



a thrill  
of **HOPE!**

It's the time of year when we focus on Advent - anticipation of the coming of Christ. Have you thought much about the first Advent season? More than 400 years lapsed between the last words of the Old Testament and the birth of Christ. The words of the prophets had been passed down generation after generation. Do you think people began to lose hope around year 375? Waiting is hard. Hope deferred makes the heart sick. But then...an angel of the Lord appears to Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, and Joseph - and a thrill of hope is ushered in. A weary world rejoices.

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Four hundred years of silence broken with the fulfilled promise of a Savior! Sometimes God breaks through in the most powerful ways after a long period of silence. When God seems silent, it is easy to lose the thrill of hope. The holiday season often magnifies the awareness of the weary world in which we live. What can sustain us during these difficult times? I believe it is the same thing that sustained our ancestors during those quiet years. HOPE!

Advent is a season of longing. We long for the object of our hope to be revealed. We desire for God to redeem, restore, and reconcile. We join our ancestors in waiting for our king. While they waited for Christ's first coming, we wait for His second coming. The wait is not a waste. The waiting is purposeful, ordained, and God-glorifying. And it's worth it.

What do we do as we anticipate what is to come? God came to us in our affliction; let us GO to others in theirs. Christ advocates before the Father on our behalf; let us use our voice to SPEAK up for the voiceless. Jesus gave Himself for us; let us INVEST ourselves in the vulnerable through the giving of our time, talents, and resources. As we do all these things together in His power and for His glory, we will EMPOWER people at home and worldwide to faithfully live out James 1:27.

We believe that all people were created in the image of God. This stirs us to provide support and dignity to all people as we are able. We proclaim God's big story through our little stories. Will you join us in 2018? We'd love to join hands with you in this fight for justice. Help us point the weary world to the thrill of hope that is only found in Christ.

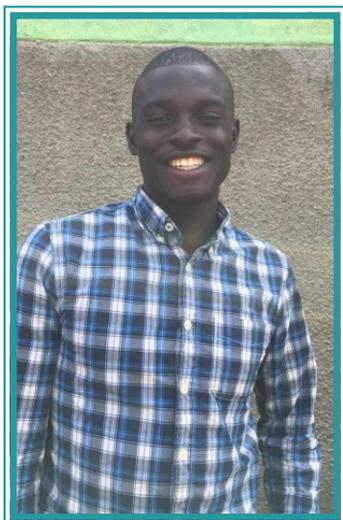
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*"Help us point the weary world to the thrill of hope that is only found in Christ."*

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from the 127 team!

# WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO - MEET SAMUEL!



One of the unique advantages we have at 127 Worldwide is longevity of relationships. Even though the organization is only six years old, the relationships are ten years old. That equals ten years of ministry where God has changed many lives. We have many stories to tell of God's grace toward orphans, but one of our favorite stories is Samuel's.

In the middle of a summer night in 2007, as families slept peacefully, a landslide crashed through a small, Kenyan village almost 400 miles away from Nairobi. Many people died as they were trapped in mud. Samuel, a nine year old boy, was spared that night, but his parents and two sisters perished. In minutes, he lost his entire family and all of his possessions including his home.

Now an orphan, government officials brought him to 127 Worldwide partner, Rose Bugusu, who is the founder and director of Tumaini Miles of Smiles Children's Home. Tumaini, the Swahili word for hope, is home to 70 orphans and over 300 children attend Tumaini School.

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Mama Rose welcomed Samuel to Tumaini. She gave him a home, food, clothing, community, and education. Most importantly, she shared the truth of God's word with him. Samuel required trauma counseling to help him process the loss of his family, and Rose provided that as well.

Today, Samuel is a young man who will soon be graduating from high school. He's had to work hard to catch up in his studies. He got off to a late educational start which was further delayed due to dealing with his grief. He will be graduating high school in 2018.

Samuel told me that when he came to Tumaini, he was illiterate, barely had enough food to survive, and had no hope for an education. He entered school at the age of ten when other children start around age five. The teachers at Tumaini motivated him to work hard and he has thrived in his education.

Samuel surrendered his life to Christ and was baptized. He said he didn't really know who God was before he came to Tumaini. Now, one of the things he's most thankful for about his upbringing is that he learned about God and how to live for Him.

After graduation, Samuel would like to enlist in the military to protect people and help others in need. He also wants to help Tumaini flourish in any way he can. Even now, when he's on school break, he helps Rose with jobs around the compound. It's clear from talking with Samuel how much he loves his Mama Rose.

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*"Orphans need to know they are not alone; they need to know they are loved. It's our privilege and our responsibility, as the Church, to love and care for these children as we introduce them to the Father who never abandons them."*

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Samuel represents what we want to accomplish through the ministry of 127 Worldwide. He was a hopeless orphan, but through the ministry of our local leader, Rose, that is no longer what he is. By partnering with Rose, and our other local leaders, we get to participate in the process of RESTORING HOPE to vulnerable children. YOU get to restore hope to vulnerable children when you partner with us.

Let's work together to help more Samuels. Our Father is father to the fatherless (Ps. 68:5). As His image bearers (Gen. 1:27), we are to care for these precious children in His name. Orphans need to know they are not alone; they need to know they are loved. It's our privilege and our responsibility, as the Church, to love and care for these children as we introduce them to the Father who never abandons them. We need more people to walk alongside of us in this difficult task. Orphan care is warfare. Will you join us in the battle?

## An Interview with Peter Abungu...

This month's newsletter focuses on HOPE and it was my pleasure to chat with Peter Abungu, founder and director of Swahiba Networks, about this topic. Swahiba ministers to vulnerable children in Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya.

**CHRISTY:** *Peter, what is your hope for Swahiba?*

**PETER:** My hope is for Swahiba to be a conduit through which people are able to experience the love of Christ. I hope that through Swahiba, lives are transformed by the gospel and that it's carried on to the next generation - a generation whose hearts are after God.

**CHRISTY:** *Peter, what do you hope for yourself?*

**PETER:** I hope the Lord uses me to build an army of people known by their passion for God. A people who exhibit a radiance of Christ's love. I hope to influence young people to be a catalyst for challenging the status quo. I hope God grants me fruitfulness in training a generation to view salvation as a gift from God because of His great love for us and not as a way to stay out of hell. And one day, I hope to hand over the baton of the Christian faith to the next generation.

**CHRISTY:** *Peter, what is your hope in Christ?*

**PETER:** I have hope in being united with Christ in His death and resurrection. I have hope in Christ because He sees me through all my circumstances. I place no hope in my own abilities, skills, or qualifications. My hope is in my Savior, Christ Jesus. It is not a false hope. It is an eternal hope.

My brother, Peter, and I are united in our hope in Christ. What grace He has shown us in not only giving us hope (1 Peter 1:2), but in being our hope (1 Timothy 1:1). I'm thankful for Peter sharing his hopes with me. He's challenged me to think about the hopes I have for myself and my work, and most importantly, my hope in Christ. What about you? What do you hope for?

# Christmas Gala FOR Justice



Imago Dei Church in Raleigh, NC, hosted its first annual Justice Gala this month! 250 justice seekers gathered for a night of dinner and dancing to raise awareness and funds for 127 Worldwide and Invisible Girl Project, a nonprofit that rescues girls from gendercide in India. We are humbled to be a part of this justice-seeking church and overwhelmed by the response from the Gala. Our special thanks to Shauna Sigmon for planning this fun event to help vulnerable people all over the world!



Will you GO with us next year?



To see more of the trips we are taking in 2018, visit our website at [www.127worldwide.org](http://www.127worldwide.org) and click GO.

**APPLY TODAY!**

### **Malava, Kenya: March 9th - 19th, 2018**

Tumaini Miles of Smiles Centre is a children's home and school for orphaned and vulnerable children in rural Western Kenya. On this trip, the team will be building an Aquaponics system that will grow fish and vegetables to help create a sustainable income for Tumaini Miles of Smiles Centre and many of the families they serve. There will also be opportunities to visit and encourage the children, women, and staff at Tumaini as well as pray, teach, and assist with various projects.

### **Nairobi, Kenya: June 15th - 25th, 2018**

This team will be partnering with Swahiba Networks in Nairobi, Kenya to serve in Kibera, the 2nd largest slum in Africa. Kibera is home to over 1.2 million people and Swahiba helps educate, train, and disciple youth who live there. Join 127 in restoring hope to widows and orphans through home visits, shoe distribution, bible study, and encouraging local leaders in ministry.

### **San Vicente, Guatemala: July 7th - 14th, 2018**

Serve alongside our newest local leader, Pastor David Lara, as he and his family invest in the lives of the vulnerable people of San Vicente. Be prepared to love on children, encourage adults, pray, teach, and assist with various projects.

Merchandise Store



Don't forget about our online store accessible through our website. A 127 tee is a gift with a purpose!

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