

or the next 31 days, we will journey together, discovering more about what it means to put **hope within reach** of those who need it. We trust you'll be inspired as you read true stories of lives changed and hope found.

The purpose of this devotional is to encourage each other in the Great Commission and to remind all of us that God is still at work in the world.

That said, have you ever felt inadequate or overwhelmed when considering the Great Commission? You read the words of Jesus – "go and make disciples of all nations" – and they not only resonate as a command but also as a tremendous responsibility.

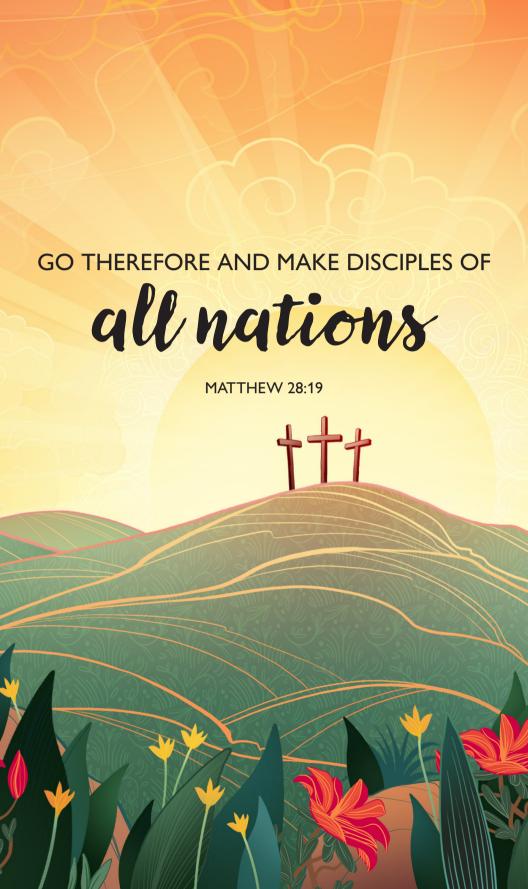
No doubt, many of us feel this way. Sharing the gospel is weighty, but thankfully as believers we can pray and come alongside others to be obedient to God and help make disciples.

The various writers of the *Hope Within Reach* devotional are TWR staff and volunteers, members of TWR partner organizations and individuals serving on the ministry's international board of directors. They were all eager to share their thoughts.

We recommend you use this guide in your personal quiet time, with loved ones or in small-group settings to inform and inspire others. May God embolden all of us as we take this journey together.

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Prayer

Father, we worship you as the God who shakes it up.

What does it take to reset our lives? How will you remake our world? You are patient and kind. You are compassionate and full of grace.

But you also have other means at your disposal. Your agenda is inexorable; nothing prevents it from taking shape.

You sometimes deliberately destabilize to create a new reality. "Before you know it, I will shake up sky and earth, ocean and fields. And I'll shake down all the godless nations. ...' God-of-the-Angel-Armies says so" (Haggai 2:6ff MSG).

Where does that leave us as your people? Do we escape the chaos? No. Are we destroyed in that process? No. "If you work the words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who dug deep and laid the foundation of his house on bedrock. When the river burst its banks and crashed against the house, nothing could shake it; it was built to last" (Luke 6:48 MSG).

Keep us on an even keel. Work your words into our life. Advance your agenda. Build us to last.

We ask this in your name, Jesus.

Amen.

Each week of this devotional begins with a prayer written by Tom Addington, a member of the TWR Board of Directors. You will find these prayers above and on days 8, 15 and 23. Addington is the interim president of Christianity Today.

Prayer Changes Us

"Through the [TWR Women of Hope] prayer calendar, I learn about many problems and situations of women in various countries that I had not known about before," a Korean intercessor shared. "Knowing the sufferings of women around the world, and as a woman, sympathizing with their groaning, I became more conscious and began praying in my daily life for them. Amazingly, when I pray for these women, sometimes the pain inside me is also healed. The love of Jesus restores us."

How grateful we are that the Father desires us to come to him in prayer for everything in life. If we are honest, our prayer lives often do not go beyond our immediate families and friends. But as followers of Jesus, we are told to, "Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere" (Ephesians 6:18).

As women and men join over 110,000 global intercessors using the TWR Women of Hope prayer calendar, their eyes are opened to the difficulties women face across the globe. Both their understanding of the world and the prayer scope of their lives are enlarged. Many identify with the prayer requests, realizing that they are not alone in facing this particular challenge and are encouraged that others are lifting them up in prayer as well.

As believers meet together to pray through the calendar in person or online, their hearts are bonded. Their faith is strengthened as they listen and agree in prayer, gaining new perspectives on how to bring others before our Father. Prayer changes us.



Pray for the body of Christ to have eyes to see the needs of their brothers and sisters around the world and to bring them before the Father.

Contributor **Lisa Hall** serves as the international prayer coordinator for TWR Women of Hope and has a passion for prayer and God's Word that permeates her life and work. Married to Bob, she loves to discover new places and cultures.

The Joy of Your Salvation

A few years ago, I met a TWR listener who had recently come to faith. He had been raised in a family that followed a different religion, so I asked him what happened after he became a Christian.

I already knew – and could clearly see – that he had faced intense persecution. He had been beaten, rejected by his family, lost his job and seen friendships fall apart. I expected him to list all these hardships. But instead, he spoke about the enormous joy that he felt deep in his heart about his newfound faith in Jesus Christ. His eyes sparkled despite the scars on his face. None of the suffering he endured could overshadow the joy of his salvation.

Most of us may never face persecution as severe as this listener did. Yet our joy in the Lord can still be easily diminished when we focus too much on our circumstances.

The apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 3:19-20 that those who set their minds on earthly things are headed for destruction, but our true citizenship is in heaven. He urges us to "rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4). This encouragement becomes even more powerful when we remember that Paul wrote this letter in prison.

May the joyfulness of Paul - and of that courageous TWR listener - inspire you today to fix your eyes on Jesus. He offers a joy that no one and nothing can take away.



I praise you, Lord, for my salvation. Help me today to focus my attention on Jesus Christ and to speak to others about the joy I found in you.

Contributor **Bernard Oosterhoff** serves as TWR's international director for CAMENA (Central Asia, Middle East, North Africa). He and his wife, Mariette, live in the Netherlands.

Embrace God's Word

"I cling to your testimonies, O Lord; let me not be put to shame ... "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:31, 105).

After a grueling six-hour drive we, finally arrived at a remote Tharu village in southern Nepal. But our journey wasn't over yet.

Exiting our jeep, all the team members hoisted boxes on their shoulders containing food, radios and Bibles. We set out on foot for the final two kilometers through mud and rice paddies, while dodging water buffalo along the way.

In the sweltering heat of the day, we entered a tin building. Inside were 50 men and women dressed in their finest clothes patiently awaiting our arrival.

I had the privilege of presenting each of the 24 radios and Bibles we had brought. This village had only one Tharu-language New Testament for the entire community. Each person receiving a radio and Bible had been carefully selected. They were part of a TWR Nepal radio listener group network, trained to lead small groups to listen together to TWR programs and then lead discussion groups to disciple them further.

As I presented the men and women with Bibles in their heart language, the recipients clutched the Bibles, pulling them tightly to their chests, tears streaming down each face.

It was a sacred moment.

I, too, began to weep tears of joy seeing the awe on the faces as they recognized they were holding God's Word in their hands. But I also shed tears of sorrow as I came to grips with the fact that over 3 billion people have yet to even hear the name of Jesus.

frayer

O Lord, help us to embrace your Word and never take it for granted. May you continue to allow TWR to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations through media.

Contributor **Ralf Stores** serves as Global Media Services director at TWR in the United States. He is married to Tammy, and the couple has three adult children.



Look Through His Eyes

In today's fast-paced and noisy world, it's easy to become distracted and lose sight of what truly matters. We may get caught up in daily demands or personal goals and stop seeing people and situations the way Jesus does. We miss the genuine, timely opportunities around us.

John 4 tells the powerful story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. While his disciples were focused on physical needs, Jesus saw something deeper: "So the disciples started asking among themselves, 'Could somebody have brought him food?' 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work... Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (John 4:33-35).

Jesus recognized the spiritual hunger in the woman's heart. He wasn't distracted by what was urgent but focused on what was eternal. He saw the harvest, lives ready to be transformed.

Today, Jesus invites us to see through his eyes, to notice spiritual hunger and join him in his redemptive work. In John 9:4, Jesus says, "I must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work." It's a call to seize the moment before it passes.

Yet distractions blur our vision. We may cling to past victories and miss the new things God is doing.

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing" (Isaiah 43:18-19).

We may fill our lives with activity but still lack meaning. True progress is measured by **purpose**, not pace.



The way forward is simple yet profound: Fix your eyes on Jesus. Stay close to him. Root yourself in his Word. When we look through his eyes, we see a world longing for truth, hope and transformation. "Lift up your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (John 4:35).

As a media organization, we thank God for the powerful tools he has placed in our hands to respond to the harvest. We are honored to proclaim the message of hope to the masses while also caring deeply for everyone, one by one.

LISTENER STORY

Salem, 26, from Egypt, worked in a law office and struggled with fear and sin. After hearing a TWR Arabic youth program, he responded to the gospel and gave his life to Christ. Today, he's growing through personal discipleship, a living example of lasting fruit.



Pray for the TWR Arabic discipleship team as they walk alongside many in deep spiritual need. Ask God for wisdom in content creation and for every message to be filled with hope, truth, and love, for the harvest is ripe.

Contributor **Brother N.** has directed TWR's Arabic Ministries since 2004, using mass media to support communities across the MENA region in their spiritual growth. With a strong vision for empowering and uplifting others, the team continues to spread the hope of the gospel in the Arabic-speaking world in innovative ways.

Becoming a Follower of Christ

In John 3:1-3 we read, "There was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus, who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.' Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

Like Nicodemus, Phiko, from Kasungu, Malawi, previously attended church gatherings, but he had not made a personal commitment to Christ. Attending church was just part of his regular tradition.

He shares, "In 2010, I heard TWR Malawi's lunch-hour teaching program while I was resting at home. It was a message about repentance. On Jan. 10, my heart was broken as I considered my lost condition. Then I made a decision to receive Christ."

Phiko became a follower of Christ and continued to listen to the programs that helped him grow in his faith. He attended Bible school and became a pastor in 2018, serving members from six villages in Kasungu. Years later, his community looks up to him for spiritual guidance.

"I minister to others to receive the same grace of God I received," says Pastor Phiko.

Through the teaching of God's Word, men, women and children can consider their spiritual condition and receive salvation in Christ. As believers, our role is to pray for many to believe in Jesus, the living Word, and become God's children (John 1:1-12). Verse 12 says, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."



Gracious Father, we pray that more and more TWR Malawi listeners will come to personal faith in Christ.

Contributed by **Janet Mtali**, director of TWR Malawi, who has more than 10 years of experience in content production, communication for development and media management. She was part of the 2024 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

Alive and Active

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

God's Word has transformed and shaped lives for thousands of years, and this eternal work is far from finished. No matter the religious, political or social circumstances that seek to oppose and obstruct the Bible, his Spirit continues to pierce through blockades, and in the end, his Word will never return void (Isaiah 55:11).

Our calling as ambassadors is not to roll out the red carpet for Scripture – Scripture is the red carpet. Rather, our mission is to humbly serve and pray for the Bible's power in our ministries. God's Word does the work.

Consider Malika's story and how the Word is actively at work in Islamic nations:

Malika heard an episode of a TWR podcast that piqued her curiosity. Wanting to know more, she reached out to the TWR follow-up team. They pointed her to some program episodes on the Gospel of John. Malika soon knew she had stumbled upon something special. "I felt something stirring inside of me," she said. "It was about the Holy Spirit, and it sure felt new to me. The Bible is marvelous, and I'm in awe, and you are extremely loving and understanding, just like Jesus."

Despite concerns about following Jesus amid her Muslim family and community in Algeria, Malika has a deep desire to "keep reading and seeking."



Lord, we pray for listeners like Malika and praise you for speaking to them through the Holy Bible. Your Word can cut through any division and barrier, and by doing so, you reach people and draw them to yourself.

Contributor **Joseph Posner** is a volunteer writer and content editor for TWR Europe and CAMENA. He serves as an assistant minister and is involved in preaching, teaching and leading groups. He loves theology, writing and the outdoors, and he lives in the United Kingdom.





Prayer

Father, we worship you as the God who hasn't moved away.

You invite us to knock. It doesn't even have to be a polite tap. If your response isn't forthcoming, you encourage us to make enough noise to wake the neighbors (Luke 11:8).

You prefer authentic interaction. "Here's what I'm saying: ... Knock and the door will open ... Be direct. Ask for what you need" (Luke 11:9ff MSG).

But what if we bang and shout and the lights don't come on? Should we give up? Maybe no one's home. "But God hasn't moved to the mountains; his holy address hasn't changed" (Psalm 11:4 MSG).

We hang on this while we wait. "You've always given me breathing room, a place to get away from it all, A lifetime pass to your safe-house, an open invitation as your guest" (Psalm 61:3ff MSG).

Provide breathing room. Turn on the light. Open the door. Listen to our need. Be our safe-house.

We ask this in your name, Jesus.

Amen.

"This Teaching...Changed My Life"

We rarely know how close someone is to the edge ... until grace pulls them back.

Chibuzor,* who lives in the Mbaise region of Nigeria, doesn't say exactly what he had planned that morning. Perhaps it was despair. Maybe vengeance. Possibly a quiet disappearance from the burdens he bore. But he was planning to take a certain action – a path he might never have returned from.

Then, the radio crackled with purpose. A message. A moment. A miracle.

The teaching Chibuzor heard on TWR Radio that morning reached through the fog of his thoughts and planted new direction in his heart. What he was about to do lost its grip, and light broke in.

"This teaching has saved my life," he wrote simply.

Now he yearns to go deeper — asking for a Bible, for books, for truth to grow roots in his life. From crisis to calling, Chibuzor's story is a sacred interruption — proof that even at the brink, God speaks.

Jesus is in the business of saving lives. In John 10:10 we read his words: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Praise God that Chibuzor discovered the source of abundant life through a "random" encounter with a radio broadcast – an encounter that wasn't really random at all.

*A pseudonym

Prayer

Although Nigeria's population includes more than 74 million Christians, it's also true that more Christians are killed for their faith in Nigeria than in all other countries combined, according to Open Doors. Please pray for our partners at TWR Nigeria, asking for safety and perseverance as they bring the light of Jesus into many dark places.

Contributor **David Irondi** serves as TWR's ministry assistant and regional project manager for West and Central Africa.

The Immeasurable Depths of God's Love

"TWR helped me find my faith during a very low time in my life," a Bulgarian listener shared. "When I wanted to give up, because I felt unloved and worthless, the radio sermons reminded me I'm precious in God's eyes. I listen each evening and feel peace. Thank you."

When we feel unloved, we find hope in the knowledge that God loves us unconditionally because we are precious in his eyes. The Bible tells us God's love is immeasurable.

Psalm 36:5-6 says, "Your unfailing love, O Lord, is as vast as the heavens; your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the ocean depths."

As vast as the heavens and deeper than oceans. Can we even comprehend that? The Mariana Trench is 36,037 feet (10,984 meters) deep. The depths of God's love are greater than the deepest part of any ocean.

Standing from the shore, the ocean stretches past our line of sight. Looking at the Pacific, it spreads beyond the horizon to cover "approximately 63,000,000 square miles (165,250,000 square kilometers) and contains more than half of the free water on Earth. The Pacific is by far the largest of the world's ocean basins. All the world's continents could fit into this vast ocean.

There is something vaster than the Pacific. It's God's love for us! His love is more extensive than the sea. It's never-ending, deeper and wider and grander than we could possibly comprehend.

The dimensions of God's love are unfathomable. God's love for you is deeper, wider, higher and longer than you can ever imagine.

Question: How have you experienced God's love for you?

frayer

Lord, we praise you that your unfailing love toward those who fear you is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth (Psalm 103:11). Help us to comprehend how precious we are in your eyes.

Contributed by **Becky Matthews**, who has served as a remote worker for TWR's Europe and CAMENA regions since 2013. She enjoys reading, traveling with her husband and playing with her Flemish giant rabbit, Uhtred.



Our Involved Shepherd

Throughout my Christian life, I was always told that Jesus the Good Shepherd carries you when you go through troubles. I was always encouraged to read the well-known poem called "Footsteps."

Imagine my delight when one day the Lord showed me Isaiah 40:11, which reads, "He tends his flock like a shepherd; he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young."

In this one verse, there are so many nuggets, and we could spend hours chatting about it. After seeing this verse and taking it to heart, I have been able to share this with many people who have suffered loss and those who have gone through troubles. I remember sharing this with a TWR employee many years ago who suffered grief and sorrow and saw the comfort it brought because it came directly from the Word of God and was not just a poem or a thought.

Let's look at some of the words, as this describes our Savior. "He tends," which speaks of a characteristic trait. "He gathers," which reminds us of the parable of the lost sheep and means he is watching. "He carries," meaning when you are weak and weary and feel like you cannot move another step forward, you can take heart that Jesus carries his lambs. What great comfort this gives us because he compassionately holds us close to his heart. Lastly, "he gently leads," not forcing you but leading you. This is a reminder of those still waters where he leads and provides restoration for our soul.



Question: What was one thing that made the Lord rise from his throne and come to Earth? It was compassion because he longed to be gracious to you (Isaiah 30:18).

Dr David Jeremiah said this: "Just as a shepherd protects his sheep, Jesus protects his people from eternal harm. While believers can expect to suffer on earth, Satan cannot touch our soul or take away our eternal life with God. The world is filled with turmoil because it is the devil's domain, but followers of Jesus have everlasting safety."

Prayer

Lord, thank you for showing us that you are not distant in our time of troubles and grief but that we are resting close to your heart as you carry us.

Contributed by **Gail Dippenaar**, who has served with TWR for more than 20 years, first in Media Services. She currently serves as Media Content Management director for TWR Africa. Gail is also the host of radio program Reach Out, airing weekdays on TWR Pure Talk.

God's Perfect Plan

She was late again. Ayaan (not her real name), peeking out from her veil-covered head, spoke volumes with apologetic eyes. As TWR Africa women's ministry leaders, we knew we must confront her tardiness. She must be a good example as she works with her Somali team, translating and presenting Women of Hope radio programs.

Following our session, Ayaan's hidden pain was revealed. Her worst time of day was early morning, when she had to take her daily HIV/AIDS medication. She could no longer keep her condition a secret. Her broken life of abuse was exposed.

The shepherd/king of the Bible, David, dictated words to the director of music, resulting in Psalm 139, "O LORD, you have searched me and you know me."

Later in the same Psalm, he wrote, "If I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me."

In conclusion, he wrote, "lead me in the way everlasting."

In God's perfect plan, a Somali, using her desire to bring Jesus to her people, discovers God's grace in becoming transparent with her God, leading her in the way everlasting.

In God's perfect plan, a TWR missionary transplanted into East Africa, becomes aware of God's hand guiding her on the far side of the sea.

In God's perfect plan, TWR radio listeners discover hope within their reach, from a tiny windup radio.

frayer

Thank you, God, for national leaders who, like Ayaan, serve Jesus while living with daily pain, to present the gospel of hope in Jesus. May the words spoken into a microphone bring peace, joy and hope into broken hearts.

Contributor **Flora Rittenhouse** and her late husband, David, served as missionaries all over the world with TWR for more than 40 years. Flora recently wrote a book about their adventures titled Our Story Matters, available on Amazon.

The Same Power

A call from an unrecognized number is not unusual for Pastor Ranto. He designated that specific number for people to call in when they need him. But to get it on Sunday morning is quite unusual.

"Pastor, I just finished preaching my first sermon," the caller said. "I listened to your program from the audio player that was played in the prison chapel whenever you came to visit us a few years ago. After a few times, God touched and changed my heart, and I sensed that he really called me to help others that are in a similar situation with me. Upon being released from the prison, I went to a Bible school, and now I lead a small church."

When God touches and changes someone's heart, he transforms that person's life. Saul the persecutor became Paul the evangelist. Zacchaeus the corrupt tax collector became a generous follower of Christ. And that drug dealer in a prison in Indonesia became a loving pastor of a local church.

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" Paul shared a testimony of his own firsthand experience of the transformational power of God's words.

That same power is still working today. When the Word is spoken, delivered and broadcast, the same divine power that changed Saul's and Zacchaeus' lives is still actively touching people's hearts. Max Lucado says, "(God) is in the business of changing hearts. We'd be wrong to think it happens overnight. But we'd be equally wrong to assume change never happens at all."

frayer

Lord, help us to be faithful in sharing your Word with the world. Help us to choose faithfulness over convenience when it comes to sharing your words that have the power to change people's hearts. And please help us to be steadfast in love and reach those who need it.

Contributer **Daniel Saputra** is TWR's international director for the Southeast Asia region.

Deep Roots

The West Africa Transmitting Station was built on land that was mostly wild African bush. During the planning stage of the layout for the station, we tried as best we could to avoid existing forested areas or large indigenous trees.

This was not always the case, so we ended up having to take down some large trees for us to build the transmitter station and to put up the towers for broadcasts. I soon learned there was one easy way of doing this regardless of how big the tree was.

I would take the backhoe and then simply move around the tree, a few feet from the base and dig out all the roots, up to a depth of about 3 feet. Once I completed this, it was just the simple task of parking the backhoe, leaning the backhoe arm against the upper reaches of the tree and then pushing the tree over, stump and all. At this stage the tree had no supporting lateral roots, and the weight of the tree itself was enough to twist out the stump.

Paul tells us in Colossians 2:7 and again in Ephesians 3:17 about the importance of having roots growing down into Christ – own into Christ's love and we will be kept strong.

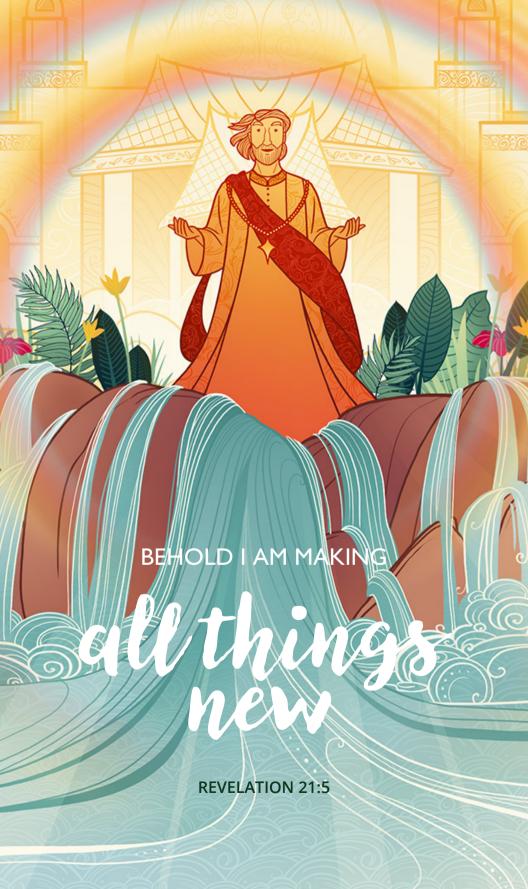
As with any big tree, no matter what the size or what the tree looks like above ground, if there are no roots growing down, there is no strength, nothing to keep us from falling over.

Where are we in our lives, and what do we have hacking away at our roots? Have we allowed some of life's concerns and dangers to take out some of our roots?

Prayer

Lord, thank you for allowing us to grow our roots deep into your love, giving us strength that will withstand not only life's storms but also those who seek to push us over. Help us to recognize this and grow deeper into your love.

When contributor **Garth Kennedy** isn't digging in the dirt, he directs the operations at the West Africa Transmitting Station.





Prayer

Father, we worship you as the God who puts things back together.

We do everything in our power to hold things together. We do so, however, within what sometimes feels like centrifugal forces that want to yank life apart.

How can life be remade into wholeness when it's been splintered into fragments we can't get back? We might still have love. Faith might even be within reach. But hope remains impossibly elusive.

Is that how Naomi felt, widowed and without sons? What about Moses after he murdered and fled? Did Jonah retain measurable optimism after being thrown overboard and swallowed? Could Peter foresee meaningful restoration with you, Father, as he wept bitterly after betrayal? How could Mary Magdalene even dream of much future good while possessed by seven evil spirits?

And yet. Even with all that being true. Against all natural odds.

You chase brokenness out. "God made my life complete when I placed all the pieces before him" (Psalm 18:20 MSG).

Make us whole. We place all the pieces before you. Convert natural odds to supernatural brilliance.

We ask this in your name, Jesus.

Amen.

The True Source of Wisdom

"I will never forget the day Christ gave me the grace to become his child," a TWR listener from Ghana, Africa, wrote to us. "Jesus revealed himself to me in a dream. A great light shone through me, and he said, 'Follow me.' It was the most beautiful day of my life."

In 1 Kings 3, there's a fascinating exchange between the Lord and Solomon, who had just succeeded David, his late father, as king.

God appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, "Ask what I should give you" (Verse 5). Rather than requesting success or riches or a long life, Solomon wisely asked for "an understanding mind to govern" and the ability to "discern between good and evil" (Verse 9).

Solomon's response pleased God, who granted him a "wise and discerning mind" (Verse 12) as well as wealth, honor and the possibility to have his days on Earth extended.

Question: If the Lord told you to make just one request of him, what would you ask for?

Pastor and author Paul David Tripp writes, "It takes a heart for God in order to resist asking for material things; it takes true humility in order to admit that you're not wise enough to do the thing that God has called you to do; and it takes faith in order to believe that God is the only true source of wisdom you need."

When it comes to wisdom, it's always best to remember that only God can provide the capacity to discern and judge properly as to what is right and true in any situation.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for making wisdom from heaven available to your children. Please help TWR listeners and other believers to live by the wisdom that comes only from you, wisdom that is an eternal treasure worth seeking.

Contributor **David McCreary** is TWR's Marketing & Communications director in the ministry's Cary, North Carolina, office. Married to Jenny, he has served with TWR for 30 years.

The Past Is Behind Us

Raul, a businessman, wrote to tell us that he was always on a quest for success. He wanted to make more money and have more, but for several years he could not find satisfaction in what he had accomplished or what he was doing.

One night an old friend who was a believer shared with him a link to a program on TWR360 based on Isaiah 43. His friend said to him, "this program helped me, and I believe it will help you too."

"That day literally my outlook on life changed," Raul wrote in his letter to us. "The preacher's words struck me, and I wanted to hear more. He said to be thankful for what I already was and what I had. He explained a little more and said I should start by believing in Jesus Christ, and I did. And he ended his message with these words: 'Now you are complete in God. You are a new creature. Old things have passed away; behold all things have become new."

That chapter in Isaiah reminds us, "Remember ye not the former things" because to live the new life we must leave behind what is past. This includes the difficult and painful moments and the losses in life. God fills the voids and renews the strength of those who have none.

You prepare yourself to receive the abundant life God gives when you leave the past behind – what hurts and what stops you from moving forward. Don't settle for the world. Once you know and depend on the One who did not spare his own Son for love, then you know you are in the best hands. And do not forget to share with others the good news you have received, just as Raul's friend did.



Lord, today I want to thank you for (fill in the blank). Help me to live with a grateful heart, knowing that in you I have everything I need.

Contributor **Annabel Torrealba** was born in Venezuela and serves as TWR international director for Latin America and the Caribbean. She lives in Chicago with her husband, David.

Generosity Through Chicken

A few years ago, a listener walked for over 3 miles to the radio station in Lilongwe, Malawi, with a live chicken. He said he had decided to give to TWR in appreciation to God for his work in his life through the radio ministry.

After listening for several years, he had found life in Christ, got fed in the Lord and now wanted to participate in ensuring that the station continues to provide the teaching of the Word of God. He said he wanted TWR to acknowledge that gift, use it for a staff meal, or sell it and then deposit the money into TWR account. Giving a live chicken to a radio station was not normal, as most listeners would ordinarily give crop harvests.

This listener's gift exemplifies what the apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

His gift was sacrificial because having a chicken for a meal is a privilege for most people in that country. His releasing it meant a lot of sacrifice on his part and family. He utilized what he had. Some might say he had nothing to give to the Lord, but he had chickens. And he gave so freely and cheerfully. His giving greatly encouraged members of staff.



Pray that as many TWR listeners as possible become faithful supporters of God's work.

Contributed by **Victor Kaonga**, TWR's international director for East and Southern Africa and an experienced media practitioner, communications specialist and resource mobilizer. He is the host of Growing the Marriage, the author of two books and is married to Thembi.



Cashew Fruit

The West Africa Transmitting Station (WATS) is based in a West African country that is well known for its quality of cashews on the world stage.

Cashew fruit is unlike many others since it produces the nut on the outside of the fruit. The fruit, known as the cashew apple, has an extraordinary, sweet, tropical smell to it with lots of sweet juice that spills out when cut open to eat. The nut appears outside and on the underside of the fruit in its own exceptionally hard shell.

WATS has about 900 cashew trees, and harvest time is between March and April. Strangely enough, this tends to coincide with the hot season in our part of the world. The hot season between January and April means it is very dry, and temperature regularly touch 40 degrees Celsius, or over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

The cashew needs this incredible heat for it to produce this exceptional fruit. In the past when the seasons have not been as hot, the harvest has not been as good. So you sit back and think, "We need some pretty adverse weather conditions to produce something this extraordinary. Maybe there is a lesson in this!"

We have been serving in West Africa for many years, and the hot season comes around like clockwork, very much like Paul says in Romans 5:3, "when we run into problems and trials." Not if but when. So, like knowing the hot season is coming, we know problems and trials will come as well.



Paul does say that these things develop endurance, and this endurance develops strength of character, and this character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. So just as God has designed the oppressive hot and dry season here to create one of the most beautiful and extraordinary fruits for us to enjoy, he is doing the same in our lives. He is producing something extraordinary for his kingdom.

In Romans 5, Paul does not end there but adds, "Our hope does not end there or lead to disappointment, for we know that God dearly loves us."

Prayer

Lord, sometimes we do not understand the hot and dry seasons we go through or why we seem to go through them regularly. Thank you that you are working something extraordinary through this in our lives. This is something that is beautiful and sweet to you and fits into your sovereign plans.

Contributor **Garth Kennedy** is TWR's director of the West Africa Transmitting Station and enjoys taking walks in the shade of the cashew trees.

Encouraged by Community

"Living in a village where many question our faith and treat us with disdain, it can be challenging. We're often isolated and rejected, but I hold tightly to God's promise that he will never leave us. God is our helper, and we will not fear others. His faithfulness and mercy sustain us, and we continue to trust in his promises every day."

This listener response from Indonesia deeply resonates with me. It brings up memories of my childhood in rural Germany. I remember how I was ridiculed and spit at for taking my faith in Jesus Christ seriously. Later, another villager called us after I had just announced I would become a missionary with TWR. He cursed my parents and me for doing something so stupid and irresponsible. Village life sometimes develops strange dynamics. And it is painful to feel isolated and rejected by people in close proximity.

Jesus never promised his followers that they would be loved and accepted by their neighbors. He himself was rejected and kicked out of his hometown Nazareth (Luke 4:14-30).

If you have experienced rejection before, it is particularly beautiful and encouraging to be welcomed by a community of fellow believers. For many of our listeners, for security reasons, this community is possible only in their correspondence with our local teams. Every reply is a lifeline. Christ is their hope. And radio their church.

Let's be grateful for the Christian community we are a part of. It's not to be taken for granted.

frayer

Lord, please be especially close to our listeners around the globe who feel isolated and rejected today because they love and follow you. Let them find hope and belonging in you.

Contributor **Philipp Ruesch** serves in a role of Leadership Development for TWR Global. He is married to Christina, and they have two daughters.

Lights of Salvation and Hope

The iconic antennas of Trans World Radio on Bonaire, the Dutch island in the Caribbean, continue to captivate me. During my recent five-week stay, I had the opportunity to experience them both inside and out. Inside, tons of copper in their bases intertwine in an engineering design that captures and transforms broadcasts into sound waves. By day, you can travel across the island without losing sight of them. At night, from a boat ride on the sea, their lights are unmistakable. I admire the courage of the young people who climb over 478 feet to maintain them.

On their own, these antennas tell the glorious story of many decades of gospel broadcasting with great power across a vast region of the Americas, bringing the light and hope of salvation to people in great need. I believe these antennas are helping fulfill the prophecy found in Scripture: "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14).

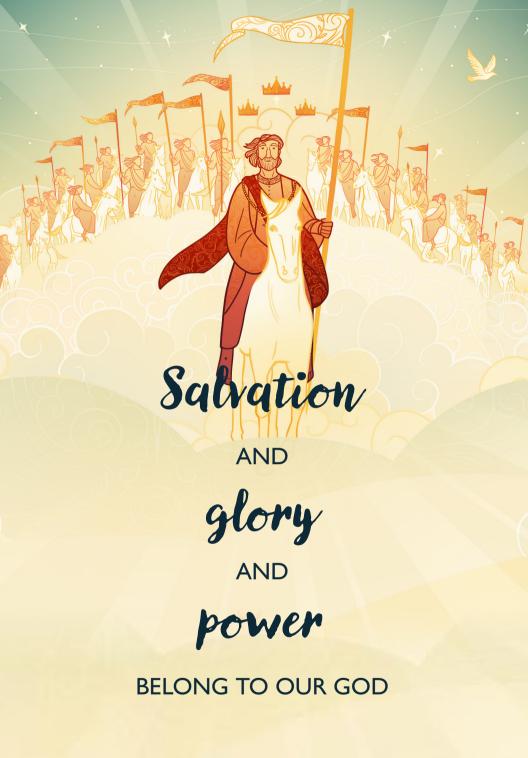
Every time a radio signal crosses borders – reaching islands, jungles, cities and deserts – a piece of that prophetic vision is fulfilled. The invisible waves carry an eternal message, and although we can't see them, their fruit is evident: lives restored, hearts comforted and faith growing in unexpected places.

Not all of us can preach from a pulpit, but every word broadcast is a seed sown. And by praying, supporting or simply listening, you too are part of this mission.



Lord, may your Word continue to run with power, reaching wounded hearts, bringing light to the darkness, and filling the earth with your glory, as the waters cover the sea.

Contributer **Georgina Thompson** serves as Global Media Services administrator for TWR.



REVELATION 19:1B



Prayer

Father, we worship you as the God who holds.

What did your disciples get wrong? Their three years with you worked a radical transformation in how they thought and behaved. From the first encounter by Galilee all the way through your ascension, they were being stretched. Ditto for our own journey.

They thought it was a waste of time when you held small children. The kingdom is on the move. Time is short. Many things must be done. How did that advance the cause?

You were adamant. "Don't ever get between them and me. These children are at the very center of life in the kingdom.' ... Then, gathering the children up in his arms, he laid his hands of blessing on them" (Mark 10:14ff MSG).

You do for us exactly what you did for those little ones. "I've put my life in your hands. You won't drop me, you'll never let me down" (Psalm 31:5 MSG). With what effect? "Like a baby content in its mother's arms, my soul is a baby content" (Psalm 131:2 MSG).

We put our life into your hands. Thank you for not dropping us or letting us down. Make our souls baby-content.

We pray this in your name, Jesus.

Amen.

Hope for the Lost

"Come and I will make you fishers of men" Matthew 4:19.

Since 1981, TWR has communicated hope for the people of the Southern Cone of the Americas. Thousands of people have heard and are hearing the good news of Jesus.

During the great development of the building construction industry, a young man went to the most prosperous area in Uruguay looking for work and fortune.

But a great crisis came, and he was left with absolutely nothing. One night he decided to take his own life by hanging himself from a rope in his bedroom. So that no one would hear, he turned on the radio and climbed on a chair. "Coincidentally," the radio was tuned to a particular channel and a preacher was saying, "Give God a chance, and your life will change." That caught his attention. Instead of taking his life, the man embraced life in Jesus.

Today he is a joyful husband and father who serves God in the hometown where he returned safely and with great hope.

Announcing the gospel of hope has always been TWR's mission and passion.

Fulfill Jesus' command to fish for men. It is not in vain that the gospel is proclaimed throughout the world. What all of us do to continue to proclaim the gospel will be a seed that bears fruit in the gospel.

Lives are saved and changed. Let us continue to support the work of proclaiming Jesus around the world through praying and giving.



Please pray particularly for the continuing broadcasts of hope in Christ from Montevideo, Uruguay, to the entire Southern Cone.

Contributor **Lemuel J. Larrosa** served as the longtime Latin American director of TWR and the host of the Spanish-language version of the popular program Thru the Bible.

God Draws Mear

"I particularly enjoy listening to God's Word and to the songs," explained a Karakalpak listener of TWR programs. "But what delights me most is that my husband also listens to the radio. He can't read, and I am so thankful to the Lord that he can and wants to listen to God's Word."

Like radio waves that carry God's Word into a listener's home, God loves to meet us where we are. We read in John 1 that "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." Through Jesus, we have direct access to the Father. Because of his profound love for us, God bridged the divide between himself and all of humanity. He chose to become human and to embrace suffering so that we can have the possibility of hope.

In Philippians 2, we read that Jesus humbled himself "by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness" (Verse 7).

Writer and theologian J.I. Packer writes, "The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, unable to do more than lie and stare and wriggle and make noises. ... The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets."

Consider the significance of the Creator making himself vulnerable and tangible in the person of Jesus. What does it mean for your life that he isn't a distant deity but rather, a present help and approachable friend?

Question: Reflect on the moments when God has felt especially near to you. In your own life, how have you experienced God meeting you where you are?

Prayer

Gracious Lord, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus, who walked among us and opened the way to eternal fellowship with you. Give us confidence to draw near to you, just as you draw near to us.

Contributor **Jade Alger** serves with TWR's Global Marketing & Communications video team. He and his wife, Jana, live in Bratislava, Slovakia.



Unparalleled Hope Carved in Stone

From 1968-1970, professor Benjamin Mazar carried out archaeological excavations along the Western Wall of the Jerusalem Temple, the so-called Wailing Wall. There he discovered a Hebrew inscription quoting Isaiah 66:14: "You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bones shall flourish like the grass..."

The inscription dates to the fifth century A.D. The text above it declares that one day God will restore Jerusalem. In this chapter, Isaiah speaks of the hope of Jerusalem's renewal after the Babylonian exile and of the Jewish people's return to their land. That captivity lasted 70 years (586-516 B.C.). The Jews came back from Babylon, and the Temple was rebuilt.

The person who carved the inscription incised it into the foundation stones of the Western Wall around A.D. 470-400 years after the Romans destroyed the second Temple in A.D. 70. He possessed extraordinary hope. He knew God's promise in Isaiah, he knew Jerusalem and the Temple had been rebuilt after the exile, and he was sure that God would do it again for his people. He believed God would certainly keep his word and restore Jerusalem. And that is precisely what happened in the mid- 20^{th} century, nearly 1,500 years later.



Imagine: 15 centuries after the carving was made, professor Mazar found that quotation from Isaiah on the Western Wall. God himself had kept his Word alive! Such hope is unparalleled, originating with God himself and revealed in the Bible.

For a believer who relies on God, a time of testing and suffering will never be endless; it will inevitably give way to joy. Hope in God carries us through any hard season. His Word always encourages us that, for the person who has entrusted his or her life to God, everything will turn out well, and even bones will live and the heart rejoice. Carve it into your personal journal, and carve this hope into your heart.

frayer

Lord, I thank you for the unfading hope you give to every believer, to everyone who has entrusted life to you. Thank you that even now, in the hard moments when we see "destruction" and "captivity," you let me see the eternal joy of your coming restoration. Renew me. I put my trust in you.

Contributor Pavel Shifman is an Israel ministry director.

Grace That Is Greater Than Our Sin

"How can we get saved from sin?" a Muslim Pakistani man wrote to a responder via Facebook Messenger after watching episode two of *Share the Story*.

In this episode of the animated Bible series, he watched the story from Genesis 3, when Adam and Eve partake from the tree that God commanded them not to eat.

The result is shame, banishment from the garden and a series of consequences we still experience today. Yet God meets them with kindness, making clothes from animal skins. The first sacrifice.

I am always curious how people with other worldviews and religious beliefs will engage with certain Bible stories.

Sitara, who translated *Share the Story* for a minority people group in Pakistan, where Islam is the main religion, shares: "Especially after story two, some were really touched, like, with tears in their eyes. I think they are impressed that one single sin has so much an effect from God."

Muslims believe good deeds can wipe out sins.

"But this hasn't been wiped out," Sitara said. "They have been really driven away from paradise. Their relationship with God has suffered."

But they also see that God still cares, providing better clothes than Adam and Eve can make for themselves. Even removing them from the garden, while a consequence, is also God's grace.

And this is just the beginning of the story.

Romans 5:17 says, "For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ."



Pray for people in a Muslim context to experience the grace and forgiveness of God.

Contributor **Rachel Mehlhaff** is based in the United States and serves as the marketing manager for TWR MOTION.

Unflinching Courage

During my recent visit to Central Asia, I met Kamal,* a young church leader and partner in TWR's radio distribution ministry. When asked if he has faced opposition, he replied calmly, "Yes, several times. I've been jailed, questioned and released again after a few hours."

With quiet conviction, Kamal shared his vision to strengthen believers and grow the ministry in his country. "If I'm imprisoned," he said, "perhaps God has a mission for me there – like Paul, who wrote letters to his churches from prison."

His courage reminded me of the early Church in Acts. Back home, I revisited those powerful stories. Peter, Paul and others didn't flinch in the face of danger. Whenever they could, they boldly spoke the truth.

Peter declared before the Sanhedrin, "As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

Question: What story can you share to inspire others to follow Jesus? Reflect on it – and write it down.

In Acts 13:47, Paul and Barnabas recount God's command: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." This is TWR's mission to this day.

*A pseudonym



Thank you, Jesus, for the gift of salvation. Give us boldness and creativity to share your message of hope in our daily lives. Strengthen and protect TWR staff and partners in closed countries who face hardship. Fill them with perseverance, courage and wisdom as they bring your light to the ends of the earth.

Contributor **Claudia Schmidt** serves on TWR's international board of directors and lives near Frankfurt, Germany.

The Power of Forgiveness

"Forgiveness was just a word to me – until that episode. I picked up the phone and called my son after years of silence. We're speaking again. That one conversation began a journey I didn't expect."

This is one of many encouraging testimonies from Men of Courage listeners.

This true story reminds me of a scene in the well-known movie *Home Alone*. Young Kevin meets the old man Marley in a church and understands he isn't scary at all, just deeply hurt and estranged from his family after a falling out with his son. Kevin encourages Marley to reach out to his son. It's a turning point. By the end, we see the beautiful result: Marley standing at his front door, embracing his son and granddaughter, with joy and reconciliation. It's a touching moment in the movie.

Both in the film and in real life, forgiveness is the key to true reconciliation. That was what this man finally understood through *Men of Courage*: Forgiveness is more than a word. It must be practiced and applied.

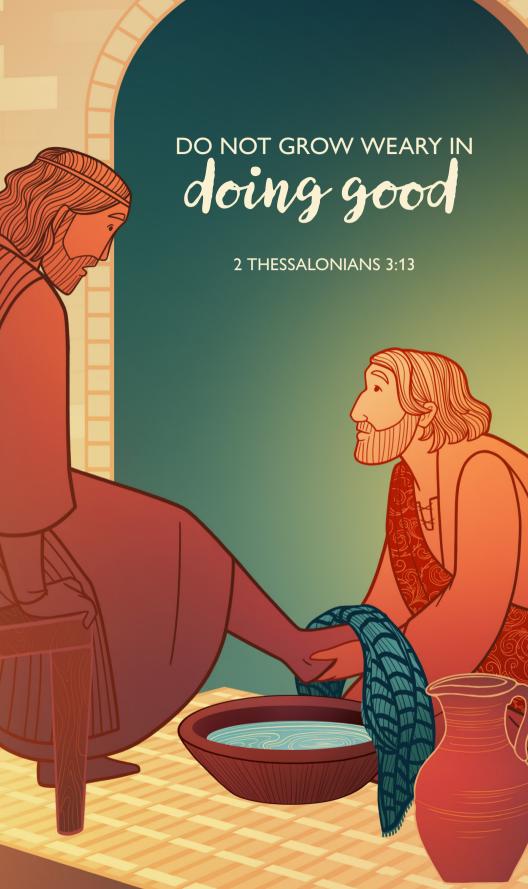
The Bible is clear: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). The power of forgiveness is found in God himself: "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).

This is the message we need to hear, and it is the message we must proclaim to the world so that lasting fruit will be produced. In Christ alone, we have forgiveness of all our sins. By the blood of Christ, we have been reconciled with God.



Pray for Men of Courage, that many men will be touched and lives transformed.

Contributor **David Carlsen** directs the Men of Courage efforts from Denmark.



Portraits of Grace

"Week after week, I listened to the program, learning about the love of Jesus Christ and how he heals the brokenhearted. Eventually, I prayed along with one of the presenters and accepted Jesus into my life.... Today, I live with purpose and joy, grateful for Jesus' love." This testimony from a *Women of Hope* listener in Nepal is what I call a beautiful portrait of grace.

In his book *God Works the Night Shift*, Ron Mehl states: "Most artists I've heard about like lots of light in their studios," and he adds, "Yet God creates His masterpieces in the dark, on the night shift." I love the poetic way the author used to describe the work that God does in our lives through the difficult circumstances we go through. Art is quite a diverse field. Each type of art requires different skills. Some involve gentle and precise movements; others require strong hands. Every art piece demands time to reach perfection from the artist's point of view. It's fascinating how artists know exactly what it takes to transform a shapeless piece of wood into a gorgeous decoration item and a blank canvas into a masterpiece.

God is at work on extremely dark places around the world. He rescues people for himself. "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves" (Colossians 1:14). And he paints wonderful portraits of grace: "for those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son" (Romans 8:29). Ron Mehl adds this perspective: "You are the canvas. The paint and brushes are your trials and pain. The portrait is His Son!"



Lord, thank you for your love that rescues, redeems and transforms us. May the nations know Jesus, our marvelous rescuer and redeemer.

Contributor **Susie Pek** is passionate about prayer, soothing the emotional pain experienced by women, and promoting hope and healing in their lives. She serves as the global director of TWR Women of Hope.

Made New in Burundi

Jean Claude* aimlessly scrolled through his cellphone. Although the impoverished African nation of Burundi, where he lives, has a strong Christian presence, he was "a man lost in darkness," in his words. "I felt trapped by the weight of my sins, unable to break free from addiction, anger and despair. I didn't believe forgiveness was possible for someone like me."

As if on its own, his scrolling took him to *Inkuru Nziza Kuri Bose (Good News For All)* in his Kirundi language, provided by TWR Burundi on YouTube. The speaker explained that God's love is unconditional and that Jesus has the power to cleanse even the worst of sinners.

"Finally, trembling and with tears streaming down my face, I knelt in my living room and surrendered my life to Jesus," Jean Claude wrote. "Jesus took my brokenness and made me whole."

Jesus is in the business of replacing broken lives with whole lives. "Behold, I am making all things new," the risen Christ said in a vision (Revelation 21:5).

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation," the apostle Paul wrote. "The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Perhaps, like Jean Claude scrolling through his phone, you've come across these words seemingly by accident. Perhaps you, too, have been lost in the darkness, and you haven't been able to find your way out. There are no accidents in God's grace. You can receive new life in Jesus at this moment, wherever you are.

*A pseudonym

Prayer

Please pray for the ministry of TWR partner TWR Burundi. Like the country itself, the TWR Burundi ministry is faced with significant economic challenges exacerbated by fuel shortages, ongoing power outages and devaluation of the local currency.

Contributed by **John Lundy**, a writer and editor for TWR based in the United States. He loves to read, watch birds and drink tea.

Found and Forgiven

"Forgiveness was just a word to me – until that episode. I picked up the phone and called my son after years of silence. We're speaking again. That one conversation began a journey I didn't expect."

These words, shared in one of our earlier daily readings, not only are heartwarming but also indicate that this Muslim listener in Africa is one step closer to Jesus by understanding forgiveness. Pray that he will discover the forgiveness of God as he continues to listen to TWR's Men of Courage program.

Adam and Eve needed God's forgiveness after they sinned in the garden. But instead, they thought they could fool God.

"Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, 'Where are you?'" (Genesis 3:8-9).

How ridiculous for Adam and Eve to think they could hide from their Creator. Yet they tried. And we try today. Sin makes us want to hide from God.

We go about the Christian life presenting our "good side" to God. Meanwhile, packed away in a dirty laundry bag sits our sin.

But God isn't going to gasp and hold his nose. He sees your sin already! He has been waiting for you to be honest and transparent, to be who you really are - a man or woman of God who isn't perfect. He loves you despite your sin. You're his child.

Come out of hiding.

"You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?" (Psalm 139:1,7).

Prayer

Lord, I've been hiding from you, but you still see me. Please search my heart and show me where I have let sin stain our relationship. I will confess that sin to restore our fellowship. In the name of the One who gave his life for me, amen.

Contributor **Jon Fugler** serves as TWR's chief content officer and lives in Florida with Noonie, his wife. He has written numerous books on Christian living, the latest of which is How to Meet with God: A Simple Guide to Finding New Life in Your Time with Jesus.

The artwork

THE ARTWORK FEATURED on the cover and throughout the devotional comes from the digital pens of TWR MOTION illustrators Kayla Moser, Hannah McGurk, Mary Vooys and Amber Kenneson. The art comes from *Journey to Hope*, a 20-episode series of animated Bible stories created to share the good news with those from a Buddhist worldview. *Journey to Hope* is one example of how TWR reaches people through media so that lasting fruit is produced.



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