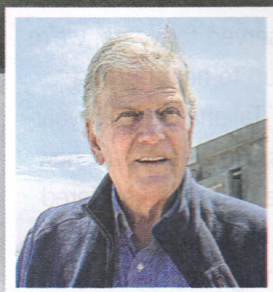




STORMY TIMES

RESPONDING TO AN UNPRECEDENTED HURRICANE



DEAR FRIEND,

Hurricane Beryl has ripped across the Caribbean, devastating several islands before slashing across the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico and plowing into Texas. Beryl was the earliest Category 5 hurricane ever seen in the Atlantic Ocean. On Union Island, home to 3,000 people, the hurricane wiped out 90 percent of the houses.

Samaritan's Purse has flown four airlifts with our DC-8 cargo jet to deliver emergency relief to four islands spanning three countries. We set up an Emergency Field Hospital on Carriacou, an island of 10,000 people that is part of the nation of Grenada; are sending a mobile medical team to Union Island in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and distributed tarps and emergency kits to Jamaica and Petite Martinique.

Beryl tore the roof off of Carriacou's only hospital, so our field hospital is the only facility offering inpatient care and lab work on the island. Our first patient was a man named Vincent whose home was destroyed, and he needed treatment for diabetes. His wife Yamaira said, "We thank you very much for coming and rescuing Carriacou. May God bless everyone."

Please join us in praying for storm victims across the Caribbean.

Beryl was a Category 1 hurricane when it made landfall in a flood-prone section of Texas. Samaritan's Purse deployed a U.S. Disaster Relief unit to Angleton, Texas, south of Houston in an area where we have a long history of ministry.



Calling for Volunteer Reinforcements on the Homefront

This has been a busy storm season for Samaritan's Purse, as we've responded 19 times to 12 states in response to tornadoes, flooding, and wildfires from the Southwest and the Great Plains to the Florida Panhandle. There are hundreds of families in Florida, Arkansas, New Mexico, Iowa, and Minnesota who still need our help.

We're thankful to God for providing resources for us to be able to respond in many of these places by sending our disaster relief units stocked with tools along with other equipment. We've had to expand our fleet of disaster relief trucks in an effort to keep up with the needs.

An army of volunteers whose hearts are sold out for the Gospel make this ministry possible. Those who serve with us often say it's a blessing to them, and everywhere they go they see the Lord at work changing lives. Over the past 10 years, close to 7,000 souls across America have trusted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior through our disaster relief ministry. Praise God!

As busy as our U.S. disaster relief volunteers have been, we need reinforcements. Many of our volunteers have already responded four or five times this year.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life. Tommy Smith is a retired logger from Virginia who has been volunteering with Samaritan's Purse for 19 years—even

continuing to serve after a cancer diagnosis. Last year, he was among the first on the scene after a tornado hit Selma, Alabama, and he was part of a hard-working crew that made it possible for Annie Pearl Avery to return to her home after spending a night in her pickup truck.

Annie told our volunteers how she had participated in the 1965 civil rights march that made Selma famous. As Tommy presented her with a Bible signed by the volunteers, he explained that the team was also on a mission: "Everything we do is only to glorify Jesus," he said.

In addition to those faithful volunteers who have served for years, we're also thankful to see a new generation willing to step up to help hurting people for the sake of the Gospel. After a tornado hit Tallahassee, 16-year-old Caleb and his mother served distressed residents. He clearly saw how

helping others can soften hearts to the Good News. He was particularly moved by a man whose home had suffered extensive damage even as he was dealing with a chronic health condition and the death of one of his sons. Caleb said, "The homeowner just kept repeating over and over again that nobody had ever done anything like this for him. When we gave him the Bible at the end of the day, he had tears in his eyes." Caleb challenged other young people to get involved: "The world is not in a good place, but you can be a light for Christ. Serve. Share the Gospel. It may seem hard, but you have been given a gift from God. He wants you to share it."

We thank God for the many Samaritan's Purse volunteers who give of their time and talents to help the hurting and share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you prayerfully consider serving with us? If the Lord is calling you, your family, or your church to help, scan the code below to see where you might be able to serve.

Like the Good Samaritan who saw a need and then acted out of love for his neighbor, you too can be used by God. As our Lord Jesus Christ concluded that parable: Let's "go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37). May God bless you.



BRINGING HOPE: Tommy Smith presents a Bible to Alabama tornado survivor Annie Pearl Avery.

**“The world is not
in a good place,
but you can be a
light for Christ.”**

—CALEB, 16

Sincerely,



Franklin Graham



CAN YOU GIVE US A HAND?

SCAN THIS CODE to explore possibilities for volunteering with Samaritan's Purse through U.S. Disaster Relief, Operation Christmas Child, or World Medical Mission



**A message from
Majors Debra and
Steven Ashcraft**

Divisional Leaders

Our hearts are overwhelmed by the number of lives you are helping transform and all the futures you're brightening.

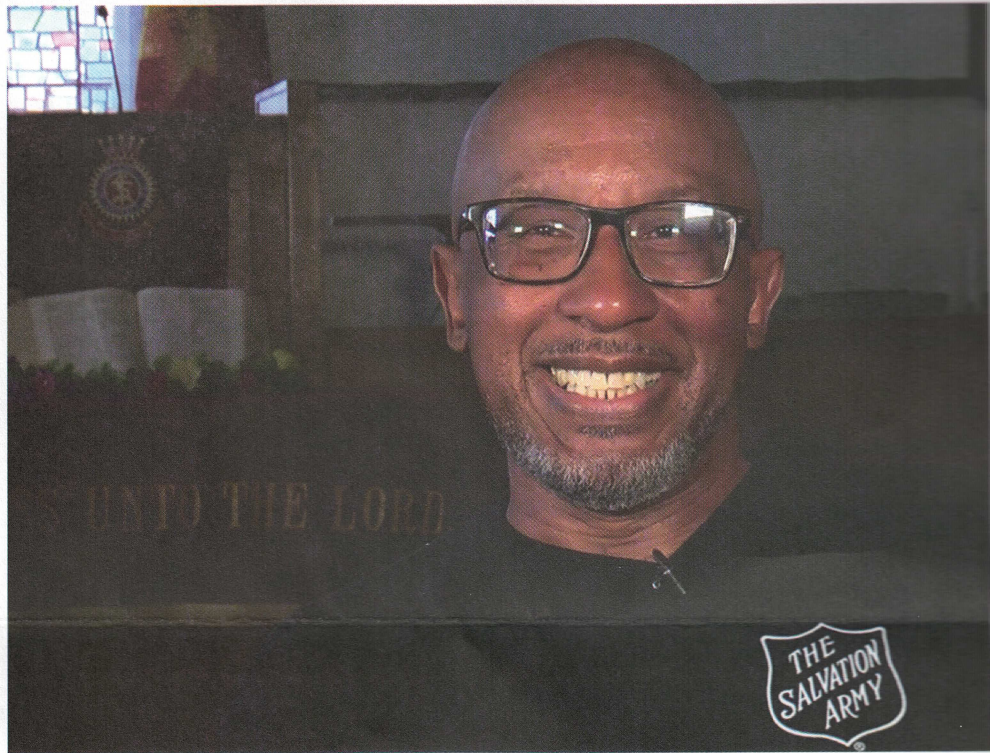
When a loving mother skips meals to ensure her children are fed, you step in with nourishing food. When anxious parents are confronted with the agonizing choice between keeping a roof overhead or paying for essential medicine for their sick child, your help becomes their lifeline.

For young children growing up in challenging circumstances, your support offers them guidance and a profound sense of love, helping them stay on the path toward a better life.

Your faith and boundless generosity are powerful reminders that, no matter how challenging things may get, their lives can indeed improve. Thank you for your compassion and care.

All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

— John 6:37 (NIV)



You gave Robert a roof over his head when he needed it most. Later, he helped others at the same shelter.

Robert's life has come full circle

You helped Robert. Then he helped others.

Robert came to The Salvation Army in 1996 seeking a fresh start.

He had recently completed a drug treatment program and was living with his sister. But when he gained custody of his 10-year-old daughter, his sister suggested The Salvation Army might be able to help him find housing.

Initially, Robert was reluctant to ask for assistance. But he knew his daughter needed a stable environment, so for her sake, he came to our shelter. The two of them spent 90 days here and received support to obtain their own apartment.

"Everybody needs help sometimes," says Robert. "The beautiful thing about this place is that you walk in

here with nothing, and you come out with something."

But his story doesn't end there.

Robert recently celebrated 28 years of sobriety. After serving as a firefighter for many years, he retired and became the head cook at the same shelter where he and his daughter once found refuge. He's grateful he could provide nutritious meals to others who needed a helping hand.

"It's about giving back. I love to be able to provide the service because somebody provided it for me," says Robert.

You make heartwarming stories like this possible. Thank you.



LOVE BEYOND NEED

You transformed Serenity's life

At Camp CONNRI, children discover a whole new world

When Serenity first went to The Salvation Army's Camp CONNRI around age 10, she never imagined it could change her life.

It began as soon as she met the staff. "They welcomed you and made you feel safe," says Serenity. "It was nice to have that feeling, especially if it's your first time away from your parents. I was able to meet new people and make friends."

Your generosity helps boys and girls like her open their eyes to a world they've never seen before. "A lot of children come from the inner city, so they don't have the opportunity to be in the open air most of the day," says Captain Jina Bang, Divisional Youth Secretary. "We get them away from cell phones, video games, and just really spend time out here in nature."

Campers can develop new skills and discover their talents. "I loved swimming and arts and crafts," says Serenity. Other activities include rock-wall climbing, soccer, archery, Bible study, nature activities, and more.

Children also learn – some for the very first time – that God loves them.

Serenity says, "Camp definitely impacted my life with Jesus Theater," which shares the gospel story using both Christian and popular music. "I was bawling

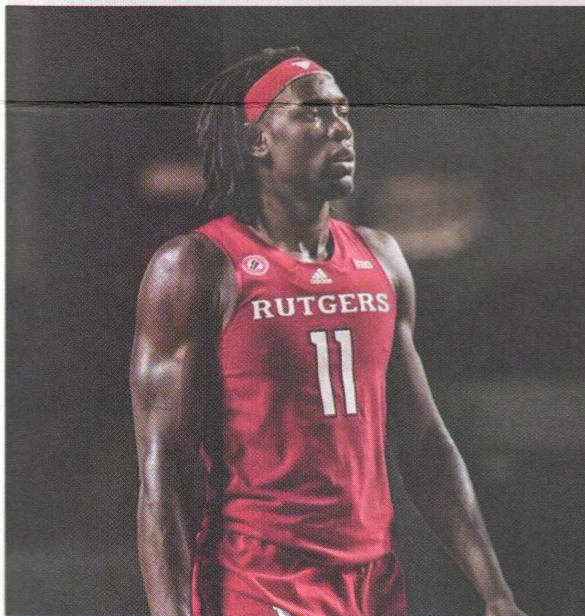


Your generosity enables campers to enjoy friendship, faith, and nature.

my eyes out. When you leave this place, you have a new perspective on the church, so you might take what you learned and apply it to your life and change it for the better."

Thank you for touching the lives of so many children like Serenity.

Finding community and salvation, thanks to you



It was a culture shock when 14-year-old Clifford arrived here from Nigeria. Soon, however, he connected with The Salvation Army through a basketball program.

There, Clifford found a supportive community that enabled him to train for a potential professional basketball career, strengthen his relationship with God, and help other kids in the after-school program.

Today, Clifford plays college basketball and is set to graduate with an engineering degree. He hopes to join the NBA following his collegiate career.

"What I appreciate most is The Salvation Army accepted a kid they didn't know into their program and allowed him access to their gym, receive free lunch, and meet new people who became my friends," Clifford says.

Thank you for helping people like Clifford succeed through your gifts to The Salvation Army.

jubilee

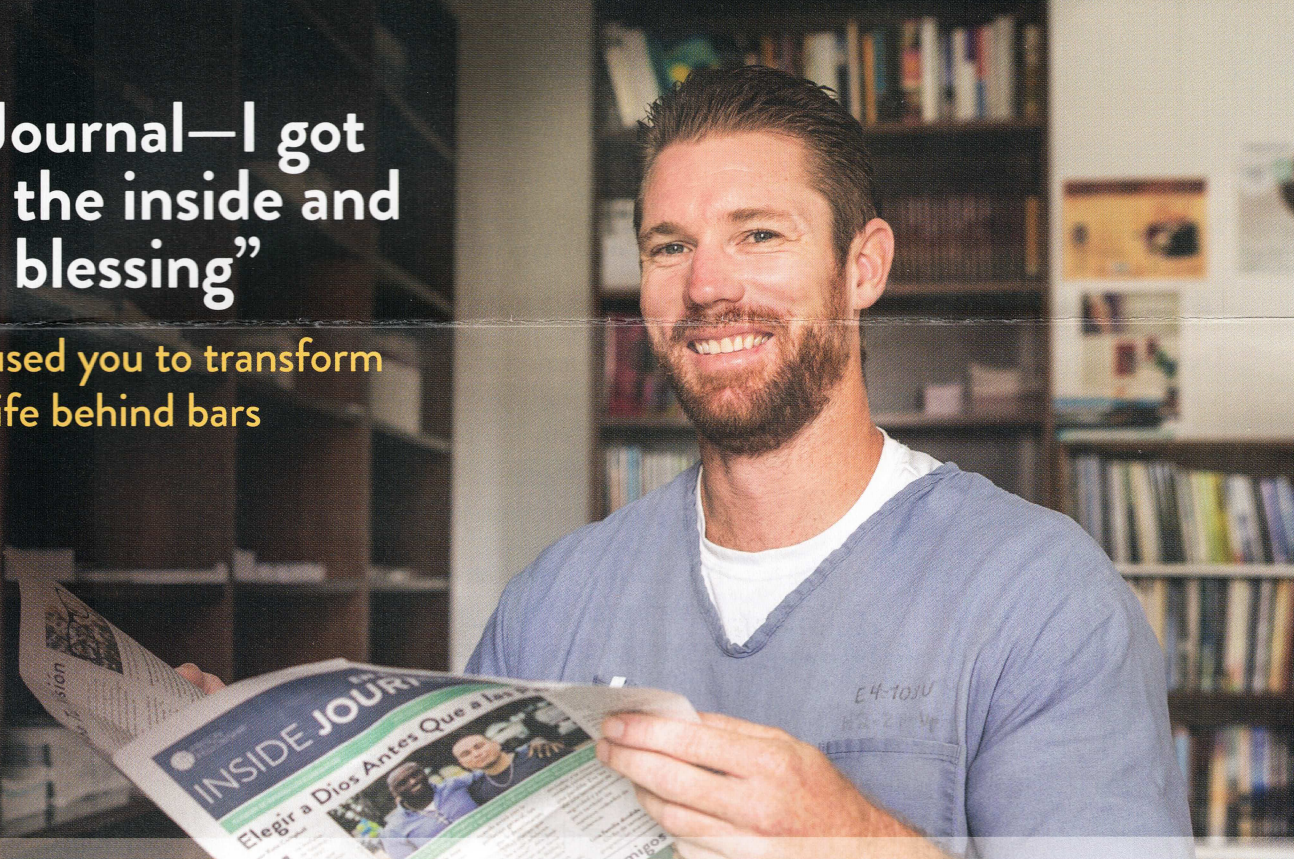
PRISON FELLOWSHIP®



Inside Journal Special Edition

“Inside Journal—I got that on the inside and it was a blessing”

How God used you to transform one man’s life behind bars



INSIDE

- pg 2** One Unique Way You Reach Behind Bars
- pg 3** Here’s How You Can Pray for Prisoners
- pg 4** Reach Prisoners Who Are Hungry for Hope With the Good News!

“When I was very young, my mom got ill,” Toby says. He was only 7 years old when she died. Having been very close with his mom, he says, **“It left me with a sense of abandonment.”**

Toby didn’t learn any healthy coping skills and instead turned to marijuana at a young age.

He spent the next 20 years taking a variety of drugs to numb his pain. Toby was also dealing drugs to make money. He was 28 the first time he was sent to prison and served three years.

Between prison sentences, Toby met the woman who is now his wife. She had also served time in prison and struggled with drugs.

“HE’S THE DIFFERENCE”

When Toby went behind bars a second time, he met a man who led a Bible study at the jail. As Toby started asking him questions, he discovered their stories were very similar.

“But there was a difference. He was happy and joyful, and I was miserable. And I’m like, ‘What’s the difference?’ And he’s like, ‘Listen, I got Jesus. He’s the difference,” Toby says. **“So I went to my jail cell that night and I prayed.**





ONE UNIQUE WAY YOU REACH BEHIND BARS

By Heather Rice-Minus, President and CEO, Prison Fellowship

Prison Fellowship's founder, Chuck Colson, called *Inside Journal* "God's paratrooper behind prison walls"—because it has the ability to reach prisoners with the hope of the Gospel like nothing else can.

Inside Journal addresses the struggles of prison life and equips prisoners with tools to serve their time well and prepare for release. Each issue features a transformation story of a former prisoner plus access to free resources such as Bible studies and devotionals.

First published in 1990, *Inside Journal* is available in English and Spanish. In 2017, Prison Fellowship started publishing a special edition just for women. Last year—thanks to you—more than 1 million copies were distributed to men and women behind bars.

Prisoners who wouldn't pick up a Bible WILL read *Inside Journal*. Its positive message can touch even the hardest of hearts. When you give today, you are helping to provide the *Inside Journal* and transforming lives with God's love!

"Inside Journal—I got that on the inside . . ." | Continued from page 1

I gave my life to God.”

That man who led the Bible study became Toby's sponsor in Celebrate Recovery, a biblically based addiction recovery program.

There have been some ups and downs over the past eight years, including a few more years in prison when past crimes caught up with Toby. But during his last prison sentence, he learned about Prison Fellowship.

Toby was given an issue of *Inside Journal*, Prison Fellowship's publication just for prisoners.

AMAZING IMPACT

He used *Inside Journal* to grow in his faith and says, "I thought it was just an amazing way that even though we're behind bars, we're getting connected through a ministry that cares enough to love us and reach

out with God's love.”

Toby also learned about Angel Tree Christmas and signed up his three daughters. He was grateful because he knew it would be hard for his wife to provide much on just her income.

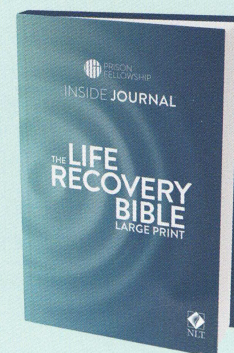
Now, Toby serves as an Angel Tree coordinator at his church. The impact of the ministry really stuck with him. He says, "My daughters were lacking a father figure, but a hint of the Father's love was shown to them through the Angel Tree ministry, and words can't describe that.”

Toby also leads Celebrate Recovery with his wife at their church. He is thankful to be giving back by helping others in their recovery journey.

Thank you for reaching people like Toby through your support!

HERE ARE THE BIBLES YOU HELP PROVIDE FOR PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

One of the ways you reach people whose lives have been shattered by crime is through God's Word. Your support makes it possible to reach both prisoners and their families with Bibles designed to minister to their specific needs—whether they are behind bars or outside prison walls and struggling to move forward while their loved one is incarcerated.



Inside Journal Life Recovery Bible

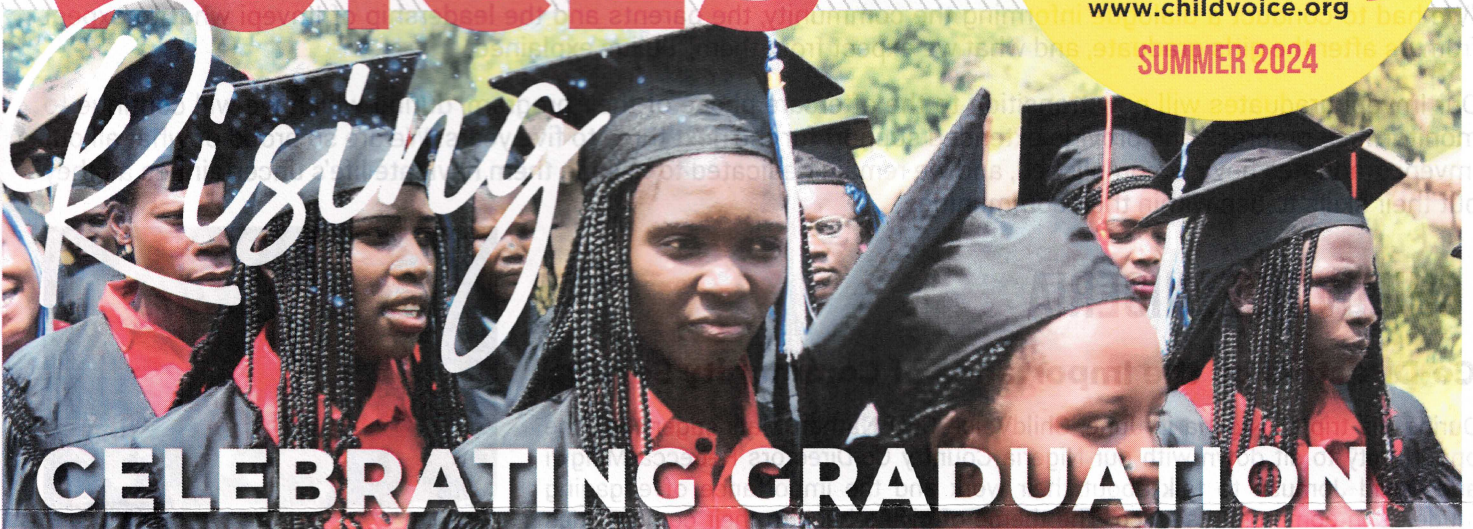
This large-print, New Living Translation Bible is a unique tool that brings "Twelve Step" recovery back to its original source—God's Word.

VOICES

ChildVoice

www.childvoice.org

SUMMER 2024



CELEBRATING GRADUATION

AT IMVEPI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

MARKING A MILESTONE for our six-year-old Girl Empowerment Centers in Imvepi Refugee Settlement, 46 remarkable students of Imvepi Class 6 celebrated the completion of their programs with a joyful and festive graduation ceremony. The ceremony was attended by over 800 people, including local community members and leaders, nonprofit partners, and dignitaries from the Office of Prime Minister.

One of the key speakers was Desire Jocelyn, a graduate who also attends a local school and is at the top of her school's class. She talked about how she was able to earn and save enough money to buy her own sewing machine, which she uses to make uniforms to sell to her school. Another speaker, Mary, is a former ChildVoice student now in the aftercare phase of her program. She gave an inspirational speech in which she discussed how ChildVoice found her, what she learned through ChildVoice, what she did after graduating, and who she is today.

46 STUDENTS OF IMVEPI CLASS 6 CELEBRATED A JOYFUL GRADUATION

The graduates all received graduation certificates during the ceremony. These reflected the vocational areas of hair dressing and tailoring. Following the presentation of the certificates, graduates and those in attendance enjoyed a time of music, dancing and smorgasbord of delicious foods.

Imvepi Program Manager Julius Owori added that while not reflected on their certificates, students also pursued bar soap making and agriculture. "We are trying to see how to introduce agriculture as an independent skill," he added.

Prior to the day of the graduation ceremony, Julius and other ChildVoice staff members conducted community pre-release discussions at all four of our Girl Empowerment Centers.

(continued >>)



LUKOME CENTER CLASS 16:

Takes Vocational Exams

Last week, Class 16 students at the Lukome Center in Uganda sat for their Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) examinations. The students tested in hairdressing, tailoring, and bakery/catering. Students who pass the DIT demonstrate they possess the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in a specific vocational field.

Upon passing their exams, they are awarded professional certifications that will help them in securing good employment or establishing their own small businesses. Please join us in wishing them success as they prepare to receive their certifications!

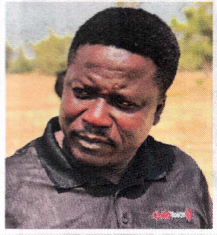
"We had to conduct a dialogue informing the community, the parents and the leadership of Imvepi what to expect from us after the girls graduate, and what we expect from them," Julius explained.

Our Imvepi graduates will now transition to the aftercare phase of their program, during which we will continue to monitor their progress and provide extended support for the next three to five years. We are so proud of what all our Imvepi graduates have accomplished, and we remain dedicated to helping them navigate life's uncertainties as they put their skills to use within their communities.

CHILDVOICE: NIGERIA

Co-Directors on the Importance of Community Service

During his trip to Nigeria in June, ChildVoice CEO Nathan Mandsager took the opportunity to sit down with our Nigeria Country Co-Directors Rebecca Malgwi and David Jomusu to talk about their work and the importance of engaging students in community service. The theme of giving back to their communities figured heavily in the conversation. Below is a transcript of the interview:



David: My name is David Jomusu, one of the co-country heads here in Nigeria. I believe community service has [been helping] communities try to work with us. And the beneficiaries we are working with are able to understand we are . . . teaching them that at the end of our activities with them, maybe after graduation, it is expected of them to give back to the community.



Becky: Hi, I'm Rebecca. I'm also his co-leader, one of the country heads in Nigeria. To add to what he has said, I think community service is a way of teaching our girls and boys selflessness, you know, to be able to help others in need, and to be able to think about others apart from yourself.

To watch a video of the interview and read the full transcript, go to <https://bit.ly/3LmUKni>

Thank you for all you do in support of our mission!

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, 'Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you'—when you already have it with you." —Proverbs 3: 27-28



A CHILDVOICE BOARD MEMBER REFLECTS ON OUR PROGRAMS in Nigeria

In June, ChildVoice CEO Nathan Mandsager visited our Nigeria operations at three sites in the northeast of the country: Malkohi Internally Displaced Persons Camp near Yola; the Gella offices and training center near Mubi; and the new Labondo relocation community near Jimeta. He was joined by one of our new board members, Reuben Sheneeni, a native Nigerian. Reuben took time to reflect on and write about his journey and the work he witnessed. He writes:

"I commend the ChildVoice founders and staff for thinking through and creating a practical and effective model that reaches to the heart of displaced people, especially in Nigeria."

To read Reuben's complete essay, go to <https://bit.ly/3S4idgT>

childvoice.org



FCCP Administrative Assistant

From: Prison Fellowship <prison_fellowship@email.prisonfellowship.org>
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2024 11:09 AM
To: FCCP Administrative Assistant
Subject: From Wild Child to Recovery Specialist



From Wild Child to Recovery Specialist



“Some places try to cut you off from talking about God, but when I’m just being asked to share my story of recovery and what saved my life, I get to share about God.”

—Kassie

She cycled in and out of jails, each time paying bail for her release. Between her arrests, Kassie participated in many different treatment programs, but nothing made a difference. With each return to the streets, Kassie's criminal activity increased. Eventually, she was convicted and given a 21-month sentence with no option for bail.



Kassie decided to use the time wisely, knowing it was a chance for her to sober up, get away from bad influences, and reflect. She wanted to participate in programming, and after searching for and applying to a few different programs, she was accepted to the Prison Fellowship Academy®.

It was during this time that Kassie regained contact with her children. She used their visits and phone calls to share the lessons she was learning in the Academy, hoping her children might make better choices than she had.

Kassie now works at a recovery house as a recovery specialist, where she is able to share her testimony with others struggling in addiction. Many times, Christians are told to avoid talking about their faith while in this role—but because Kassie's journey to recovery was directly linked to the Academy, Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge, and her faith, she is granted permission to share.

EXPLORE KASSIE'S TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY

TRANSFORM TWICE AS MANY LIVES

From: Caring Families <news@carefamilies.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 1:35 PM
To: FCCP Administrative Assistant
Subject:  Caring Families Summer Newsletter 

[View this email in your browser](#)



It's July already.....

July 1st marks the start of our fiscal calendar. As we look forward to the upcoming 2024/25 year, we can't help but be thankful for all the blessings we have been a conduit for our clients to receive. We couldn't have done what we had without the support and prayers of our Caring Family (that's you)!

One of the many things we are excited about is seeing our Mobile Unit return to many different cities again! In addition to Waterbury, we are also traveling to Cheshire, New Haven and Manchester! We will also be returning to UCONN this fall and are looking for a location in Hartford.

Caring Families is also receiving a **brand new** Ultrasound Machine for our Mobile Care Van, provided through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus! We should have that up and running by the end of July!

Take a few minutes and get caught up on some of the other exciting things happening.



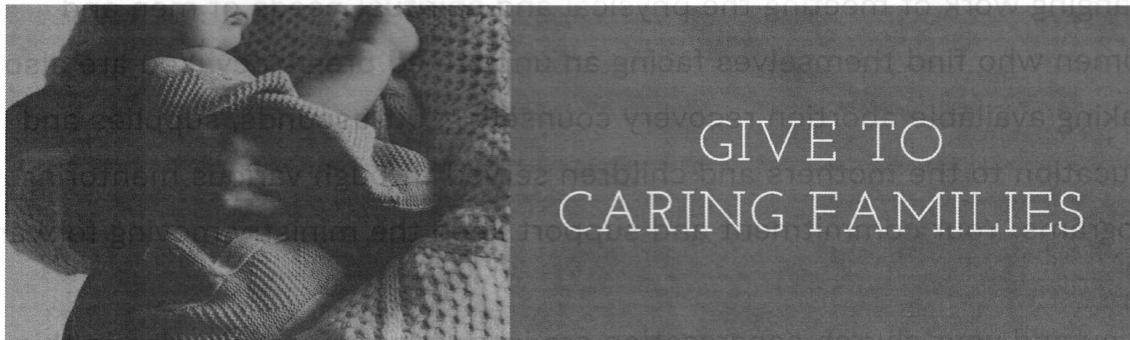
Meet Sarah and Justin:

Sarah and her fiancé Justin came into the center this month for a pregnancy test and ultrasound. They had been trying to get pregnant for some time, and had experienced a handful of miscarriages prior to this pregnancy. Thankfully, we were able to see a viable pregnancy via ultrasound, and were able to speak with Sarah and Justin about our options for parenting support.

Sarah commented many times how the staff were so nice and supportive, and that our care and attention meant a great deal to her. As she had experienced so many miscarriages prior to this one, we offered to pray with her and Justin for a healthy pregnancy and safe delivery. Sarah teared up as we prayed for the health of her baby and for God's peace for her heart, and stated that while she is an agnostic, she has lately become interested in religion and would be interested in knowing more in the future.

Sarah and Justin are set up to continue coming to our center for parenting education and material assistance, and we look forward to the continued opportunity to speak into their lives and show them God's love. Our time with Sarah and Justin served as a reminder that God directs each and every client to our doors for a reason, even those who are not abortion vulnerable.

We are expecting to hear good things of how God is working in Sarah and Justin over the next few months!



Give to Caring Families

As we are making plans and putting budgets together for our next year of life-affirming ministry in the state of Connecticut, would you consider making a donation to help us reach our giving goal? Your generous gift will ensure we can continue reaching the woman in Connecticut faced with a pregnancy decision and offer them the life-affirming help they cannot find anywhere else! There's nothing we have accomplished or can accomplish without God and the generosity of His people.

Give to Caring Families



Still time to join! Baby Bottle Drive

Our Annual Bottle Campaign is running NOW through Labor Day, September 2nd.* Money raised in our Baby Bottle Campaign will support the life-changing work of meeting the physical and spiritual needs of men and women who find themselves facing an unplanned pregnancy. You are also making available abortion recovery counseling, ultrasounds, supplies and education to the mothers and children served through various mentoring programs. Your commitment and support keep the ministry moving forward.

If you and your church congregation are interested in participating in this year's Bottle Drive please click the button below! Any questions, please email events@carefamilies.com

**Some churches run their campaigns from Mother's Day to Father's Day*

Sign Up to Participate in this year's campaign!

Church Promotional Materials



Join us in Prayer for the following:

- For our Developmental Director and our Board of Directors as we seek to increase the number of supporting ministries and donors.

- For additional people to join our Board of Directors.
- For people to join our Advisory Board and assist in supporting the work of this ministry.
- For a APRN / Nurse RN to join our staff.



Copyright (C) 2024 Caring Families Pregnancy Services. All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you have shown an interest in Caring Families Pregnancy Services. You can [unsubscribe](#) from our messages but why would you want to miss out on the important life-affirming work that we are doing in the lives of women and their families throughout the state.



Julia Budd in the Czech Republic

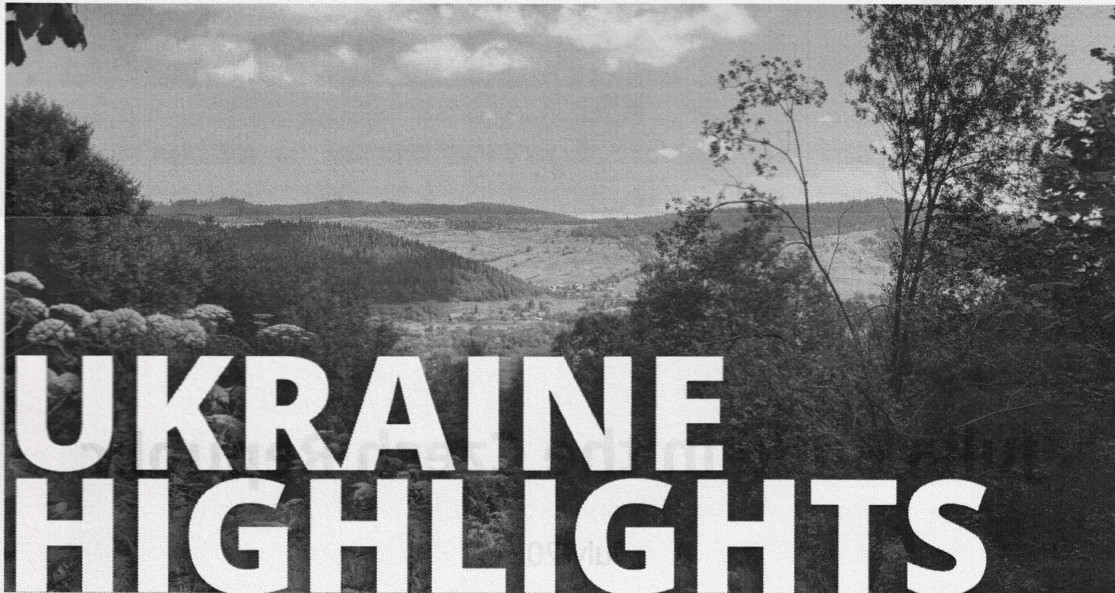
July 2024



God is working in Ukraine & around Europe!

Hello Deborah!

I'm back from Ukraine and I wish I could share all of these highlights and stories over a cup of delicious Ukrainian coffee and a bar of Lviv chocolate, but this longer newsletter with lots of pictures will have to do for now.



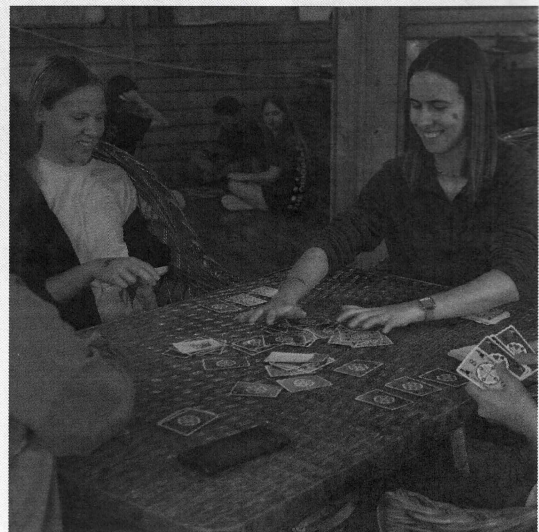
A week of camp & more!

With the Local Church

Every camp is organized and hosted by a local church in partnership with Josiah Venture. At this camp, Philadelphia Church in Ternopil invited four Josiah Venture Interns, a former intern/ future JV missionary Hayley Arnold, and me to join them. 33 campers joined us and we had an awesome week!



Every afternoon a leader from the local church hosted workshops based around painting, sports, games, or a very specific hobby like linocut block printing or brewing specialty coffee. Some leaders and students were already making plans for how to continue connecting over these hobbies after camp!



English Class

After getting to revamp our JV English curriculum this winter I got the chance

to actually use it with this group of advanced students at camp! Every morning we worked on ways to level up their English through pronunciation, some grammar, new vocabulary, and lots of fun. I was thankful for the ways I could connect with the students, especially **Ann and Dasha** (Dasha and I are holding up Ann in our class picture below). Dasha, a believer, is currently living in Northern Ireland because of the war so her English was amazing and she was a great help in the class. She quickly became friends with Ann who was a bit shy to use her English but by the end of the week she was far more confident!



English Class

After getting to camp, our JV English teacher in this winter I got the chance



Labyrinth

The Labyrinth is an interactive time of reflection for students to think more deeply and personally about what they have been learning about Jesus and the Gospel. I love it because instead of just asking students to think about what their dreams are there is a station with prompts, pens, and pictures for them to write out their dreams. But the next station helps them confront the possibility that their dreams may not happen because of things they have done and things done to them. And is life about fulfilling our dreams?



At another station, students are invited to try tasty-looking snacks (looking being the key word) labeled with things we use to try and fix our problems like "family," "more effort," "religion," and "self-development." As they try the foods they realize they actually don't taste very good (because they've been sprinkled with a variety of odd spices.) It isn't that these things are bad, but they do not satisfy like Jesus does as the bread of life. Conveniently there is some delicious bread at this station too (with no weird spices.)

Additional stations walk students through the gospel more clearly and offer the opportunity to pray with a leader. Praise God several students chose to spend time in the prayer room and some prayed prayers of repentance and belief!



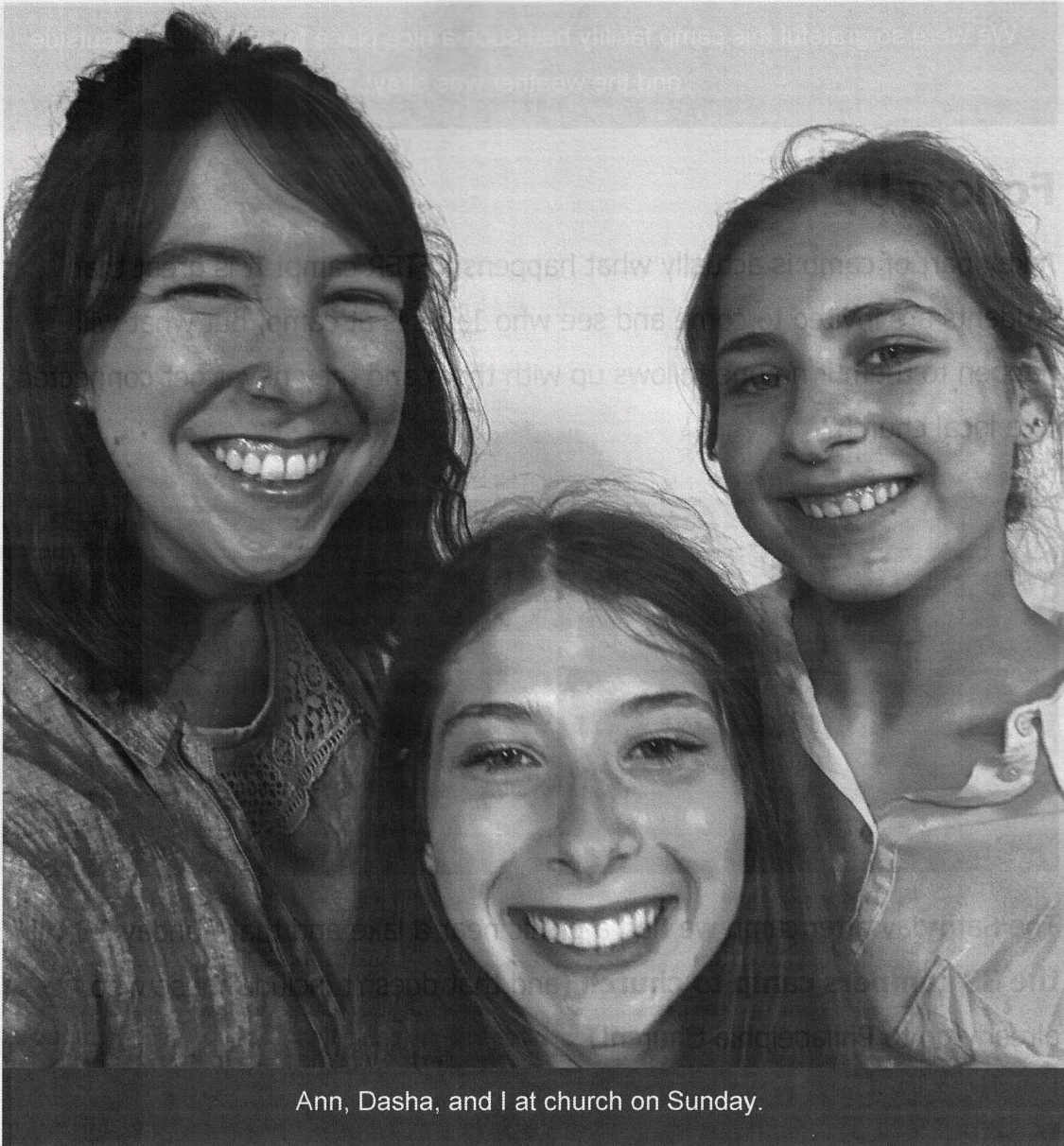
We were so grateful this camp facility had such a nice place for our labyrinth outside and the weather was okay!

Follow Up

A key part of camp is actually what happens AFTER camp! It is great that students are invited to come and see who Jesus is at camp, but what will happen to them if no one follows up with them and they never get connected to a local church?



The Saturday after camp we had a picnic near a lake and that Sunday **20 of the 33 campers camp to church** (and that doesn't include those who already go to Philadelphia Church!)



Ann, Dasha, and I at church on Sunday.

Realities of the War

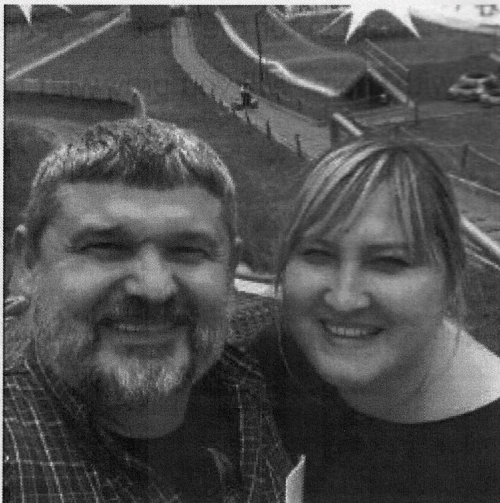
Our week of camp was great, but the realities of war are still everywhere. A schedule of rolling blackouts means the power is only on 1/3-1/2 of the time. Red and black flags everywhere memorialize those who have died in the war. Male leaders especially feel the pressure of mobilization. Several campers and leaders had come from harder-hit cities in the east like Kharkiv and Mariupol. Every leader and camper has endured some degree of trauma, which has lasting effects on the body and soul. My week and a half in Ukraine gave

me a glimpse of the reality Ukrainians have been living in for the past 2.5 years and I now know at a deeper level how to pray with them. Will you pray with me as well?



My Ukrainian Teammates

One of the cool parts for me of going to Ukraine was getting to serve with some former and future JV staff as well as current JV Ukraine teammates. Edik and Elena and Evan and Olena are just a few of the people faithfully serving young people in Ukraine and I wanted to introduce them to you!



Eduard & Elena Kurat

Eduard, the Pastor of Philadelphia church, and his wife Olena have been serving as missionaries in their own country of Ukraine since 1999. They serve very relationally and with a big dose of humor.

[See their JV page here.](#)



Evan & Olena Slobodnychenko

Lena is the camps co-ordinator for Josiah Venture in Ukraine and shortly after she and her husband Evan got married last year, Evan joined Josiah Venture as well. They are an awesome pair and invest much of their time into disciping young people in their city. [See their](#)

[JV page here.](#)

- **Praise!** for an awesome week of camp with Philadelphia church in Ukraine
- **Pray!** for our youth group canoeing & camping trip.
- **Pray!** for preparation and serving at Josiah Venture's Kids Camp.
- **Pray!** for camps still happening across Central and Eastern Europe
- **Pray!** for my Bible Study time with M.

Pray for Camp in Ukraine:

- **Pray** for the Philadelphia Church in Ternopil as they continue to follow up with campers this summer and into the fall.
- **Pray** for Ukrainian leaders who are trying to serve while also facing their own difficulties from the war.
- **Pray** for students seeking the certainty and truth only Jesus can provide.
- **Pray** for an end to the war.

Just for Fun

Here is some of what I've been listening to and reading lately. Maybe you will find them interesting or encouraging!

Listening: [Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus & He Isn't Far](#) by Brice Davis

Listening: [Good Feeling](#) by Austin French (this year's Camp Dance song)

Reading: [Women of the Word](#) by Jen Wilkin



For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. • Colossians 1:4-5

Grace & Peace,

Julia



Staying In Touch

Send me an iMessage at **+420 732 761 390** or a text to my US number **(860) 634-3012**.

If snail mail is your thing, letters can be sent to (my new address!):

Julia Budd

Dvořakova 1201/9

73701 Český Těšín

Czech Republic

FCCP Administrative Assistant

From: Heather Rice-Minus <Heather@email.prisonfellowship.org>
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 11:15 AM
To: FCCP Administrative Assistant
Subject: A Landmark Bill and a Life Forever Changed



Seek justice. Love mercy. Restore hope.

Dear Thomas,

We're so grateful to partner with friends like you who want to see Jesus glorified as we seek justice, love mercy, and restore hope. As you may know, our advocacy team works tirelessly to help bring about a more transformative justice system. We link arms with justice-minded men and women like you, from all walks of life, to champion fairer laws and expose the barriers faced by people with a criminal record.

One of these advocates is a woman named Kacie Starr. Before she partnered with us, she became one of the youngest-ever elected officials in St. Louis, Missouri, at age 26. But after misusing campaign funds, she resigned from office and chose not to pursue her dream of running for Congress.

"The theft lasted a couple of years, and nobody knew. But Jesus did," said Kacie. With her mom's help, she rediscovered the faith of her childhood. Kacie later came clean about her crimes.

Though she never went to prison, Kacie paid restitution. She struggled to find a new job due to her criminal past and turned to sewing, a skill she had picked up from her grandmother. In 2022, she opened the Sew Hope Community Sewing Room and later began leading a prison ministry in St. Louis with her husband.

Kacie also volunteers as a Prison Fellowship Justice Ambassador. Through personalized coaching in advocacy and storytelling, Kacie learned to leverage her experiences to advocate for cultural change.

Just a few weeks ago she joined us in Washington, D.C., to share her story and urge lawmakers to pass the Federal Prison Oversight Act. This landmark bill, which has now passed both the House and the Senate, will pave the way to make prison conditions safer and more humane for the incarcerated and for staff.

“We get to do the work that God has called us to do and make lasting change within the public square,” says Kacie.

You can make lasting change today by urging President Biden to sign the bipartisan Federal Prison Oversight Act into law! And if you’d like to take your advocacy to the next level like Kacie did, apply to be a Justice Ambassador.

Also, if you’re a church leader who wants to deepen your ministry, we’d love to see you this fall at Restore, our conference in Birmingham, Alabama. Join us Sept. 9–10 and dive into ministry best practices, discover how to embrace your God-inspired vision, and learn what it means to mobilize those you’ve been entrusted to lead. Please share this with your church leadership or register here today.

As always, if there is any way we can pray for you, please share your requests with our prayer team. Thank you for joining us to share hope with those incarcerated!

Serving Him with you,

Heather Rice-Minus

HEATHER RICE-MINUS
President and CEO

