone of help."

Barlonyo, Uganda is a village in northern Uganda where many internally displaced people live as a result of a violent insurgency. The Ugandan government blamed a rogue militant group for the massacre of over 200 civilians at an IDP camp in Barlonyo on February 21, 2004.

Victoria Namusisi, a beloved Widows & Abandoned Women Ministry partner, ministers to the widows and abandoned mothers in Barlonyo, as violence and theft often plague these incredibly strong women for merely trying to provide for themselves and their children.

The Lord placed an incredible idea on Victoria's heart—create a covered marketplace where the women of Barlonyo could sell their produce and goods, out of the elements and away from thieves and thugs. At the beginning of last year Victoria told us the project was already underway, and she was hoping *Heaven's Family* could fund the second and third phases. It was to be called the "Ebenezer Women's Marketplace," a reference to the name Samuel gave the stone that he set up in commemoration of God's help

against the Philistines (1 Sam. 7:12). This solid ground would serve to remind the women in Barlonyo of the Lord's victory over sorrow in their lives.

We are thrilled to inform you that the first and second pavilions for the Ebenezer Women's Marketplace in Uganda are complete, along with a latrine; and the the third expansion is underway. Hallelujah! Although there is still much work to be done elsewhere, You have blessed a large group of women in a small village of Uganda with cement floors to stand on, a roof to keep them dry, and individual lockers to keep the money they make safe from thieves.

Your support of this ministry is supporting thousands of widows and abandoned women—mothers and young girls—who can now be strong in their faith and stand firm upon "the stone of help" in times of trouble—Jesus Christ!



Victoria standing before the nearly completed pit latrines



*"Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mark 10:14)*



Daniel Maketh



Dau Deng



Joy Nyalong James

# REFUGEES

*Giving them hope*

Can war and suffering ever become so routine you can't think of any other existence? Such was the case for those living in the crossfire of Sudan's 30-year civil war—especially for those born during that time. Hopes for peace were continually smothered by blood as violence crisscrossed the arid Central African landscape for decades.

But in 2018, you helped the Refugee Ministry intervene in the lives of orphaned Sudanese kids, giving them hope—some for the first time. Now, they have a brighter future through a loving Christian education you've provided.

One of them is Daniel Maketh. He was only 5 years old when his family was brutally murdered. (Sadly, he cannot remember anything about them.) A neighbor found Daniel, and brought him to the safety of a refugee camp.

Another is Dau Deng, who's family was also killed in the civil war. He was taken in by a compassionate relative who already had several orphans living with him.

And Joy Nyalong James, along with her two sisters, were tak-

en to a refugee camp in Ethiopia after their family was murdered in the war. A Christian minister rescued them from the refugee camp and brought them to a safe place in Kenya.

These are just three stories of lives you touched in 2018. Through your support, all 5 are now safe and are receiving a loving Christian education. Their futures look bright!

The Refugee Ministry was also active in the DR Congo last year, where we worked with displaced women with the goal of starting self-sustainable businesses. We are providing food parcels for internally displaced people in Syria via a church that uses food gifts to open doors to sharing the gospel.

Many lives are being changed by Jesus—all because you care. Thank you for giving and praying. Our Lord is doing marvelous things!

**BECKY SERVANT**  
Director, Refugee Ministry



# UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

*Ponba's Problem*



**TODD MATTHEWS**  
Director, Unreached  
People Groups Ministry



▲ Sister Ponba and the mysterious device she wears in her hat

What's that in Ponba's hat? No, it's not the latest iPhone-holder-as-fashion-statement. It's an MP3 player, and it speaks to her every day, no matter what she's doing.

Ponba carries it faithfully because she has a problem. Like millions of others who belong to unreached people groups living in hard-to-reach villages scattered about the mountains of a restricted access nation in Asia, Ponba is illiterate. So when she became one of the first to come to Christ among her tribe, she had no way to read God's Word—even if a translation of it existed in printed form. Growing in her new relationship with Jesus was going to be a real challenge.

Thankfully, some portions of the Bible had been recently recorded in her native language—just what Ponba (and other new believers in her tribe) needed—and then those audio files were distributed on simple, cost-effective solar MP3 players. That way illiterate believers could hear the word of God as they went about their daily life, transforming their minds more and more into the image of Christ.

So now Ponba's problem has been solved—and her MP3

player has become her constant companion. Can any brother or sister in Christ now wonder why there's so much joy on her face? Ponba's transformed life has resulted in her family members also coming to Jesus, and together they are a shining light to others in their tribe who do not yet know Him. And as some of those members of her tribe give their lives to Christ, they also receive audio Bibles to help equip them to reach still others.

Ponba is a "poster child" for what is happening amongst the tribes where the Unreached People Groups Ministry is working. And you are a part of this team. This past year, in another tribe, you helped us produce the first-ever gospel video in an unreached people group's native language! This tool is now being used to evangelize those who have never heard the name of Jesus.

The Unreached People Groups Ministry of *Heaven's Family* is all about reaching tribes that have never heard of Jesus. Our goal is to raise disciples who are obedient to share the gospel with their neighbors and their tribes—disciples making disciples. Because of you, we were equipped to work more effectively in 2018 than ever before to deliver the stories of the Bible in native tongues. Thank you!





PETER WRAY  
Contributing Writer



# STRATEGIC BIBLES

## *A year of praise*

**W**ould you smuggle Bibles into a closed nation if you knew you might face imprisonment—even torture—if you were caught?

We hear stories of those who take such risks, and stories of some who pay the ultimate price for their efforts to bring God's Word to those who don't have access to it in any other way. In 2018 we also heard stories of smugglers who evaded capture with the help of the Lord's angels who provided critical transportation out of the country.

God has not called you or I to make such a sacrifice—at least not yet. But I'm thankful you answered the call to help those who do lay their lives on the line for such a great purpose. They couldn't do it without you. They would have nothing to carry if you didn't purchase their precious cargo with your gifts to the Strategic Bibles Ministry. Here's one testimony of how you impacted the life of a woman who received a Bible:

"I am Miss Khin Mar Htwe...I was a very strong Muslim. I was

always against other religions, especially Christians...." But one day a friend gave her a Bible, and out of desperation because of a chronic illness that kept her bedridden, she began to read it. She read about how Jesus healed people, so she challenged Him saying, "Jesus, if You are the real God and if You are able to heal my paralysis like You healed the woman in the Bible, then I will believe You and accept You as my God."

She was healed the next day. Miss Khin told us that because of her changed life she "decided to share and testify about Jesus until the end of my life. I have received more copies of this precious and greatest of books, the Bible, and so far I have distributed it to over 200 people among the Muslims and Buddhists. Thanks to you all who help to provide this book."

Together in 2018 we provided precious Bibles to persecuted believers in Tibet, China, Iran, Myanmar and other countries that cannot be mentioned due to the severity of persecution there. Thank you so much for changing lives in some of the world's darkest places!



▲ Muryati (at right) and her husband, Suparta, holding one of their hens

STEVE JOHNSTON  
Regional Director,  
Microloan Ministry



# MICROLOAN MINISTRY

**M**uryati is a new believer and a Microloan Ministry borrower from Indonesia. Brought up in a socio-religious caste system, Muryati once allowed others to define her role in life. But when she met and gave her life to Jesus, Muryati's outlook immediately changed, bringing her much freedom as she's come to understand her identity in Him.

The Microloan Ministry came alongside Muryati to help her and her husband become economically self-sustaining, through a loan that's used to raise poultry and fowl, as well as help her to grow spiritually through discipleship training with 5 other borrowers in her community.

The discipleship takes place in a God's Love Group, where she and her fellow borrowers meet together to study

## "Truly Transforming"

scripture, pray, and to encourage one another in both their small businesses and spiritual lives. "Truly transforming," is how Muryati has described her God's Love Group.

As she grows, Muryati is discovering her true worth. And that means realizing God has given her the responsibility and privilege as a follower of Christ to minister to the needs of others—work that's not just for the "trained professionals!" The Microloan Ministry isn't just about economic transformation, but spiritual transformation as well.

When believers are growing in their relationship with Jesus and learning to find their place in the body of Christ, it is not only the individual who benefits but the whole body is edified as well—and that includes you!



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