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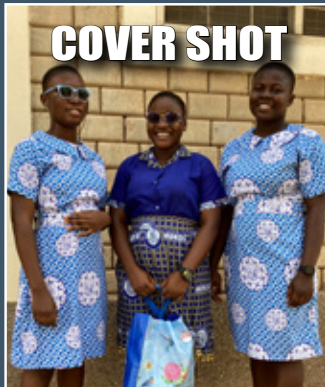
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Photographer: Janet Abena Awotwe

Location: House of Grace-Ghana

Equipment: Apple iPad
(1/225 sec @ f/2.4, ISO 25, 3mm)

Situation: Esther, Afia and Juliana share a picture together at House of Grace-Ghana earlier this year.

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A Touch Of Jesus

From Acts to action - Jesus' touch resonates across continents

BY TRAVIS RUTLAND

Frederick II served as the Holy Roman Emperor in the early 1200's. In addition to being the emperor, he saw himself as a scientist. One experiment that he conducted was an attempt to prove what was the original language of humanity. Specifically, if no language was ever spoken to a baby, what language would they speak? There were many speculations. One idea was that a baby's language would be the native language of the parents. That language was somehow passed down like eye color. Others thought it might be Latin or possibly Hebrew. So, Frederick II located a number of abandoned newborns and gave them into the care of nurses with strict instructions on how to raise them. The nurses were ordered not to interact with the children other than when strictly necessary. The infants could be fed and bathed but no more. They were not to be spoken to or cooed over - under any circumstances. Frederick II never got an answer to the question of the original language of the babies. All of the babies, starved of any form of affection, warmth, and basic interaction died from a lack of touch.

Jesus, in His ministry, often interacted through touch. In Mark 1:40-42, a man holds out his leprous hand to Jesus and asks for healing. The man tells Jesus that he knows Jesus can heal him if He is willing. Jesus responds by saying, "I am willing!" and He touches the man's hand and the man is healed. This is the wonderful thing about Jesus. Jesus is willing to heal us. Jesus is willing to extend His hand of healing no matter what we have done, the sin we have committed or the pain that we have caused. Our hands are diseased and sinful. We destroy our lives and our future and yet Jesus still says, "I am willing!"

Throughout His ministry, people were desperate to get close to Jesus. Why? It was more than the fact that it was a willing touch. It was that His touch was powerful. The crowds were desperate to touch Jesus because in His touch was power. His touch transforms people. They are healed, delivered, redeemed, and restored through His touch. Jesus is the son of God and in Him we find transformation. We are no longer in bondage because not only is Jesus willing to heal but He actually can. The touch of Jesus



“WE CAN ALL BE THE HANDS OF JESUS”

heals us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. His touch on our life restores us completely.

Finally, the most important aspect of the touch of Jesus is as an example for us. In Acts 3, Peter and John heal the lame man on their way into the temple. In Acts 3:7, it tells us that Peter touched the man and he was healed. This is the model for us. The touch of Jesus must be replicated. The call is for us to replicate what Jesus did. The power and healing in His touch must also be active in our lives. The early church continued the ministry of Jesus by laying hands on others. Now, we are the hands of Jesus. Hands touch.

That is their entire job. We must help others and do all that we can to touch the lives of people around us.

Replicating the touch of Jesus remains the goal of Global Servants in both West Africa and Thailand. The girl in danger of human trafficking is given a future because of the touch of Jesus. The village with no access to clean water that is given the gift of a well receives the touch of Jesus. However, this is not just a Global Servants calling. I encourage you to make it your purpose too. The world around us is dying from a lack of touch and we can all be the hands of Jesus. There are people in your life that need

to experience the touch of Jesus and you can replicate it. Together we can be the hands of Jesus around the world! ◀

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 The Church at Liberty Square in Cartersville, 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 Cartersville, Georgia. They have three sons, Mark, Owen and Liam.

The Mezuzah By My Door

Religious symbols, memories, and a prayer for peace

BY DR. MARK RUTLAND

Against the wall in our dining room is a curio cabinet inhabited by artifacts brought home from the travels of our lifetime. Alison has that rare decorator's touch to arrange such little treasures in a way that they display perfectly. They are beautiful and we love to show them off to visitors and tell them where each came from. The majority are from Israel, the country we love and love to visit. Among them are an intricately engraved tik, a Torah case, some gorgeous olive wood carvings and several pieces of beautiful silver statuary. They are not priceless but they are also not knick-knacks. They are lovely works of art that are especially precious to us because they speak of memories, of people we love, and of the country we pray for, Israel.

In addition to those treasures, at our front door, attached to the jam, head high on the right is a particularly eye-catching mezuzah which was also a gift from a friend in Israel. I do not think of him nor of Israel every time I see it, but it does remind me more often than if it were not there.

Alison and I are friends of Israel, this is no secret. Several years ago, I was given the Defender Of Israel Award by the Christians' Israel Public Action Campaign (CIPAC). To this day it is one of my most treasured honors. I also love my own country. I am a patriot and a Zionist. Yet, I know that neither country is perfect. The United States has done stupid and even sinful things and we have way too often elected reprehensible people to the highest offices in the land. Being a patriot is not the same thing as living in historical denial. Likewise, being a lover and defender of Israel does not imply thinking Israel and its leaders are perfect. They are not. I readily admit that if it needs admitting at all.

On the other hand, they are not genocidal oppressors! Israel is like a nice, decent family living in a really beautiful home in a terrible, frightening and dangerous neighborhood. Such a family is beyond naive if they do not arm and defend themselves against neighbors who have sworn publicly to destroy them and burn down their house. Israel is a democratic state, and the best ally of the USA. They are an ally which shares with us an ethos that derives from the Bible.

If terrorists in pickup trucks were to cross the Rio Grande on a mission of slaughter, rape, murder, torture and kidnapping innocent civilians, then one would expect that the United States would answer with a crushing military response that would wipe out those guerrillas and destroy their bases of operation. What Hamas did on October 7, 2023, was not a legitimate military action by soldiers against soldiers. It was not the resistance of an oppressed minority. It was a monstrous criminal attack by animalistic murderers who committed unspeakable atrocities against civilians including the elderly, women, children and infants. It was an indefensible nightmare which no thinking human being with even a shred of a soul can justify or rationalize by pointing the finger at Israel and screaming, "Yeah but look what they did!" Such a false equivalency is wicked and will only serve to encourage murderers, such as Hamas.

Here is the bottom line question. Demand an answer from anyone who cares to cast Israel as the occupier/aggressor. If every surrounding nation and every Islamic army, including Iran, laid down their arms tomorrow, what would Israel do? Would they march in and slaughter those nations? You know they would not. On the other hand, if Israel disarmed what would happen? You also



Protection

know the answer to that. In days, if not hours, every Jew from the river to the sea would be murdered.

Finally, I will say this about the idiotic protests against Israel on campuses and elsewhere. Hidden beneath, and not very well hidden at that, is not outrage at Israeli political and military policies. The driving force, regardless of any effort to deny, is anti-Semitism. The most ancient and mysterious of all hates is the hatred of Jews. It is Satanic and as in all things Satanic, regardless of where it begins, it always ends with murder. Whether it is rape and murder in a peaceful village

in Southern Israel or a gas oven in Auschwitz, there is no difference. There is no defense. There is no justification. There is no equivalency. Israel is not perfect. It is absurd to claim it is. Indeed, Israel makes no claim of perfection. Israel only claims for itself the right to exist and to defend that right with all its might.

This evening at the Wednesday night service at my son's beautiful church, I will not be afraid that a bomb will kill and maim the attendees. I will return to my lovely home in peace. I will not be afraid of who might be lurking in the bushes or who might attack in the night.

But as I come in the door, I will touch the mezuzah and pray for my friends in Israel and for the peace of Jerusalem. ◀

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](https://twitter.com/drmarkrutland)).



Harmonizing Hearts and Homes

The powerful intersection of cultural heritage, faith and destiny

By Fay Inman

Reunification is about hope for many girls in villages. Reunification is a word we often hear with governments, divided territories, or political parties. There is additional meaning to reunification when it comes to children. According to ONETrack International, “Reunification is the process in which orphaned or abandoned children are reintroduced into a home of family members in their community of origin.”

If reunification means you must be reacquainted with your community of origin, this does not apply to the girls at House of Grace-Thailand or House of Grace-Ghana. The girls at House of Grace do not need to be reunited with their culture because they have never left it. They have physically left their village to live in Kumasi or Chiang Rai but have not left their culture.

Both homes maintain ties to the villages of origin for all the girls at House of Grace. Financial support provided through Global Servants has built wells for entire villages and sanitation stations in villages in Northern Ghana where the

girls’ families reside. We have supported schools with educational materials for students and teachers in Gbimsi, Kukua, and Nayoko, Ghana, where four of our older girls are from. In the aftermath of flash flooding, supplies, food, and materials have been provided to San Kret Thong, Chiang Rai, Thailand.



Zewra and grandmother

There is concern over the safety of girls returning to a place of physical danger that required rescuing and removal of the child. In Thailand, the girls with a safe place to visit go to their villages on school holidays. Some will stay at an aunt or grandmother’s home for their school break. Some girls do not have a safe place and remain on campus. Visiting their home village has also become a practice at House of Grace-Ghana in recent years. The older girls have stayed in their villages after completing ninth and twelfth grades while awaiting their subsequent school placement. Recently, the older girls are spending school breaks in their villages with family members.

In Ghana, the girls have been away from their families for ten years. The circumstances that brought them to House of Grace have drastically changed. Their brothers and sisters, who were also orphaned, are now in their twenties and have their own families. They have homes and can offer shelter to their sister. When the girls visit, they bring a stipend for living expenses



Ms. Ellen, Janet (House Mother),
Laisa and her sister

that their sponsor family has provided through Global Servants. The hosting household benefits from the increase in groceries and the nutritional education the girls have received at the House of Grace. While in the villages, girls from both homes help with family chores, assist the younger children with school work, and help in church activities. The girls bring the children books, candy, prizes, and games.

This year, four of our Ghanaian girls commissioned seamstresses from their villages to make their Kente dresses for Christmas. Dan Odarno, our West Africa National Director, says, "The charge from making one dress can purchase a 5kg bag of rice." If a serving

is 100g or half a cup of rice, it is 50 servings. A seamstress making one dress in the village can provide 50 meals for her family. There are many more examples of the economic impact that

without books. At House of Grace, they have a room with a bed, wardrobe, tiled floors, flushable toilets, private showers, and they attend schools with advanced educational resources. However, the light of Jesus shines through these girls. Their environment does not dictate their hopes and dreams.

Just as Joseph said in Genesis 50:20, "But as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good." Being in their villages of origin does not defeat or make them feel their future is limited. No! These girls know God has saved them for a big destiny. They shine light on every place they visit and give hope to the children around them. From the clothes the girls wear, to the languages they speak, and how they carry themselves with purpose and authority – radiating joy from their hearts with smiling faces – these girls are living witnesses of God's love.

According to Sandra Odarno, the most essential aspect of the reunification process is the evidence of hope. If God can do this for an orphaned girl without options, He can do it for me. ◀



Martha and family member



Afia with her aunty

our House of Grace girls visiting their families can have.

There is an argument that reunification enforces the systematic class system operating in poverty-driven villages by taking children from a thriving environment into a place of desolation to keep them poor and uneducated. The drive from both homes to their villages in the north is not just distance, but as if you have traveled in a time machine. These girls may return to village homes with dirt floors, no running water, and schools

FAY INMAN is the Advocate at Global Servants. With over 30 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.



Empowering Leaders And Transforming Lives With The NICL

Elevate your denomination, business, or church in your city with the NICL

By Ronny Brannen

We are off and running, welcoming another transformative year for the NICL (National Institute of Christian Leadership). Some of you may ask what is the NICL? The NICL is an intensive leadership training course personally instructed by Dr. Mark Rutland, bridging the gap between theory and real-world applications. You will learn a unique blend of practical business and spiritual principles that will positively impact your congregation and community. Dr. Rutland, with his extensive experience, covers four comprehensive classes within the NICL.

CHANGE DYNAMICS

Organizational definition and balance

STRATEGIC GROWTH

Directing and leading for quality

TRANSFORMATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Strategic leadership for growth

COMMUNICATION AND WORSHIP

Achieving excellence in expression

The NICL has left an indelible mark on countless lives, empowering leaders in both ecclesiastical and business spheres. The Lift Church in Sevierville, TN, under the leadership of Pastor Keith and Margie Nix, echoes this sentiment:

“It isn't hyperbole to say that the NICL changed our lives. Dr. Rutland's teaching expanded our horizons, deepened our understanding, and released us into our next. We would not only choose to do the NICL again, but if possible, we would do it sooner. Whatever you do, don't miss the opportunity of the NICL. You won't regret it! (Keith and Margie Nix).”

Having been part of the original cohort that developed into the NICL when Dr. Rutland was the president of Southeastern University, I can tell you that this program transformed my leadership and ministry. Early on, we hosted



the NICL in Georgia, Florida and Texas for a number of years, with some private events here and there. Since then, the requests for private NICL events have grown so much that we hosted our final public event at the end of 2023.

When I speak of private NICL events, it involves Dr. Rutland personally teaching leadership principles at specific locations, catering to the increasing demand around the country. These private events can be large denominational groups, organizations, or even local churches joining together. Just in the short time that I have been traveling with Dr. Rutland for the NICL, we have been to Georgia, Florida, Texas, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina, Ohio, Illinois, and Maryland. Some of those states have hosted the NICL multiple times. Starting off this year we will be serving the International Pentecostal Holiness denomination, and the Western North Carolina District of the Church of God.

For those interested in hosting your own private NICL event, please reach out to me at Global Servants. Our phone number is (678) 541-5670 or you can reach me by email: ronny@globalservants.org. For more in-depth information about the NICL, please visit: thenicl.com.

REV. RONNY BRANNEN is the Chief of Staff at Global Servants. He is a retired Pastor of 40 years, and the past Chair on the Board of Directors for Global Servants. Ronny holds an Associate of Arts degree from Reinhardt College, a Bachelor's degree from Georgia State University, and a Master's of Divinity degree from Emory University. He has been married to his wife, Darlene, for 45 years, and they have two daughters and five grandchildren.



Together We Can

The transformative partnership of The Lift Church and Global Servants

By Keith Nix

The Lift Church, like your church, exists for the sole purpose of partnering with God in the fulfilling of His mission. It isn't just that the Church has a mission, but the mission has a church. God's desire to reach all of humanity with the good news of salvation and the blessings of God's kingdom is the desire of the local church. But how can a local church reach beyond their geographical scope in a meaningful way? The answer, Global Servants!

As Helen Keller once said "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Global Servants is not only doing an incredible job of impacting lives on the ground in Thailand, Ghana and other parts of West Africa, but their partnership allows our local church opportunities to join in meaningful ways. The Lift's partnership with Global Servants gives us the joy of watching little girls grow into their big destinies. And what a joy!

In addition, through Global Servants our personal family grew this past year by the sponsorship of one of the precious girls at House of Grace-Thailand. Margie and our daughter, Isabella along with Kayla, a member of our pastoral team, had the honor of visiting House of Grace-Thailand last October. It was a life-changing experience to be part of an on-the-ground team assisting the ministry there. Although it would take pages to

describe the reactions of our team who assisted, the irony is that the breadth of their emotions can be summed up in one glorious word, "Wow!"

During the trip, Margie found out about the need to remodel and expand the kitchen. Her heart was moved to record a short video for our church family back home. We played it and asked our people to consider a special gift above our normal partnership giving. Amazingly the obedience and generosity of our congregation allowed The Lift Church to give a substantial gift to the work of the new kitchen. Again, what a joy to partner with Global Servants in their work of rescuing little girls for big destinies! Another aspect of partnership which is a huge blessing to our local church was the opportunity to host a team member from Global Servants. We hosted Ronny Brannen for a missions-focused service in March of 2023 and the message





he brought not only communicated the vision and the work of Global Servants, but for me as a pastor, more importantly it communicated God's word in a way that directly impacted the lives of all who heard.

Thank you, Global Servants! I was first impacted by Dr. Rutland's ministry in the late 1980's and the



impact has grown through the years. To have the opportunity to partner with a minister of such integrity and legacy is both exhilarating and humbling. Thank you! ◀

KEITH NIX is a husband, dad, pastor, evangelist, and author whose passion is to reach, teach, and elevate people in their full God-given potential. He and his wife, Margie, live in Sevierville, Tennessee with their daughter, Isabella, where they planted the church they lead, The Lift.

Juliana's Transformation From Orphan To Role Model

Psalms 52:1 spelt out clearly, "God's faithfulness is eternal." The Lord, who is no respecter of persons, identified Juliana before the foundations of the earth. Through His own mercies, ordered the steps of an orphaned girl and brought her to House of Grace all the way from Tamprugu, a village in the Walewale district of northern Ghana on October 28, 2011. There has been a great transformation in the life of Juliana ever since she stepped foot in House of Grace-Ghana.

Juliana was the only girl amongst her House of Grace siblings who gained straight admission to primary one (P1/ Grade 1) when they were all admitted into House of Grace-Ghana. However, extra tuition and provision of additional educational materials helped in her academic development. Thankfully, mummy (Mrs. Odarno) and the team present at the time saw to all these things. Juliana went through her primary and junior high school successfully, all in Trinity Foundation School. Later, she was placed in one of the best schools in the Northern Region, Yendi Senior High School. She couldn't choose any of the schools in Ashanti Region because of the reunification system. She was never abandoned in her pursuit of high school education. She continuously received the needed support from House of Grace until the last hour of completion of her high school education. When we had concerns we called one of her teachers, Mr. Asumah, who had high hopes and assured us of her success. Mr. Asumah reassured us in his own words "I have trust and confidence in her, she can make it."

Indeed, Juliana has brought smiles on the faces of all and sundry. She is now a role model to all her House of Grace siblings who are also aspiring to enter university. Gaining a university admission is a dream come true. Juliana is now a happy girl. Grace has found her, and we really thank and appreciate what God has done in her life. All these developmental milestones have come into fruition in Juliana's life as a result of her sponsor's support. How can we forget the entire Global Servants staff? With grateful hearts, we say thanks so much and God bless you.



Clean Water, Where Opportunities Flow

From distant rivers to local wells: How Global Servants empowers communities

By Tyler Ellis

I would say there is one thing that most of us living in first-world countries take for granted more than anything else: the ability to access clean water daily. Water affects so much of our daily lives. Water affects how we drink, how we bathe, our healthcare, and so many other essential parts of life. When Global Servants puts a well into a rural village, we aren't just giving easy access to water. We open that community up to the possibilities of a better life.

When clean water is available for people in the rural villages we serve, we see an instant impact on the improvement of their community. Clean water means personal hygiene, and washing clothes and other linens is possible. This helps to cut down on communal diseases that are easily transmitted. We can also see a direct impact of healthcare within the community. Having clean water to drink allows for proper hydration without the threat of contracting a virus that could cause harm or even, in some cases, death. I would say my favorite impact to witness is how clean water transforms the educational possibilities within the community.

On one of my recent trips to Ghana, I had the honor of visiting the community of Gbimsi. In this area, the nearest water source was several miles away. We were standing in front of a school started by one of our Trinity Foundation pastors, and they had no access to clean water. The pastor explained that they would take all the children to the river, several miles away, during the dry months so they could have school on the riverbanks. This was the only safe way to have the children do school so they would not dehydrate, but because it is a public river, there is still a threat of communal disease due to



© Austin Campbell



contamination. The lack of clean water at the school building also meant that girls on their cycle couldn't attend classes until their cycle ended. This



suggests that young ladies received fewer educational opportunities than young men because they had nowhere to take care of themselves appropriately. This is where Global Servants stepped in.

Because of faithful donors worldwide, Global Servants was able to sink a deep well, giving access to clean water for decades to come, and built sanitation stations for the students and teachers to relieve themselves in a dignified and sanitary way. This gave proper, safe hydration to all the students and paved the way for educational equality for all students. Clean water is more than just fluid; it can bring life and opportunity. Clean water is an essential item that every human should have access to. The impact of clean water is immediate and has the power to change whole communities for generations.

If you want to learn how to make stories like the school at Gbimsi possible, please visit: globalservants.org to get involved today. If you want to get your business, church, or community group involved in helping Global Servants bring clean water to the people of West Africa and Northern Thailand, please get in touch with me at tyler@globalservants.org for more information. ◀

TYLER ELLIS comes from a background of sales in corporate America. He has been in various positions in ministry for more than ten years. He has served in the local church for many years in various positions but is now dedicated to foreign missions and has served Global Servants since May 2018. Tyler has been married to his beautiful wife, Megan, since 2011. They have three children: Regan, Zeke, and Willow.

Dorm Update At House of Grace-Thailand

We are thrilled with the progress of Thailand's new middle-girl dorm. We have begun the demolition portion of the project and will lay the new foundation by April 2024. We aim to have the girls live in this beautiful new facility by May 2025. If you want to participate in this great project, visit: globalservants.org to give today.



GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday 2023 Update

There is nothing to say other than, THANK YOU! Thank you to every person who gave, shared post, told a friend, forwarded an email, or prayed for Global Servants on Giving Tuesday last year. 2023 was a record-breaking year with a grand total of \$97,500 raised. On

behalf of every girl in Thailand that will eat from the new kitchen now and for decades to come, thank you!

Giving Tuesday is something that so many of us look forward to every year. So, join us in prayer throughout the year and mark your calendars now for Giving Tuesday 2024 (12/03/2024). We are believing for God to do something even greater as we serve the world together!



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