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Photographer: Michael Owusu Location: Kumasi, Ghana **Equipment:** Canon EOS Rebel T7, EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS II Lens. (1/200 sec @ f/16, ISO 800, 35mm) **Situation:** Diana, Grace & Erica pose for a picture on a beautiful day in Kumasi.

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Thin Places

A place of God's instruction

BY TRAVIS RUTLAND

he Celtic people of the British Isles had a term called thin places. They believed places existed where two worlds came together. A place where the veil between this world and the eternal world was stretched thin. They believed a thin place was a location where someone could almost walk in two different worlds. One foot in the natural and visible and the other foot in the spiritual and invisible. This idea of thin places is actually found throughout the Bible. A place or a moment where someone in the natural walks through that divide and encounters the supernatural. Elijah experiences just such a thin place in 1 Kings 19. There on Mount Horeb, Elijah encounters the thin place of hearing. The moment is powerful and there is much we can learn from this thin place.

First, Elijah limits his distractions. In 1 Kings 19:11-12, Elijah sees a strong wind pass by, then an earthquake, and finally there is fire. However, God is not in any of those events. We will never find God in front of a screen. I encourage you to get rid of the phone, tablet, computer, TV or whatever else has been invented since I started writing this sentence and get alone with God. If you focus on the other stuff you will never hear God. If Elijah has focused on and followed the noisy stuff he would have missed God's voice. Look again at

what happens before the voice of God. There is earth, wind, and fire. Besides being an awesome R&B group, what are those? They are the classical elements. Those three elements, plus water, have always represented the natural. I believe that one of the things God is trying to say to all of us in this passage is that if all we ever ask for, pray for, and wait for is the natural, then all we will ever get is the natural. God's voice is only found in the supernatural. God is reminding us not to ask for the natural. Instead, limit those natural distractions and seek to encounter His supernatural voice.

Second, in 1 Kings 19:13-14, Elijah listens carefully to God's voice. The first step to entering a thin place is to limit our distractions. Okay, the distractions are gone. Now what? Now, you have to listen intently for God's voice. Allow God to speak to you. That voice will very rarely be an angel with a flaming sword or an audible declaration from heaven. The voice of God is usually small and still. It is often a voice that almost cannot be heard. But God's voice is always there. It just requires us to really listen. Years ago, I had a bout with laryngitis and totally lost my voice. At the time, our youngest son Liam was about 5 years old. Talking to him was still possible but he could not be far away. I could not yell over other noises. If Liam wanted to hear me,



it required him to get close to me and listen to me whisper. We must do the same thing. We must be quiet and listen to that still small voice.

Finally, the thin place of hearing propels Elijah into a new season of ministry. After God spoke in the still small voice, Elijah launches into a laundry list of complaints. In 1 Kings 19:15-18, God never even acknowledges Elijah's complaints. God simply gives Elijah new instructions. It is vital that we all have these moments of encountering God in the thin places but we cannot live there. For Elijah, this thin place is a place of hearing, renewal, guidance, and instruction. However, it is also very much a place of sending. Thin places are often where God's instructions are given to us and then we are expected to move into that next phase or season of life. Thin places are important but we cannot camp there. Instead, we encounter God, listen to His words, and then embrace our new destiny and calling.

As we begin 2022, I encourage you to spend some time in a thin place. Limit your distractions, listen to God's voice, and embrace your new purpose. God wants to do something new in all of us. We, at Global Servants, are doing that too. We have been trying to spend time in the thin place of hearing. We believe that we have heard some new callings that God has given us. We

look forward to sharing those with you in the months ahead. God bless you and thank you for all that you do for everyone at Global Servants.

TRAVIS RUTLAND has worked for Global Servants since 1997. He currently serves as the President of Global Servants. In addition to his role at Global Servants, Travis is the Lead Pastor at Restoration Church in Bethlehem, Georgia. A native of Georgia, Travis holds a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree from Southeastern University. Travis has been married to his wife, Courtney, since 1997 and they reside in Loganville, Georgia. They have three sons, Mark, Owen and Liam.

2022 And The God Of Now

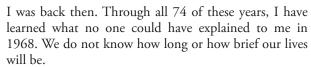
This year, this day, right now

BY DR. MARK RUTLAND

remember when Stanley Kubrick released 2001: A Space Odyssey. It was 1968. Alison and I had been married less than a year. I was twenty years old and a sophomore in college. I remember thinking that such an unimaginable year as 2001 could never possibly be reached. It was a bizarre, made-up-sounding number from some other millennium never actually to

be arrived at by humanity. Surely the world would never live to such an age as 2001 AD. Anyway, even if the world could somehow hang until then, I was certain I would not. I did the math. If I lived to 2001, I would be 54! That was never going to happen. Mark Rutland would never live to such an ancient age as 54.

I have now lived 54 years since that movie was released. I am in my seventies now, nearly halfway through them, in fact, and I'm still here. I am still traveling, still preaching, still writing, and still married to the same sweet girl as



Today, this day, as I write this column, could be my last. I may never live to see it in print. On the other hand, I may be preaching a decade from now. I do not

know how long I will live or how long I will be healthy and active in the ministry to which God has graciously called me. I do not know how many years I have ahead of me. More than that, I do not know if I will have tomorrow. That is the secret I did not really understand in 1968. Today is all we have. That's it—just today.

In this new year, 2022, as we humans reckon time, I am determined to live each day. Alison and I have lived an adventure. It has been a wild ride full of fun and pain and miracles and laughter and tears. Now, it is a new year and



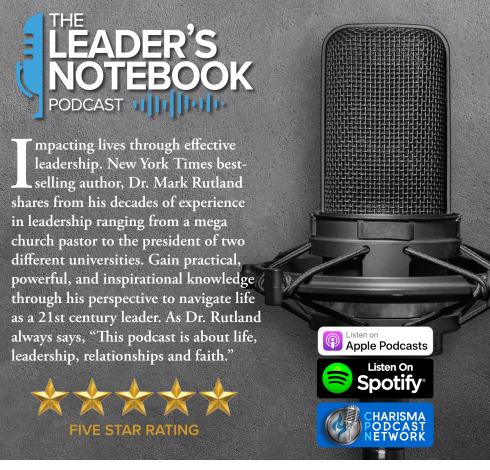
I could say I am determined to live this year in such and such a way. Nonsense. What I am determined to do is live in His presence today while it is still today. He is the God of now, right now, right this minute.

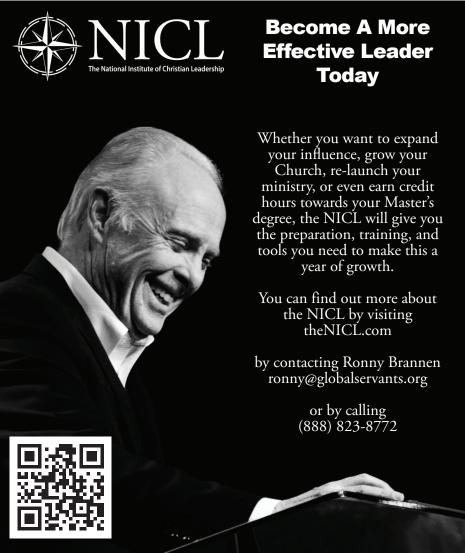
If someone were to make a futuristic movie now that extended as far out as Kubrick's did, it would be titled 2055: A Space Odyssey. I cannot imagine I will still be preaching in 2055. On the other hand, I will only be 107, and I feel pretty good. Who knows? Who indeed, but God alone. I leave 2055 to God. Whether here on earth or in heaven with Him, it is not my concern.

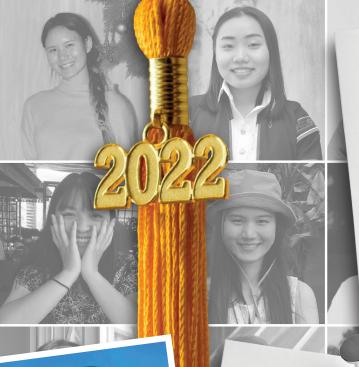
This year, this day, right now is all I've got, and I intend to live it in His presence and to use it for His glory. This year, today, is all any of us have. Live it up! Rejoice! Fear nothing except God Himself. Do what you have been putting off. Shuck off those heavy chains. Forgive every wound. Laugh more. Give recklessly. Bless someone you don't know. Do something delightful for someone you love. Above all things, remember, today is all you've got, and it is all you'll ever have every day.



DR. MARK RUTLAND is the Founder of Global Servants. He is a New York Times Best Selling author, educator, charismatic leader, businessman and a nationally recognized figure in Christian higher education. Dr. Rutland has been married to his wife Alison for more than 50 years now. They reside in the greater Atlanta area. For more information about Dr. Rutland please visit (drmarkrutland.com) and follow him on Twitter (@drmarkrutland).







Congratulations Chuleegorn on graduating with your Bachelor of Language in English for specific purposes from Chiang Rai Rajabhat University. Chuleeogrn is fluent in English; she was part of the team that visited the USA in 2017. Chuleegorn interned at Ezekiel Rain an anti-human trafficking and therapy organization over the past year. She has worked as an interpreter and translated documents. We so excited to see what Chuleegorn does next, God has big plans for her!





Congratulations Worrawan on graduating with your Bachelor of Science in Landscape architecture from Maejo University. Landscape architecture is an interdisciplinary and collaborative profession. It is a vital combination of art and science, urban and rural, living systems and sculptural form, historical precedent and innovative vision, and theory and construction. Worrawan conducted her internship at Be Green

Landscape Co. Ltd. and loves the idea of nature being art and an integral part of life. We look forward to seeing her designs, we know God will use Worrawan in a very big way!

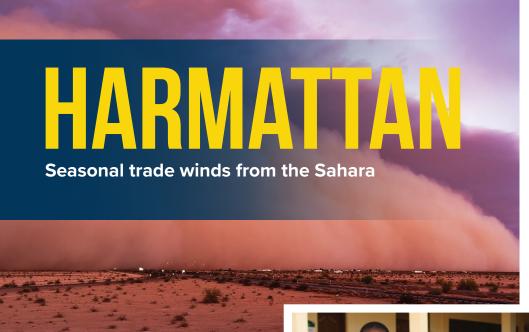




Congratulations Oraphin on graduating with your Bachelor of Language in English for specific purposes from Chiang Rai Rajabhat University. Oraphin has interned at a local resort, learning the complete workings of the hospitality industry. She has the ambition to become a business owner. We are confident God will guide Oraphin in all she does, we are so proud of her!



WATH



This season several girls from House of Grace-Ghana suffered from breathing issues from the effects of the Harmattan. Harmattan is seasonal trade winds that blow south from the Sahara to the Gulf of Guinea. This season usually occurs between the end of November and mid March. The air is arid with less than 10% relative humidity. Nighttime temperatures are less than 50 degrees Fahrenheit and over 80 in the daytime. There is very little to no rain, and the air is dusty. As the winds blow over the Sahara, particles fill the air causing dust storms. The air can become so thick from dust the sun is blocked.

Harmattan can bring cracked lips and eye infections. At House of Grace-Ghana we examine the girls frequently for any sign of infection and immediate isolate and treat girls by taking them to the hospital. The girls are also made

Harmattan dust (Pounds/Acre) 0 0.9-18 18-45 45-89 89-357 357-1,071

Kumasi, Ghana

to wear face masks when cleaning to avoid inhaling dust and getting chest infections as well. This March, the Harmattan will end and breathing will become easier at House of Grace in Kumasi, Ghana.



A Popular Christmas Cuisine

≺he girls at House of Grace-Ghana enjoy a traditional Christmas stew with homemade fufu, a cassava-based dish. Cassava is a nutty-flavored, starchy root vegetable or tuber, one of the most droughttolerant crops. Cassava root is also used to produce tapioca. The rootbased plant is boiled in water then pounded down with a mortar and pestle, making a thick dough-like mixture. Once the mixture is entirely smooth, it is shaped into more petite balls, with a stretchiness, like gum. The fufu is served with a broth-based soup. It is used as an edible spoon for the soup. Fufu does not usually have a distinct flavor of its own but takes on the spicy richness of the soup.



Heroes Of Their Own Story

How our vocational labs are setting our girls up for success

By Fay Inman

ouse of Grace is so much more than buildings. Even though we maintain homes on two separate continents praised by their respective governments and used as examples for other girls' homes, there is so much more. A home is not just about structure. A home is about the people inside the four walls. People that understand your circumstances, know your struggles, can pray, lead and direct you from the point of personal reference. People who listen to your dreams and ambitions then make a way to achieve them—being surrounded by people who understand your history and point of view.

When the home in Thailand was started in 1988, the directors were Americans. However, the house mothers and staff have always consisted of Thai nationals. In 1999, Jutiporn Muelae, one of the first residents of House of Grace, completed her bachelor's degree and began working at House of Grace-Thailand. Shortly after that, she became the director and now

manages the entire facility. The staff are all from the hill tribes of northern Thailand, some have Thai citizenship, and some are working towards that goal. Every employee at House of Grace-Thailand has completed a higher education level, participated in an apprenticeship, attended vocational training, and is professional in their field of study.

In 2000, after much discussion with House of Grace alumnae, it became evident that the cost of university for hill tribe girls without family support was very difficult. With the generosity of donors and sponsors, Global Servants initiated a program to allow high school graduates the opportunity to attend any university or technical college they chose. Since the program's inception over twenty years ago, over a hundred girls have completed their undergraduate degrees. According to the Educational Data Initiative report from November 22, 2021, the United States has an overall college dropout rate of 40%, the university dropout rate for House of Grace is less than 10%.

In 2017, the need for each university student to have a laptop became a discussion and request initiated by the university graduates. They used the computers in the libraries at their respective schools and took all their class notes by hand. The recent graduates were asking on behalf of the girls coming after them. We are proud to say that by the generosity of our donors, every girl entering university or technical college since 2017 has a personal laptop. This simple gift gives each girl the assurance and confidence to know that we believe in her and that she is a solid investment.

In 2022, we are proud to announce God has shown us another avenue for education through the requests of the girls and staff on campus. We realize not everyone is suited for university or technical college. We have always supported apprenticeship, vocational training, and technical college in addition to university and pursued these venues for graduating girls. We will continue to focus on these areas and provide vocational



opportunities on campus. Research has shown that exposure to careers in the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) field of study will increase the employability of all girls and provide employment in the future.

Completing the new dormitory in Ghana has allowed the vocational labs to begin there and be duplicated in Thailand. Because of the generous donation of individuals, a Fabric Arts and Vocational Sewing Lab was the first created at House of Grace-Ghana, and a local seamstress was hired to teach lessons. Then a Computer Science Vocational Lab was funded entirely by a technology business in Florida. We are in the process of building a Cosmetology Vocation program and a Bakery Arts and Pastry Lab funded by the sponsors of a girl at House of Grace-Ghana. With the donations from Giving Tuesday, we will install a STEAM-focused library in Ghana and increase the Fabric Arts and Vocational Sewing Labs at both homes.

We have begun to equip the **Fabric Arts** and **Vocational Sewing Lab** in Thailand, including several home sewing machines, an industrial machine, a serger overlock



machine, a computerized embroidery machine, and plans for more equipment. The current staff in Thailand are teaching design and technique, and we look forward to seeing their finished products. For over twenty years, the girls in Thailand have learned Akha embroidery, and some have used that skill to supplement their family incomes on holidays. There has also been a baking class in Thailand for the past fifteen years and alumnae have used this skill to earn income by selling desserts online.

We are looking forward to completing family and consumer sciences (home economics) labs in the future at both homes. Your generosity allows the girls and staff to become the heroes of their own stories and fulfill their God-given destiny.



FAY INMAN is the Advocate at Global Servants. With over 20 years of experience as an advocate nationally for girls. Fay has been married to Kenny for over thirty years, and they have two daughters: Kennedy, Gussy and grand-baby Ophelia Fay.

100% College Acceptance

of our House of Grace-Thailand High School graduates who all have been accepted into the college of their choice. We are all very proud of their accomplishments and pray for blessings and favor as they continue their journey into higher education.



Amonwan MaeJo University

Arunee Chiang Rai Vocational College





Bu-ya Chiang Mai University

Charunee *Chiang Rai Rajabhat University*





Khanittha CME Chiang Mai School

Sunisa *Chiang Rai Vocational College*





Suwanun Chiang Rai Rajabhat University

Donating your IRA distributions to a charity

Qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) have been permanently extended. Individuals can donate up to \$100,000 per year directly from a traditional or Roth IRA to qualifying charities. This is attractive to some investors because QCDs can be used to satisfy required minimum distributions (RMDs) from an IRA without having the distribution included in their income.

Eligibility

A qualified charitable distribution may be made:

- When the IRA holder is age 70½ or older.
- Directly from the IRA to a qualified charity.
- From a traditional or Roth IRA.

Qualified charities

Generally, a qualified charity includes most public charities that are eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions - including religious institutions, certain veterans' organizations, fraternal societies and community foundations that provide scholarships.

Limitations on distributions

Restrictions set on QCDs include the following:

- \$100,000 maximum per person per year.
- Distributions transferred to the charity no later than Dec. 31 of the current tax year.
- Must be a direct IRA distribution from the IRA custodian or trustee to a qualified charity.
- Not all charitable organizations qualify.
- Applicable only for traditional and Roth IRA distributions (excludes SEP and SIMPLE IRAs)
 Making a QCD provides an opportunity to make a charitable contribution that you might otherwise not have been able to make and/or receive potential tax benefits for charitable contributions that you are already making. You should consult your tax advisor and estate-planning attorney about your situation.

Key benefits

- For those who give larger gifts Deductibility limits
 do not apply to QCDs, which means the QCD can
 be made in addition to other charitable contributions
 that may be limited by the annual maximum
 deductible percentage of income or phase-outs of
 itemized deductions.
- For those who don't itemize deductions If QCDs are used as the funding source for charitable donations, the donor will receive tax benefits when there otherwise would have been none due to the use of the standard deduction.
- For those who pay taxes on a portion of their Social Security benefits Income for determining the taxation of Social Security benefits is lower than if the IRA holder had taken the RMD, potentially reducing this taxation.
- For those whose income level subjects them to tax on Net Investment Income, or phase-out of personal exemptions or itemized deductions A QCD made in lieu of an RMD will result in lower Adjusted Gross Income for the IRA holder, which may lessen the effect of this tax or applicable phase-outs.

Please email Tim Rutland, our Chief Financial Officer, for general information regarding IRA distributions. tim@globalservants.org

There are resources available to most Americans to maximize their charitable donations that go to waste every year. Studies show that as much as \$7 BILLION DOLLARS in charitable funding fail to make its way to nonprofit organizations each and every year.

These dollars are made available through companies with matching gift programs yet go unused due to a lack of awareness surrounding the opportunities. These programs are set up through companies and corporations as a benefit to the employee. First an employee donates to a nonprofit, then they submit a matching gift request to their employer, which the company will make an additional donation to that nonprofit under their guidelines. These matching gifts are not seasonal, and they are not always available for a limited time.

Our goal at Global Servants is to help our partners take advantage of as many of these free resources as possible. The easiest and most accessible resource to the majority of donors is engaging in an employer match program. These employer programs, in most cases, will match your donations to a nonprofit of your choice. This means that by giving to organizations like Global Servants, and following the matching gift guidelines, your employer can double your impact for others around the world at no additional cost to you. We have several ministry partners who actively engage in these programs that have doubled their financial impact over the years.

Please scan the QR code to Charity Navigator to see how you can double your donations through your employer. We at Global Servants have a four-star rating, the highest possible with Charity Navigator, and we are proud to provide you with their trusted resources. While looking for your employer match information, you can also see many other ways to maximize your impact and help even more people worldwide.

If you have any questions or need assistance with your employer match program, please reach out to our office at (678) 541-5670, and a member of our staff will be glad to help!





Corporate Matching Gift Guidelines



Matching Gift Ratio

Every company determines how much is matched for their employees. The majority of companies match at a 1:1 ratio, but some will match at a 2:1, 3:1, or even a 4:1 ratio.

The ratio may also change based on:

- The type of employee (e.g., standing within the company or retirement status).
- The type of organization to which the donations go.



Minimum & Maximum Amounts

Companies apply minimums and maximums to their corporate matching gift programs. The most common is \$25, but it can range from \$1,000 to \$15,000, and sometimes more.

The minimum and maximum amounts vary by company, employee, and nonprofit type, so every employer will have a different policy.



Submission Deadlines

Different companies have different deadlines. Ensure that you don't miss out.

Standard match request submission deadlines include:

- End of calendar year.
- A set number of months after the date of the donation, most often 3-13 months.
- End of January, February, or March in the year subsequent to when the donation was made.

On behalf of all our girls in Thailand and Ghana and the people we serve around the globe, we say

THANKYOU

This year we raised more than

\$81,000.00

This is our biggest Giving Tuesday yet! We want to say a special thank you to all our donors who partnered with us to fund these projects. We also want to recognize our corporate partners that made giving a part of their culture. We pray that God bless every person, home, and business who gave this year.



Mark your calendars now for Giving Tuesday 2022 (November 29, 2022)

Textile Arts Vocation Lab at House of **Grace-Thailand**

Keeping our focus on education, we believe that teaching our girls realworld skills that give them a leg up in life is very important to their longterm success. To ensure this success, we have created textile arts vocation labs at both Houses of Grace. In Thailand, being a seamstress is a very sought-after skill that yields a comfortable way of living. We have decided to build a textile arts vocation lab at House of Grace-Thailand. This lab will cost \$5,000.00.

100% Fully Funded

S.T.E.A.M. Library at House of Grace-Ghana

From day one, a key focus of House of Grace has been education. At Global Servants, we believe that the power of education combined with a relationship with Jesus Christ is the key to our girls overcoming the obstacles of this life and receiving the destiny God has for them. With the construction of the new dorm in Ghana now complete, we want to fill the library with new books for the girls to further education, broaden their horizons, and expand their imaginations. To complete our library in the new dorm will cost \$10,000.00.

100% Fully Funded

Trinity Foundation School Computer Lab

Global Servants provides pathways of education for more than just the residents of our Houses of Grace. We also offer education to children through our village initiatives and Trinity Foundation School at our West Africa headquarters in Anwamaso, Ghana. Keeping our children up with the world of technology gives them an upper hand not just in college but in life as they enter the workforce. As we expand our S.T.E.A.M. program at Trinity, implementing a fully functioning computer lab is a necessity. This computer lab will cost \$30,000.00.

100% Fully Funded

Multi-Media Vocation Labs (House of Grace-Thailand and Ghana)

The multi-media vocation labs at both Houses of Grace are designed to equip our girls with a profitable skill that they can use to provide for themselves in the future. Education is a key initiative at Global Servants, and we believe these labs give our girls an even brighter future. The multi-media lab consists of computers, software, and hardware that allow the girls to create various products through graphic design and production. This lab will cost \$7,500 per home – \$15,000.00 total.

100% Fully Funded

Sanitation Stations: 5 stations - Ghana

Sanitation stations have been an ongoing initiative of Global Servants for many years now. Over time, we have seen firsthand how these stations radically improve the lives of those living in rural villages in West Africa. Sanitation stations give a safe, clean, and eco-friendly space for residents to use the bathroom. These stations are proven to cut down on the spread of deadly diseases like typhoid. We have identified five vulnerable villages in Ghana that require this aid of whom we can help. Sanitation Stations: 5 stations @ \$2,500 per -\$12,500.00 total.

100% Fully Funded



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