



Cheerful Givers

His Love Endures

PROJECT AFRICA TRIP RECAP

August 2024

The Journey

- Genesis of Cheerful Givers
- God commissions us to Africa
- Our partners in the mission
 - *Life in Abundance*
 - *Hope Haven*
 - *Jews for Jesus*
- The trip!
 - *Burundi*
 - *Rwanda*
 - *South Africa*
- Key messages to bring home
- What's next for...
 - *Cheerful Givers*
 - *YOU (& ME)*



The Impetus for Cheerful Givers

We needed a vehicle thru which we could pick up our cross and follow Jesus

Luke 9:23-26

New International Version

23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. 25 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? 26 Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

Matthew 28:19-20

New International Version

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Deuteronomy 12:5-6

Tree of Life Version

5 Rather you are to seek only the place *ADONAI* your God chooses from all your tribes to put His Name to dwell—there you will come. **6** There you are to bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes, the offering of your hand, your vow and freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock.

Matthew 25:35-40

New International Version

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, **36** I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ **37** “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? **38** When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? **39** When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ **40** “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’





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2 Corinthians 9:6-8

English Standard Version

The Cheerful Giver

⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully^[a] will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency^[b] in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

Bibles + Endurance Training = ? What?

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Romans 12:1

New International Version

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Isaiah 52:7

Tree of Life Version

7 How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news,
who announces *shalom*, who brings good news of happiness,^[a]
who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"



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God teaches us to think bigger & use the F word

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Request for Bibles

<u>Country</u>	<u>Language</u>	<u># of Bibles</u>	<u>Cost/Unit</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Local Purchase?</u>
Burundi	Kirundi	400	10	\$4,000	Yes
DRC	Swahili	500	13	\$6,500	Yes
Djibouti	Arabic	100	10	\$1,000	
Egypt	English	500	9	\$4,500	Yes
Eritrea	Tigrinya	180	22	\$3,960	Yes
	English	50	30	\$1,500	Yes
Ethiopia	Amharic	500	15	\$7,500	Yes
	Oromo	500	15	\$7,500	Yes
Kenya	Maa Audio	25	50	\$1,250	Yes
	Samburu Audic	25	50	\$1,250	Yes
	Mbeere Audio	5	50	\$250	Yes
Rwanda	Kinyarwanda	500	8	\$4,000	Yes
Somalila	English	20	10	\$200	Yes
	Somali	10	20	\$200	Yes
	Oromo	10	15	\$150	Yes
South Su	English	200	14	\$2,800	Yes
	Arabic	100	14	\$1,400	Yes
	Bari	50	14	\$700	Yes
	Zande	50	14	\$700	Yes
Sudan	English	50	10	\$500	No
	Arabic	50	10	\$500	No
	Van Duke	200	10	\$2,000	No
Uganda	English	20	17	\$340	Yes
	Luganda	80	17	\$1,360	Yes
	Runyoro	30	17	\$510	Yes
	Lusoga	20	17	\$340	Yes
TOTAL		4,175		\$54,910	
<i>Memo, Phase 2:</i>					
Haiti	French/Creole	100	14	\$1,400	Yes
Jamaica	English	500	21	\$10,500	Yes
		4,775		\$66,810	



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Our Partner in the Mission: Life in Abundance

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LIFE IN ABUNDANCE
INTERNATIONAL

- On April 17, 1993, Dr. Florence Muindi was given a vision to mobilize the local church to restore health, renew hope, and inspire lasting transformation for Africa's most vulnerable children and families.
- In April 1995, together with her family, Dr. Florence Muindi took the first step in the journey that has led to the establishment of Life In Abundance by leaving behind her career to go into the mission field —then under the support of another mission agency.
- **2023 by the numbers:**
 - 58,000 orphans and vulnerable children served
 - 22,000 recipients of business loans and start-up capital from church-based SLAs
 - 72 new local churches mobilized (bringing total to 490); helping 94,000 people hear the gospel and 11,000 converts
 - 12,000 educational scholarships
 - 50,000 recipients of medical care and health insurance counseling
- <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C8-WznPxnHZ/>



WHO WE ARE

Life In Abundance is an African-founded, African-led, and faith-based organization with over 25 years of experience bringing hope to more than a million people in need.



WHERE WE SERVE

We serve in 14 countries throughout Africa and the Caribbean, working to defeat poverty and restore dignity to all people.



HOW WE WORK

Currently partnering with over 175 local churches, we empower leaders to sustainably meet the social, economic, education, and health needs of their communities.



WHY WE SERVE

We see a day when the world's most vulnerable and marginalized have life, and



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Other Partnerships we're Exploring



H O P E H A V E N
R W A N D A

- Christ-centered education for the most vulnerable in east Kigali
- Nursery (ages 3 – 6), Primary (grades 1 – 6), Secondary (grades 7 – 12) levels
- 220,000 square foot campus including new sports complex
- 65 classrooms, labs and libraries
- 2,000 + students, including 900 in boarding
- 1 million meals provided annually
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvcfTiVIb_k&t=313s



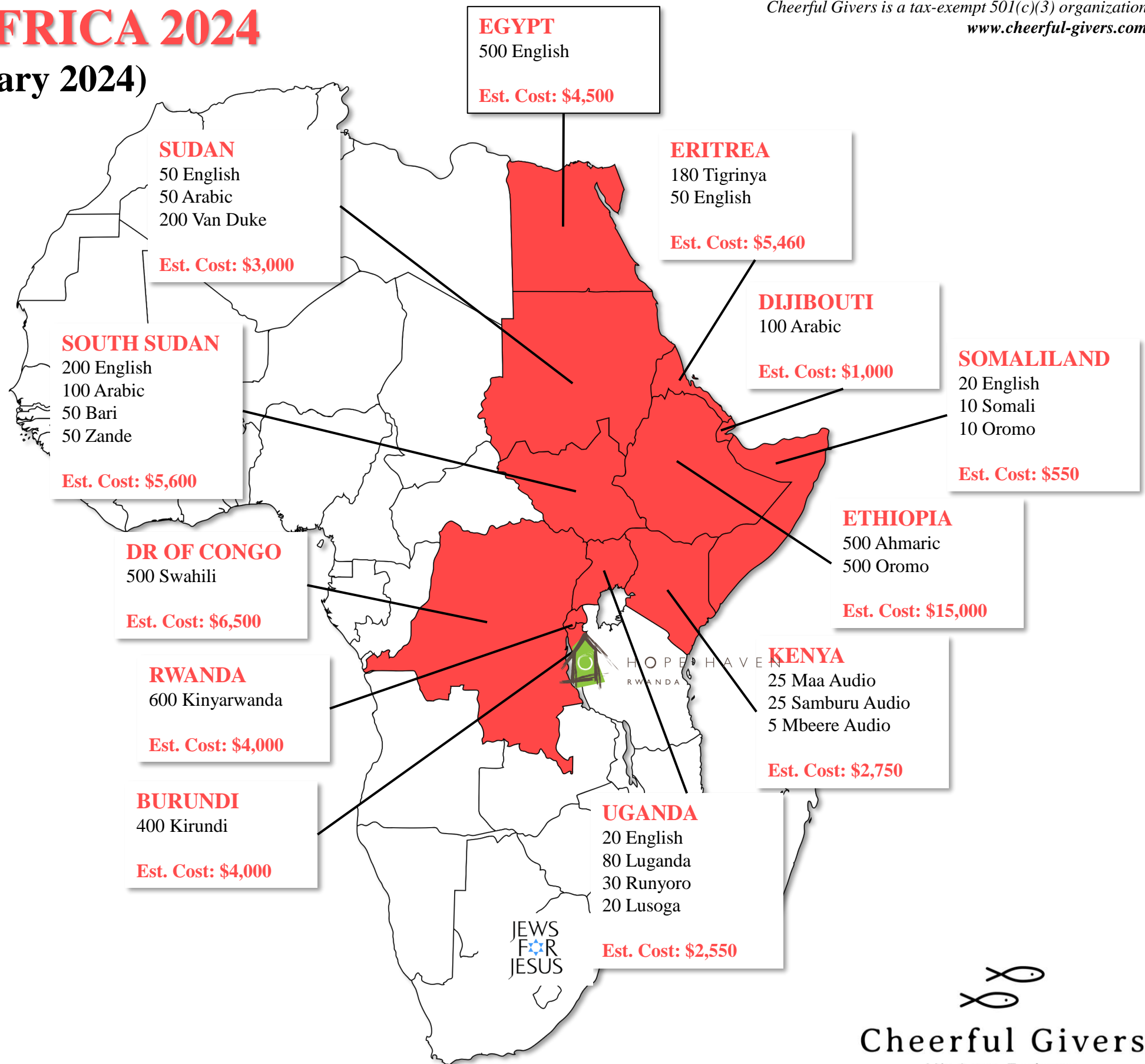
- Founded in 1973, initial roots in NYC
- 280 full-time staff and 125 trained volunteers evangelizing the Jewish community in over 12 cities worldwide
- Focuses include: Promote Jewish faith in Jesus, Facilitate Jewish community, Provide local services
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtUbWUZCebw>



PROJECT AFRICA 2024

Initial Map (January 2024)

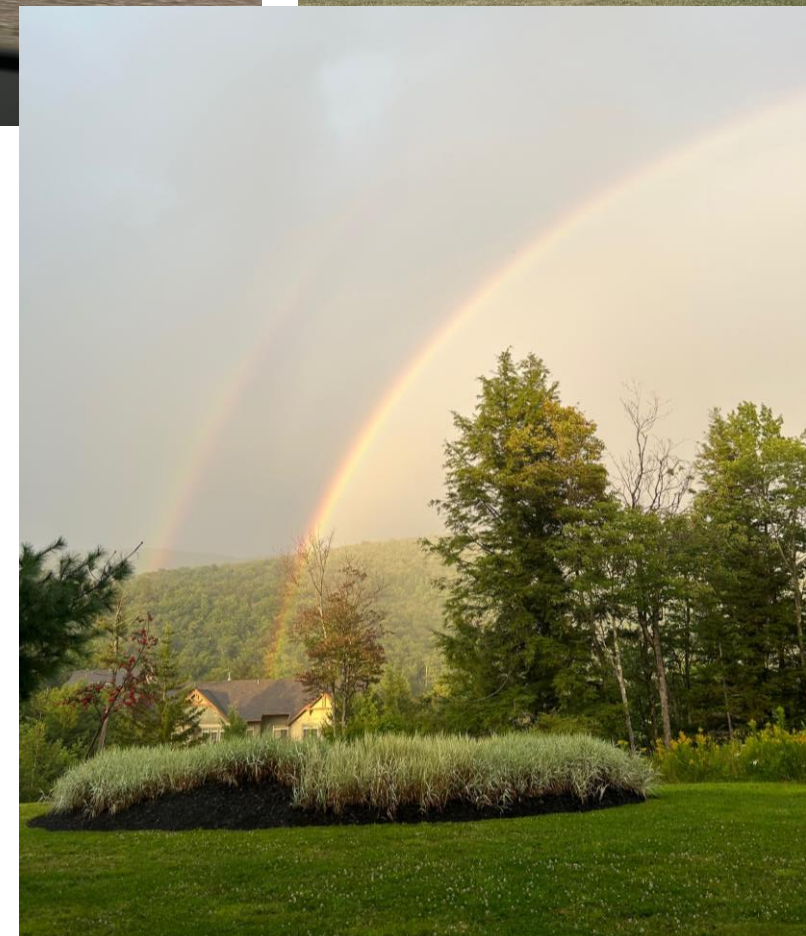
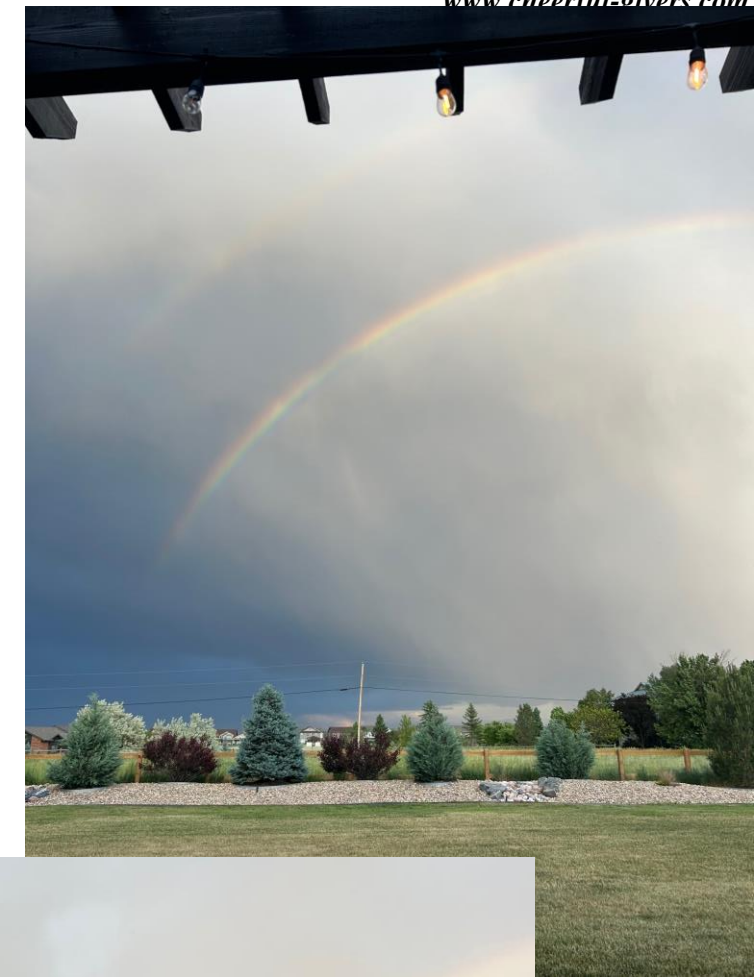
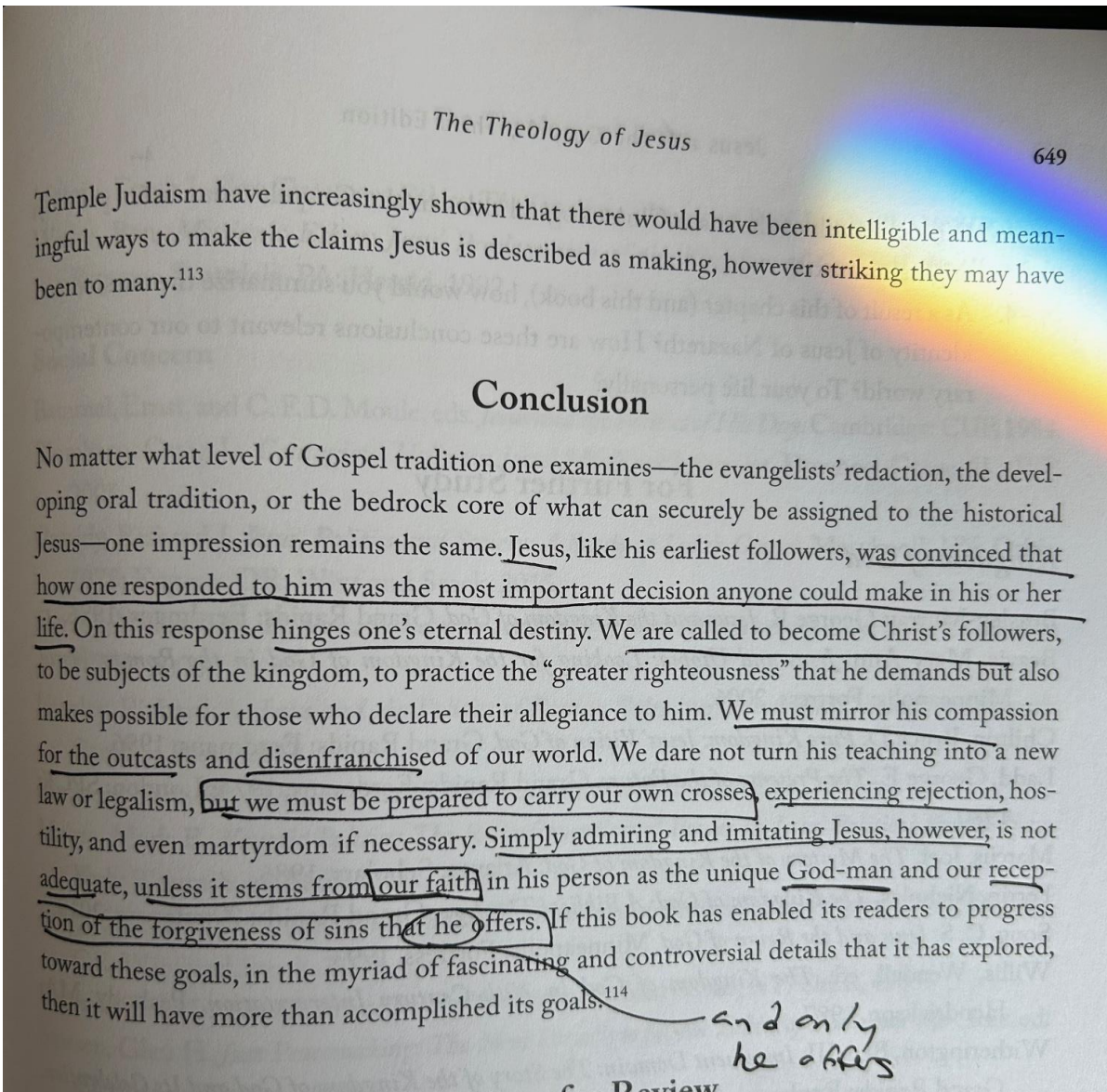
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God speaks to each of us differently...

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June 22, 2023 9:12am

Job 37

Tree of Life Version

37 "At this my heart trembles and leaps from its place. ² Listen carefully to the roar of His voice, the rumbling that comes from His mouth. ³ Under the whole heaven He lets it loose, and His light to the ends of the earth. ⁴ After that a voice roars; He thunders with His majestic voice. He does not hold them back when His voice is heard. ⁵ God thunders wondrously with His voice; He does great things beyond our comprehension.

But we never have to look further than the Living Word of God to hear Him

Genesis 12:1-3

Tree of Life Version

12 Then *ADONAI* said to Abram, “Get going out from your land, and from your relatives, and from your father’s house, to the land that I will show you. ² My heart’s desire is to make you into a great nation, to bless you, to make your name great so that you may be a blessing. ³ My desire is to bless those who bless you, but whoever curses you I will curse,^[a] and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.^[b]”

Exodus 3:4, 10-12

Tree of Life Version

⁴ When *ADONAI* saw that he turned to look, He called to him out of the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” So he answered, “**Hineni.**” **10** Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people Bnei-Yisrael out from Egypt.” **11** But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring Bnei-Yisrael out of Egypt?” **12** So He said, “I will surely be with you. So that will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you. When you have brought the people out of Egypt: you will worship God on this mountain.”

Joshua 1:9

Tree of Life Version

⁹ Have I not commanded you? *Chazak!* Be strong! Do not be terrified or dismayed, for *ADONAI* your God is with you wherever you go.”

Isaiah 6:8-13

Tree of Life Version

8 Then I heard the voice of Adonai saying: “Whom should I send, and who will go for Us?” So I said, “**Hineni.** Send me.” **9** Then He said: “Go! Tell this people: ‘Hear without understanding, and see without perceiving.’ **10** Make the heart of this people fat, their ears heavy, and their eyes blind. Else they would see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return, and be healed.” **11** Then I said, “Adonai, how long?” He answered, “Until cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, houses are without people, and the land is utterly desolate. **12** Adonai will drive people far away. The desertion of the land will be vast. **13** Though a tenth still be in it, it will again be burned. As a terebinth tree or as an oak whose stump remains when cut down, so the holy seed will be the stump.”

Jeremiah 1:7-8

Tree of Life Version

⁷ But *ADONAI* answered me, “Do not say ‘I’m only a boy!’ For to everyone I send you, you will go, and all I command you, you will speak. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them! For I am with you to deliver you.” It is a declaration of *ADONAI*.

Ezekiel 2:6-8

Tree of Life Version

⁶ “But you, son of man, do not be afraid of them. Do not fear their words, though thistles and thorns are beside you and you sit among scorpions. Do not be afraid of their words or be dismayed by their looks—for they are a rebellious house. ⁷ You will speak My words to them, whether they will listen or whether they will refuse to listen—for they are rebellious. ⁸ Now you, son of man, hear what I say to you: do not be rebellious like that rebellious house. Open your mouth, and eat what I am giving to you.”

As you can see, God's people have been on the move since the beginning of time...

Luke 10:2

New International Version

² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

John 20:21

New International Version

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

Acts 1:8

New International Version

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Romans 10:14-21

New International Version

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? **And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?** ¹⁵ **And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"**^[a]

¹⁶ But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?"^[b] ¹⁷ **Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.** ¹⁸ But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did: "Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."^[c] ¹⁹ Again I ask: Did Israel not understand? First, Moses says, "I will make you envious by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding."^[d] ²⁰ And Isaiah boldly says, "I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me."^[e] ²¹ But concerning Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people."^[f]

Revelation 7:9-10

New International Version

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."





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THE TRIP!

Trip Itinerary

280 miles BURUNDI



Wednesday, July 24

- Arrive in Bujumbura
- Dinner & meeting with Pastor Team

Thursday, July 25

- Travel to Makamba
- Bible distribution
- Community engagement, dinner with families

Friday, July 26

- Travel to Gitega
- Bible distribution
- Community engagement, dinner with families

Saturday, July 27

- Travel to Muyinga
- Bible distribution (round 2)
 - Community engagement, lunch with families
 - Travel to Bujumbura

Sunday, July 28

- Church service
- Sabbath Lunch
- City tour & dinner

Monday, July 29

- Depart for Rwanda

300 miles RWANDA



Monday, July 29

- Arrive in Kigali
- Dinner & meeting with Pastor Team

Tuesday, July 30

- Travel to Byumba
- Bible distribution
- Business & finance training

Wednesday, July 31

- Travel to Kayonza
- Bible distribution
- Lunch with families

Thursday, August 1

- Travel to Rubengera
- Lunch with families
- Bible distribution

Friday, August 2

- Bible distribution (round 2)
- Lunch with families

Saturday, August 3

- Travel to Lake Kivu

Sunday, August 4

- Volunteer at Ironman 70.3 Rwanda race
- Travel to Hope Haven (HH)

Monday, August 5

- Spend day with HH students
- Travel to Johannesburg

SOUTH AFRICA



Tuesday, August 6

- Arrive in Johannesburg
- Meet with Jews for Jesus South Africa director, learn about their outreach to the local Haredim community and where Cheerful Givers may be able to help
- Travel home!





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PICTURE TIME

Some Big Takeaways from the Trip

- 1. We are God's hands and feet, we need to take that commissioning seriously**
- 2. We don't need to feel ashamed or guilty of the lives we've been blessed into, but we need to take our stewardship of such seriously by responding to our respective callings in the Kingdom!**
 - Luke 12:48**
New International Version
⁴⁸ But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.
- 3. There is good reason Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves**
 - Matthew 22:35-40**
New International Version
³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"
³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'^[a] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[b] ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."
- 4. There is a reason the Bible mentions caring for widows and orphans over 80 times**
- 5. You don't have to travel 8,000 miles to love the vulnerable – we all need to be better about doing it weekly in our own communities**



What's Next for CG

- **Top of List: Serve vulnerable populations in local Denver communities**
 - *Poor, Vulnerable, Forgotten*
 - *Orphans*
 - *Widows*
 - *Concept of the “remnant”*
- **LIA Global Missions Conference in Nairobi: September 19 – 21, 2024**
- **Ongoing ministerial support for our new brothers and sisters in Burundi and Rwanda**
 - *Josey*
 - *Mama Nice*
 - *Mama Kamanze*
 - *Alia & her mother*
 - *Biris*
 - *Samuel & his mother*
- **Bibles for Hope Haven Families**
- **Medical Missions Trip 2025**
- **Phase II: Partnership with Convevir International in Mexico City**



GMC AFRICA 2024

Theme: Transformed for Wholistic Impact | Romans 12:2
19-21 SEPTEMBER 2024

DAY 1: THURSDAY, 19th SEPTEMBER 2024

7:30 am – 9:00 am: Arrival and Registration

Romans 12:2

New International Version

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

PLENARY 1 & PLENARY 2		
TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
PLENARY 1		
9:00 am - 9:30 am	Worship	Worship Team
9:30 am - 10:30 am	Transformation for Wholistic Impact	Dr. Gil Odendaal
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Refreshments and Access to Exhibitor Products & Services	Hosting Team
PLENARY 2		
11:00 am - 11:30 am	Worship	Worship Team
11:30 am – 12:45 pm	Wholistic Impact Through Leadership Integrity	Dr. David Oginde
12:45 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch, Networking, and Access to Exhibitor Products & Services	Hospitality Team

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM			
BREAKOUT SESSION 1			
ROOM	TRACK TITLE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
Room 1	Wholistic Mission of the Church	Church Essentials vs. Non-Essentials: A Balanced Perspective	Rev. Dr. Eloi Dogue
Main Auditorium	Wholistic Health & Wellness	Chronic Disease Management in Mission Healthcare	Dr. George Otieno
Room 2	The Saline Process	The Saline Process	Dr. Muthoni Magayu, CMF
Room 3	Wholistic Economic Empowerment	Equipping the Vulnerable Boy Child Economically	Pastor Simon Mbevi
Room 4	Wholistic Social Engagement	Measuring of Ministry Impact	Kepha Nyandega
Room 5	Educating for Transformation	The Role of Theological Education for Africa's Transformation	Dr. David Tarus
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Refreshments and Access to Exhibitor Products & Services		

PLENARY 3		
TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Worship	Worship Team
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	The Youth Matters	Rev. David Ewagata



LIA's GMC 2024

DAY 2: FRIDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER 2024
7:30 am – 9:00 am: Arrival and Registration

7:00 am – 9:00 am	The Saline Process	Dr. Muthoni Magayu, CMF
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PLENARY 4		
TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
9:00 am - 9:30 am	Worship	Worship Team
9:30 am - 10:30 am	The Transformed	Dr. Susan Watson
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Refreshments and Access to Exhibitor Products & Services	Hosting Team
11:00 am - 11:30 am	Worship	Worship Team

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM BREAK OUT SESSION 2			
ROOM	TRACK TITLE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
Room 1	Wholistic Mission of the Church	Youth Engagement in Wholistic Mission	Rev. David Ewagata
Main Auditorium	Wholistic Health & Wellness	Essentials of Mental Health	Dr. Rahel Bosson
Room 2	The Saline Process	The Saline Process	Dr. Muthoni Magayu
Room 3	Wholistic Economic Empowerment	Social Entrepreneurship in a Biblical Perspective	Prof. Peter Kibas
Room 4	Wholistic Social Engagement	The Church and Society	Dr. Oliver Simiyu
Room 5	Educating for Transformation	Integrating Knowledge Management and Mission Strategy	Prof. Joseph Kiplangat
12:45 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch, Networking, and Visit to the Exhibition Booths		Hospitality Team

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM BREAK OUT SESSION 3			
ROOM	TRACK TITLE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
Room 1	Wholistic Mission of the Church	Mission to the Inmates and Ex-Convicts	Teresa Njoroge
Main Auditorium	Wholistic Health & Wellness	Medical Service and Mission (A Case of Kijabe Mission Hospital)	Dr. Arinanna Shirk
Room 2	The Saline Process	The Saline Process	Dr. Muthoni Magayu, CMF
Room 3	Wholistic Economic Empowerment	Education as a Pathway to Economic Development	Koffi Etsrou
Room 4	Wholistic Social Engagement	Compassion Fatigue & Blocked Care in the Christian Community Worker	Dr. Hesbone Kang'e
Room 5	Educating for Transformation	Peace Building and Leadership Development	Lisa Jernigan
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Refreshments and Access to Exhibitor Products & Services		

PLENARY 5		
TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Worship	Worship Team
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	God's Agenda	Rev. Jesse Mwai
5:30 pm - 5:45 pm	Refreshments, Networking, & Access to Exhibitor Products & Services	Hosting Team

LIA's GMC 2024

DAY 3: SATURDAY, 21st SEPTEMBER 2024

7:30 am – 9:00 am: Arrival and Registration

7:00 am – 9:00 am	The Saline Process	Dr. Muthoni Magayu, CMF
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PLENARY 6		
TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
9:00 am - 9:30 am	Worship	Worship Team
9:30 am - 10:30 am	Addressing Mental Health Issues Today - A Panel Discussion	Dr. Ann Mwiti, Dr. Rahel Bosson, Dr. Evangeline Wangechi
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Refreshments and Access to Exhibitor Products & Services	Hospitality Team

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM			
BREAK OUT SESSION 4			
ROOM	TRACK TITLE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
Room 1	Wholistic Mission of the Church	Innovative Mission Strategies/ Technology and Missions	Rev. Kwame Rubadiri
Main Auditorium	Wholistic Health & Wellness	Nurturing Healthcare Workers and Missionaries	Dr. Daniel Ojuka
Room 2	The Saline Process	The Saline Process	Dr. Muthoni Magayu
Room 3	Wholistic Economic Empowerment	BAM in Christian Minority Settings	Rev. Dr. Jerry Akin
Room 4	Wholistic Social Engagement	Creating Transformation Movement	Dr. Yared Mekonen
Room 5	Educating for Transformation	Global Citizenship Education	Rev. Steve Nduto
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Group Photo, Lunch, Networking, Access to Exhibitor Products & Services		Hospitality Team

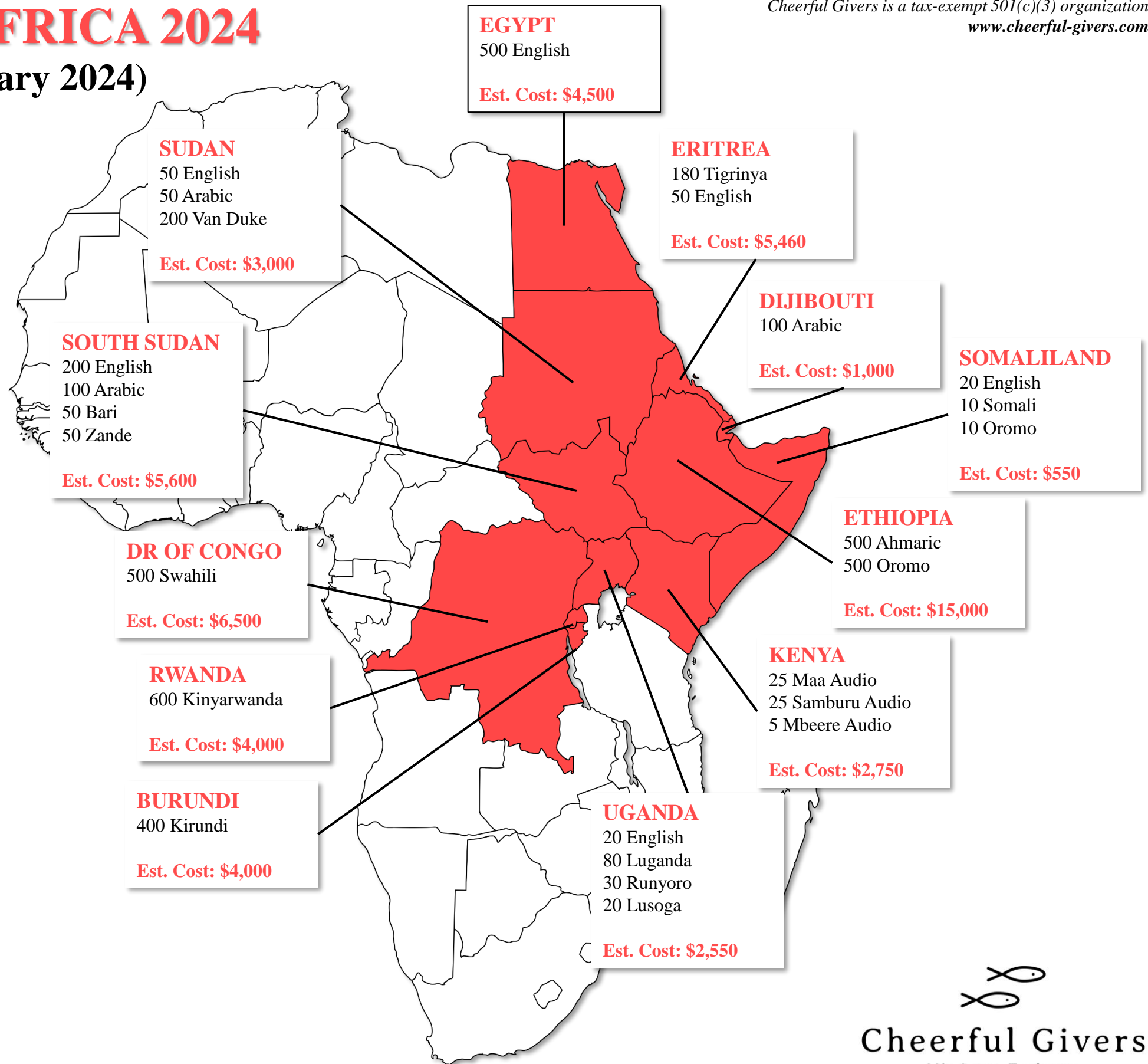
PLENARY 7		
TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Extended Worship	Worship Team
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Commissioning	Dr. Florence Muindi
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Refreshments and Access to Exhibitor Products & Services	Hospitality Team
DEPARTURE		



PROJECT AFRICA 2024

Initial Map (January 2024)

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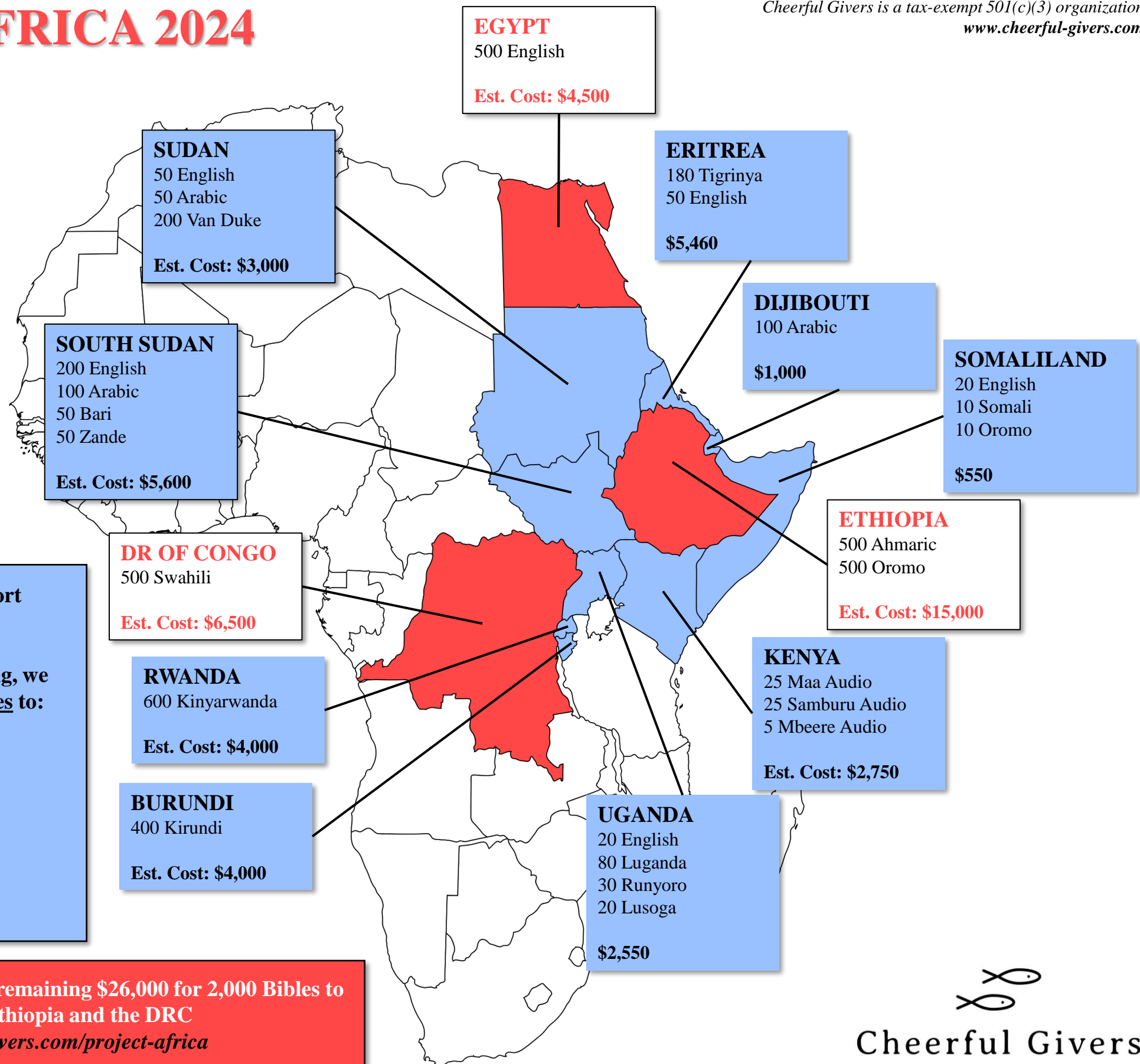


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PROJECT AFRICA 2024

August Update

Cheerful Givers is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization
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Thank you for your support
Year-To-Date!

Because of your Cheerful Giving, we
have sent more than 2,200 Bibles to:

- **Burundi (400)**
- Djibouti (100)
- Eritrea (230)
- Kenya (55)
- **Rwanda (600)**
- Somaliland (40)
- Sudanese Region (700)
- Uganda (150)

We are focused on raising the remaining \$26,000 for 2,000 Bibles to
go to Egypt, Ethiopia and the DRC
www.cheerful-givers.com/project-africa



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QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF...

- **How much of your day today did you spend buying stuff? How much did you spend vs. how much did you give?**
- **How much of your day did you spend on things for yourself?**
- **How many hours did you commit this week to: serving others, helping a neighbor in need, ministering to someone in your life you know needs it, feeding someone with no food, attending to widows and orphans, volunteering, or even giving above and beyond your regular tithing?**
- **Are you tithing?**
- **When was the last time you shared the word of God with someone? Or shared your testimony with someone?**
- **How much of your day did you spend on social media? What kind of content were you watching?**
- **What kind of veil did you have on today as you walked / drove around town? Was it a veil of love or a veil of judgment?**
- **Who in your life has God put on your heart?**

James never misses!

James 1:9-10

New International Version

⁹ Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. ¹⁰ **But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower.**

James 1:22-27

New International Version

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ **Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.** ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: **to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**

James 2:5-8

New International Version

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: **Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?** ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, **“Love your neighbor as yourself,”**^[a] you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.



Cheerful Givers

His Love Endures

James never misses!

James 2:14-26

New International Version

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ **In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.**

¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹ **You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.**

²⁰ You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless^[d]? ²¹ **Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?** ²² **You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.** ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,”^[e] and he was called God’s friend. ²⁴ **You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.**

²⁵ In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶ **As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.**

James 3:13-18

New International Version

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, **by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.** ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ **For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.**

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.



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James 4:1-10

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4 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? **2** You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. **3** When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

4 You adulterous people,^[a] don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. **5** Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us^[b]? **6** But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble."^[c]

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

James 4:13-17

New International Version

13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." **14** Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. **15** Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." **16** As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. **17** If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.



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Next Week....James' Final Punch

James 5:1-11

New International Version

Warning to Rich Oppressors

⁵ Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. ² Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. ⁴ Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. ⁵ You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

Patience in Suffering

⁷ Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.



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CALL TO ACTION: WHERE IS GOD CALLING YOU?

1 Peter 4:10

New International Version

¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Matthew 5:14-16

New International Version

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Isaiah 30:21

Tree of Life Version

²¹ Your ears will hear a word behind you saying:

"This is the way, walk in it.

When you turn to the right, or when you turn to the left."



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Matthew 6:19-24

New International Version

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy,^[a] your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy,^[b] your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.