

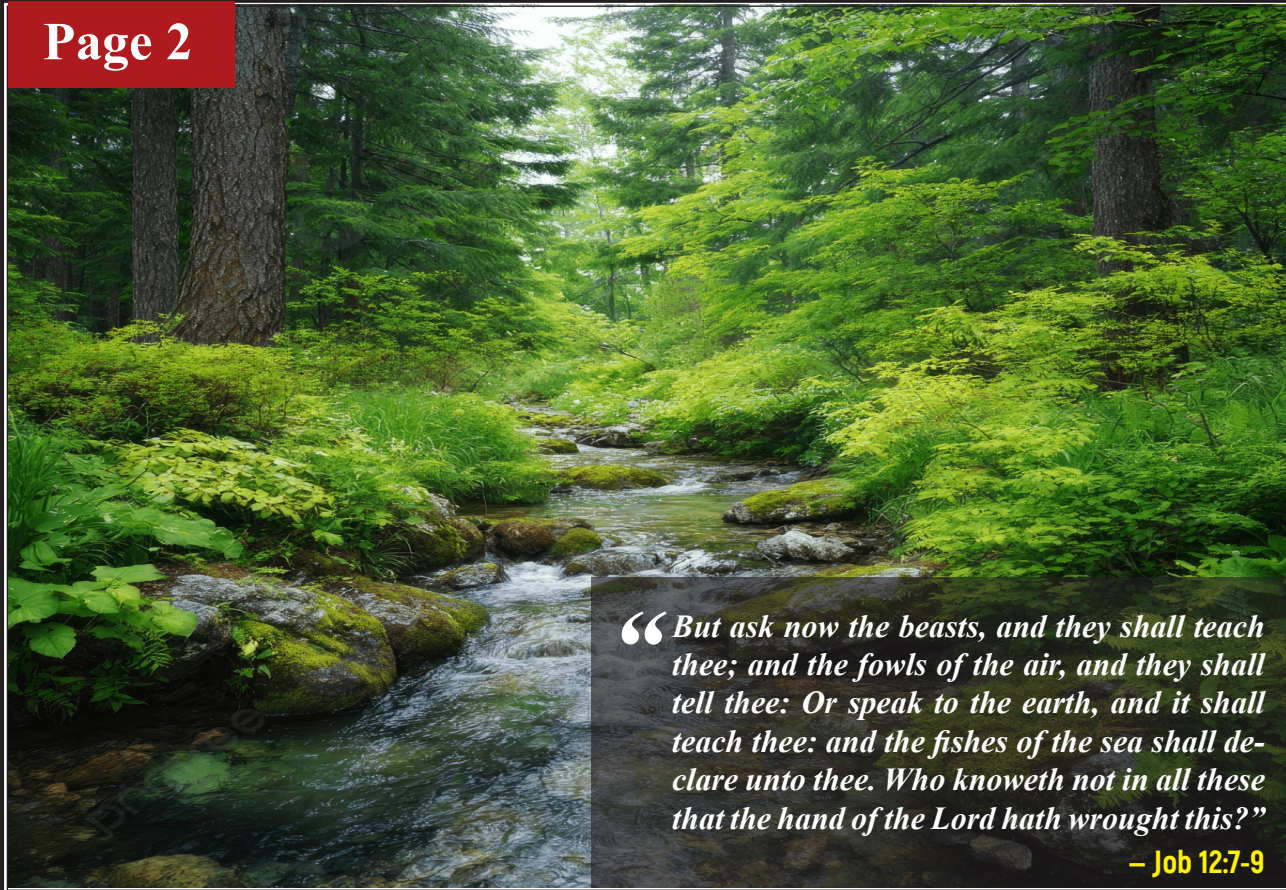
TRANSFORM NEWS

18/07/2026 FRIDAY

www.transform.com | WEEKLY UPDATES & SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

VOL:18072026

Page 2



“But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this?”

– Job 12:7-9

THE FLOW OF A SPIRITUAL LEGACY

Lessons from the Natural Stream..... Page 3

A powerful sermon delivered by
Pastor Edward Kibuunga during Bible Study on
July 14, 2026

TRANSFORM TV & RADIO STUDIO SETS

NEW BROADCASTING MILESTONES

Church leadership urges members to support this media wing through prayers, technical volunteering, and financial sponsorships to expand our digital reach.

Page 7

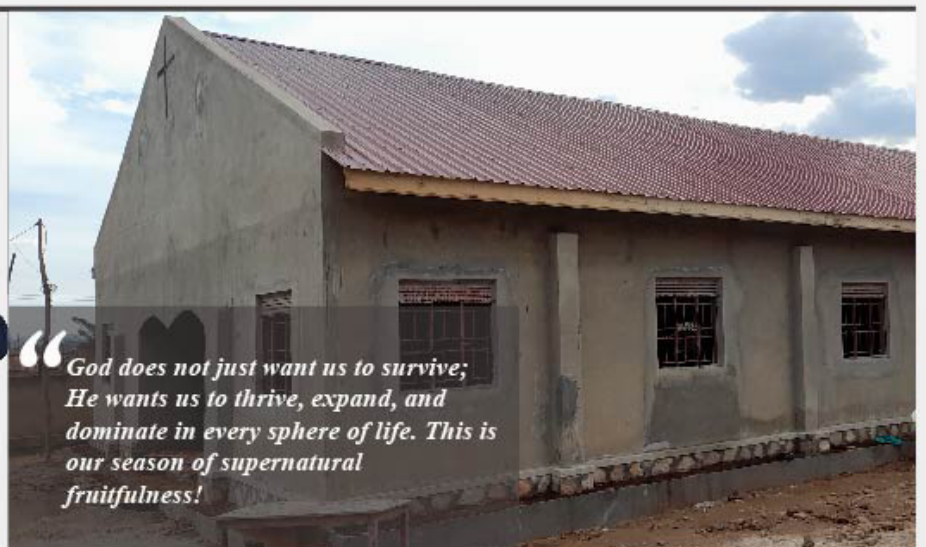
WEEK'S DEVOTION MESSAGE

GENESIS 1:28

“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”

SUNDAY SERVICE

Pastor Edward Kibuunga, while addressing the congregation during our latest Sunday Service, emphasized that fruitfulness is a product of deep spiritual rootedness. "You cannot bear fruit unless you remain connected to the Vine," he declared. The church has entered a dimensional shift with the commissioning of the new Transform TV & Radio studio, a powerful tool destined to amplify the gospel from Manyangwa to the ends of the earth. This newspaper, Transform News, is launched as another milestone in our communication strategy. It will serve as a weekly herald of testimonies, deliverance, Sunday School triumphs, and direct instructions from the altar of God.



“God does not just want us to survive; He wants us to thrive, expand, and dominate in every sphere of life. This is our season of supernatural fruitfulness!”

WATCH
PASTOR EDWARD KIBUUNGA
Online
SUNDAY SERVICE

transform
TV & RADIO
CHURCH: CHRIST'S CHURCH OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL
TIME: 9 AM IN THE MORNING

Be Fruitful
& Multiply
GENESIS 1:28

End of Month Deliverance Conference:
Join us on the last weekend of this month for
a special three-day power conference.



WEEKLY WORD & REFLECTION

THE FLOW OF A SPIRITUAL LEGACY:

Lessons from the Natural Stream

In our walk of faith, God has placed magnificent, unspoken truths all around us in creation. As the scriptures teach us, the invisible attributes of God—His eternal power and divine nature—are clearly seen and understood through the things He has made. To truly understand the spiritual legacy we are called to leave behind, we must look closely at the natural environment.

“But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this?”

— Job 12:7-9

When we examine a natural stream or river, we discover a perfect physical illustration of a spiritual legacy. A stream has a singular, unchanging purpose: it flows in a fixed, downward direction toward its destination. No external condition, terrain, or physical obstacle can force water to flow uphill. In the same way, our spiritual legacy must possess an absolute, uncompromising direction. As Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever, our spiritual foundation must remain unwavering regardless of the season we find ourselves in.

AN UNCOMPROMISED DIRECTION

A stream knows its path. It is guided by a natural law, flowing exactly where gravity leads. In our spiritual

FINDING A WAY AND GIVING LIFE

As the prophet Isaiah declared, when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him (Isaiah 59:19). The enemy will constantly attempt to block, dam, or divert the stream of your purpose. Yet, the river always finds a way because God's divine purpose in you is unstoppable. Furthermore, a stream does not hold water for itself. As it flows, it gives life to everything it touches: the trees, the animals, and the dry lands. None of these elements dry up because the stream constantly replenishes them. Our lives are meant to be conduits of blessing. The

spiritual inheritance we carry is not for our consumption alone; it is meant to flow out of us to irrigate dry souls and bring life to the generations that follow us. What flows through you will either bless or curse your lineage, as seen in the contrasted destinies of generations past.

WHY MULTITUDES FAIL THE PATH

If the path of a stream is so beautiful, why do so many believers fail to keep their spiritual path straight? In Proverbs 4:25-27, the scripture gives us profound keys: They fail to look straight ahead: Distraction is the enemy's favorite weapon. If your eye is distracted by worldly glitz, your entire body enters darkness, leading to aimless wandering journeys, our path must be guided by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

— Proverbs 3:6

FAITH & VICTORY CHRONICLES

“One Generation Shall Praise Your Works to Another...”
— Psalm 145:4

From the Dust to the Skies: Stones of Remembrance and the Power of a New Story

A PASTORAL MESSAGE ON LEGACY, GENERATIONAL GRACE, AND COVENANT FAITHFULNESS

Beloved congregation, today I feel a profound urgency in my spirit to speak to you about the nature of our stories, the power of our words, and the legacy we are actively leaving for those who come behind us. Many times, we find ourselves reflecting on the past—the seasons of hardship, the struggles of our upbringings, and the histories of the families we were born into. **But a critical question we must ask ourselves is this: Is talking about the past which forms who you are, and cherishing it, what truly makes a legacy?** The short answer is yes, it absolutely can. However, the eternal significance of that legacy depends entirely on how we choose to talk about it. There is a distinct boundary between merely dwelling in nostalgia and building a legacy that echoes into eternity. The past undoubtedly shapes our character, our resilience, and our perspective, but legacy is ultimately defined by what we do with that shaping under the hand of God.

1. The Biblical Mandate to Remember

Scripture reveals that God Himself repeatedly commands His people to remember. He does not ask us to erase our histories, but rather to anchor our identities in what He brought us through. In the book of Deuteronomy, as the children of Israel stood on the precipice of the Promised Land, Moses delivered a strict warning:

“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children...” — Deuteronomy 4:9

Similarly, the Psalmist declares the purpose of historical preservation in the household of faith:

“We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.” — Psalm 78:4

Why is God so intentional about memory? It is because remembering forms our spiritual identity. Your specific story—composed of the good, the devastating, the hard, and the miraculous healing—is an indispensable part of who you are today. Cherishing your past does not mean pretending that brokenness or lack never occurred; instead, it means positioning those realities so that God can explicitly manifest His glory through them.

2. Distinguishing Nostalgia from Legacy

There is a dangerous pitfall where talking about the past turns into a monument to pain rather than a testament to power. We must discern the difference between being trapped in what was, and using what was to construct what will be. Consider this vital distinction:

True legacy can be summarized in a single, definitive posture: “This is who I was, this is who God made me to be, and this is the divine inheritance I am choosing to pass down to you.” We see this brilliantly illustrated in Joshua 4. When the Israelites miraculously crossed the flooded Jordan River, God commanded them to take twelve stones from the very middle of the riverbed and stack them on the other side. God explained that in the future, when their children would ask, *“What do these stones mean to you?”* they would recount the miracle of the dry crossing. The stones themselves represented the heavy, difficult past. But the narrative told around them constituted the legacy. Legacy is the sacred commentary we write over our history by faith.

3. Three Ways Cherishing Your Past Creates Legacy

When you align your personal history with the redemptive plan of God, your past ceases to be a weight and becomes a weapon. There are three immediate ways this transformation alters your family line: First, Wisdom is Successfully Passed Down. Your past errors, structural setbacks, and hardfought victories serve as an inspired roadmap for your children, grandchil-

dren, and the individuals you mentor. Solomon notes in Proverbs 1:8, “Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and forsake not your mother’s teaching.” Instruction requires an author who has survived the path. Second, It Stands as a Testimony of God’s Faithfulness. The scripture reminds us in Revelation 12:11 that “they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.” When you look back and actively honor how God met you in the valleys of your early days, you inject supernatural faith into the hearts of those facing current battles. Third, It Breaks Destructive Cycles and Builds New Patterns. You possess the authority in Christ to look at a historical pattern and say, “This is what my family endured, but this is the entirely new trajectory I am choosing today by the sovereign grace of God.” This is precisely how generational curses are broken and structural cycles are redeemed forever.

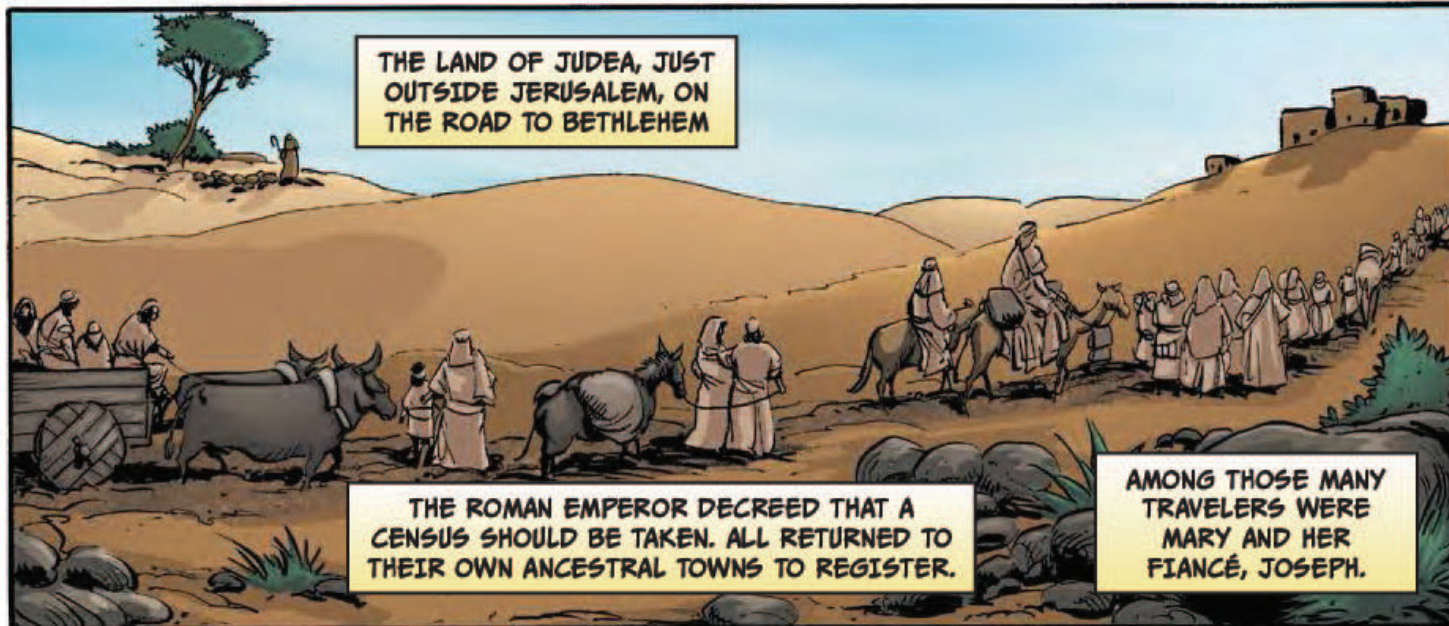
The Critical Heart Check We must routinely ask ourselves: Am I rehashing the past to heal and help others, or am I recounting it to stay bitter, validated, and stuck? The Lord wants to fully redeem your story, never to trap you inside it. As Isaiah 43:18-19 commands: “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” God does not delete the existence of your past; He uses it as the ink to write a glorious new chapter.

To be Continued.....Page 10

JUST TALKING ABOUT THE PAST (NOSTALGIA)	TALKING ABOUT THE PAST THAT BUILDS LEGACY
Stays permanently stuck in the sentimentality of “remember when.”	Points directly to “this is what Almighty God did through it.”
Glorifies the intensity of the pain, the lack, or human figures.	Glorifies God’s unswerving faithfulness and imparts true wisdom.
Keeps old historical wounds open and bleeding.	Brings total healing, divine alignment, and direction for the next generation.

TRANSFORM KIDS

God's Big Surprise Plan!



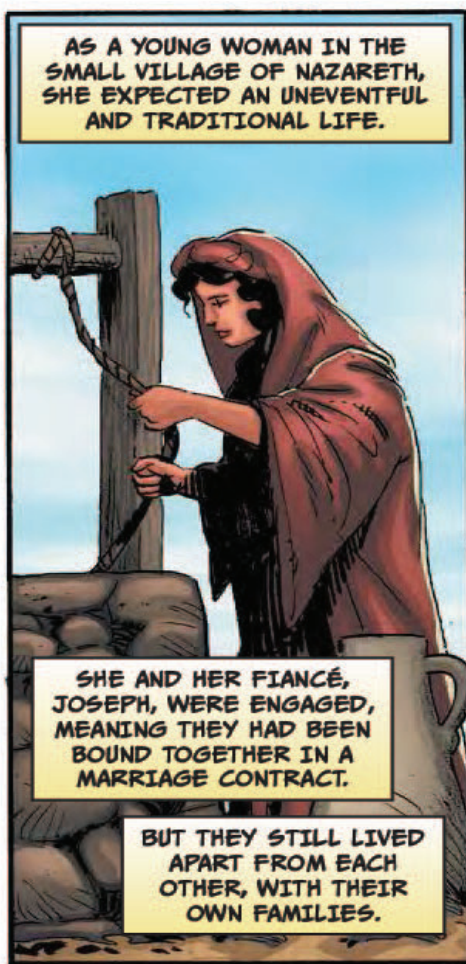
Have you ever made plans for a perfect, normal day, only for everything to completely change? That is exactly what happened to a young woman named Mary from the small village of N a z a r e t h !

Mary was engaged to Joseph, a very hard-working and godly carpenter. They were planning a traditional, quiet life together. They looked forward to moving into a cozy home Joseph was building, filling it with children, and growing old together in N a z a r e t h .

But God had a massive, world-changing surprise in store! Suddenly, an angel appeared to Mary, saying, "Greetings, favored woman!" God's plans were about to change Mary and Joseph's lives dramatically. Soon after, the Roman Emperor ordered a big census (a count of all the people), forcing Mary and Joseph to travel all the way to Bethlehem—an 80-mile journey to the south! Even though Mary was tired and expecting a baby, Joseph cared for her with so much love, reassuring her, "Don't worry... everything will be fine."

Through every unexpected twist, they walked in faith and love, trusting God's perfect plan!

We urge parents to review the lessons learned every Sunday with their kids. Home discipleship is the bedrock of a godly society. Let us lead by example in our homes.



AS A YOUNG WOMAN IN THE SMALL VILLAGE OF NAZARETH, SHE EXPECTED AN UNEVENTFUL AND TRADITIONAL LIFE.

SHE AND HER FIANCÉ, JOSEPH, WERE ENGAGED, MEANING THEY HAD BEEN BOUND TOGETHER IN A MARRIAGE CONTRACT.

BUT THEY STILL LIVED APART FROM EACH OTHER, WITH THEIR OWN FAMILIES.



FOLLOWING TRADITION, THEY WERE WAITING ABOUT A YEAR BEFORE THEY LIVED TOGETHER AS HUSBAND AND WIFE.

THEN THERE WOULD BE A SECOND, EVEN BIGGER CEREMONY.

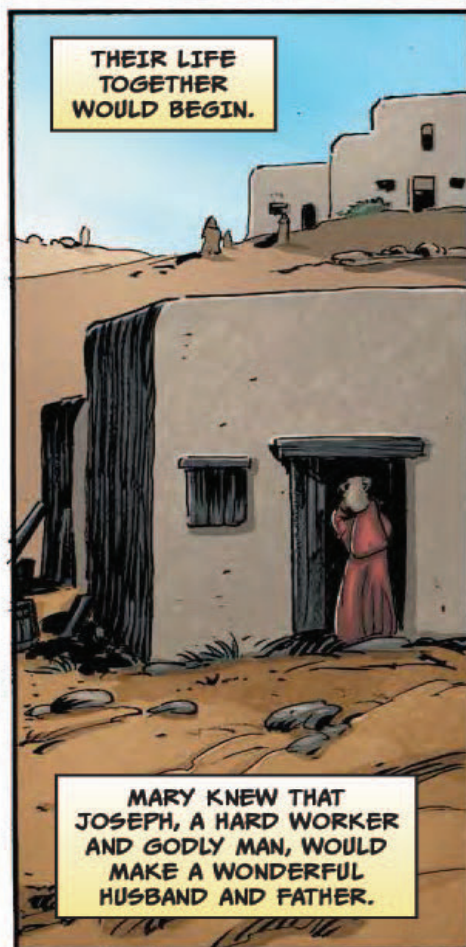
AND JOSEPH WOULD TAKE MARY HOME WITH HIM AS HIS WIFE.



MARY!
I SAW JOSEPH WORKING ON YOUR NEW HOME YESTERDAY!
YOUR PARENTS WERE WISE TO MARRY YOU TO A CARPENTER!

THAT HE IS!

HE'S A GOOD MAN!



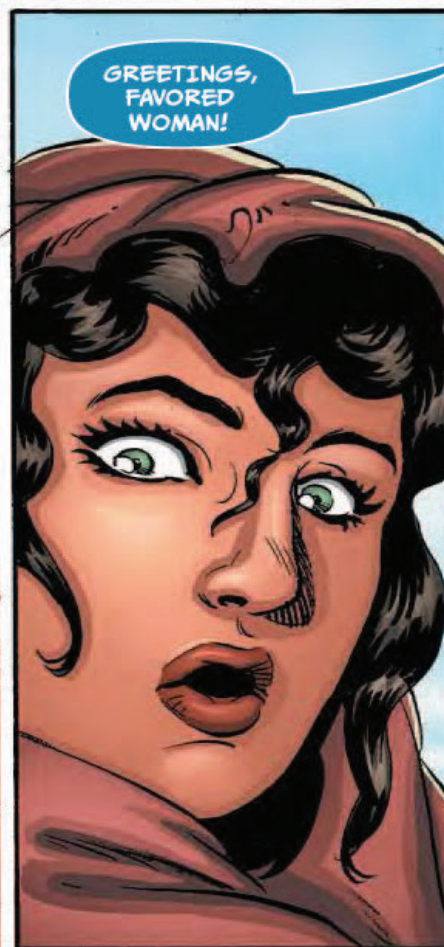
THEIR LIFE TOGETHER WOULD BEGIN.

MARY KNEW THAT JOSEPH, A HARD WORKER AND GODLY MAN, WOULD MAKE A WONDERFUL HUSBAND AND FATHER.



THEY PLANNED TO LIVE IN THE HOUSE JOSEPH BUILT NEAR HIS FAMILY'S NAZARETH HOME, FILL IT WITH CHILDREN, AND GROW OLD TOGETHER.

BUT THOSE WERE THE PLANS OF A YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN, AND THOSE PLANS WERE ABOUT TO CHANGE DRAMATICALLY.



GREETINGS, FAVORED WOMAN!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday

Sunday School presentation
at 9:00 AM.

Last Sunday of the Month

Bible quiz competition.

First Sunday of Next Month

Children's Praise & Worship
Service.

BIBLE QUIZ LAST WEEK

Test your knowledge! Fill in the blanks below:

1. Who built the ark?

2. How many disciples did Jesus choose?

3. Who defeated Goliath?

4. What is the first book in the Bible?

Children's Corner Kindness Challenge:

Help without being asked Clear the dinner table or clean up your room.

Words of encouragement:
Tell someone why you appreciate them!

The "Joseph Care" challenge:
Look out for a tired friend or sibling and offer help. Mega Bible Trivia Championship!
Help without being asked: Clear the dinner table or clean up your room.

Bible Quiz Time!

1. What was Joseph's job?

A) Fisherman B) Carpenter C) Shepherd

2. In what small village did Mary and Joseph originally live?

A) Nazareth B) Jerusalem C) Bethlehem

3. Why did Mary and Joseph have to travel to Bethlehem?

A) Vacation B) Visit family C) Roman Emperor's census

4. How many miles was the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem?

A) 10 miles B) 50 miles C) 80 miles

5. What words did the angel use to greet Mary?

Answer: _____

BIBLE VERSE OF THE WEEK

"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them."

Matthew 19:14

Family Matters

TRANSFORM FAMILY

WEEKLY EDITION VOL...1

The Safe Harbor: How to React When Your Child Brings You a Problem
It is the ultimate test of parenting: your child walks into the room, takes a deep breath, and confesses a major mistake or a heavy problem. In that split second, your reaction determines whether they will continue to trust you with their secrets, or learn to suffer in silence. When crisis strikes, experts urge parents to follow the "Calm First" rule.

1. Drop Everything and Breathe Your child is likely terrified of your reaction.

If you instantly explode, panic, or lecture, the emotional door slams shut. Take a deep breath, lower your voice, put down your phone, and make eye contact. Your calm is their anchor.

2. Listen to Understand, Not to Lecture
Resist the urge to immediately fix the problem or hand out punishments.
The Golden Rule: Do not listen to reply; listen purely to understand their reality. Use validating phrases like, "Thank you for telling me, I know that took courage," or "That sounds incredibly hard."

3. Ask the Magic Question Before jumping in with advice, ask one crucial question:



Youth Church Leader Evelyn Makayi

“Do you want me to help you solve this right now, or do you just need me to listen?”
The Bottom Line
When a child comes to you with a problem, they aren't looking for a perfect judge—they are looking for a safe harbor. Remind them that it is you and them against the problem, not you against them.

The Foundation:

Radical,
Unconditional Love
Children are incredibly perceptive. They quickly pick up on whether our love is conditional on their performance. If they feel they are only valued when they are succeeding, they will hide their failures. Separate the behavior from the child: Your child needs to know that while you may sometimes dislike their actions, your love for them is unshakeable. Say it out loud: Don't assume they know. Regularly tell them, "There is nothing you could ever do that would make me love you less."

Celebrate who they are, not just what they achieve: Notice their kindness, their resilience, and their humor—not just their trophies and report cards.

Home & Family Section | Sunday Edition

The Art of the Open Door:
How to Truly Love and Listen to Your Children
In the whirlwind of modern parenting, we often measure our success by the tangible: good grades, clean rooms, packed lunches, and signed permission slips. We provide, we protect, and we schedule. But in the midst of doing so much for our children, it's easy to lose sight of the most foundational need they have: to be deeply known, unconditionally loved, and genuinely heard.

Loving a child when things are going smoothly is easy. The real test of parenting, however, comes when the storm hits. When a child walks through the front door carrying a heavy burden—a failed exam, a broken heart, an identity crisis, or a major mistake—how we react in that exact moment can define the trajectory of our relationship with them forever.

A Reflection for the Week Ahead: Let us remember that our homes are meant to be hospitals for the broken, not courtrooms for the accused.

This week, may we have the courage to put down our checklists, quiet our anxieties, and truly open our doors—and

our hearts—to the children God has entrusted to our care.

Self awareness

James 3:4

During the first century, ships sailing the Mediterranean were the largest engineering marvels of their time. They were vast, heavy, and completely at the mercy of powerful ocean winds. Yet, despite their immense size and the violent forces pushing against them, their entire direction was determined by a relatively tiny piece of wood at the back of the vessel—the rudder. Whichever way the pilot turned that small rudder, the entire ship followed.

The Core Message

James uses this illustration to describe the tongue (our words). Just like a ship's rudder, our tongue is a tiny part of our body, but it holds the steering wheel to our entire lives.



Makayi Adrian / News Editor @ CCHI

Words Direct Your Path: The conversations you choose to have, the things you say to yourself, and the words you speak over others act as your personal rudder. They establish

the trajectory of your relationships, your career, and your mental well-being.

Words Counteract Emotional Winds: When the “strong winds” of life hit—like anger, stress, or unexpected hardship—a few controlled, wise words can steer you out of trouble, while reckless words can capsize you.

Ultimately, the verse is a call to self-awareness. It reminds us that we cannot always control the winds of circumstance, but by intentionally mastering our words, we give the “pilot” (our character and wisdom) the power to steer our lives exactly where they need to go.

THE HEART-TOUCHING STORY: A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

Every single day, in the bustling neighborhoods of Manayangwa and beyond, thousands of hearts search silently for a glint of hope. They are young souls drifting without direction, broken families seeking restoration, and talented gospel artists whose beautiful voices are locked away in obscurity simply because they cannot afford the cost of a recording studio. The physical walls of our sanctuary can only hold a few hundred believers at a time, but the spiritual hunger of our nation spans millions.

In a recent vision-sharing meeting, Pastor Kibuunga Edward and the Head of Church Media, Makayi Ian, sat down to review the cries of our community. They asked a foundational question: How do we take the healing presence of Jesus Christ out of the building and directly into the bedrooms, market stalls, and smartphones of the hurting? The answer was clear and divinely inspired: The Christ's Church of Hope Online Radio & TV Studio. A dynamic digital sanctuary running 24/7 on our website and broadcasting live via our church TV studio. This platform will not just broadcast sermons; it will host

transformative Christian conferences, stream live raw podcasts addressing youth depression and marriages, air community uplifting shows, and open doors for underprivileged gospel artists to record their music for free, spreading the gospel through song.



“We see a studio that acts as a rescue mission. When a broken youth tunes into our online radio or watches a live podcast, they will find Christ. When a talented worshipper walks in, we give them a microphone and a camera to bless the world. But right now, our hands are tied. We are missing the foundational tool to capture these moments: a professional camera.”

— Pastor Kibuunga Edward & Makayi Ian (Media Head)



Our urgent target is to raise **2,800,000 UGX** by August to acquire our very first professional studio camera. This single piece of equipment will unlock our live streaming capabilities. Beyond the camera, we require **5,000,000 UGX** for critical audio interfaces, soundproofing, high-end streaming computers, and mixing consoles to fully operationalize the TV studio and online radio.

We cannot do this alone. Your contribution is not just buying a lens or a wire; you are purchasing a lifeline for a soul in darkness. Let us build this altar of hope together.



Church studio before completion

Manyangwa Church Launches Multipurpose Media Campaign to Expand Broadcast Ministry Worldwide

KAMPALA, UGANDA — *In a strategic move to transcend physical walls and impact a global audience, Christ’s Church of Hope International in Manyangwa has officially unveiled plans to launch a state-of-the-art online radio station and dedicated Church TV studio.*

The ambitious digital expansion project aims to utilize modern communication technologies to broadcast live services, uplifting gospel music, interactive talk shows, and community development programs. The online radio station will be fully integrated directly into the church’s official web platform, providing

seamless, round-the-clock access to spiritual nourishment for believers across Uganda and the global diaspora.

To bring this vision to fruition, the church administration has structured an intensive fundraising campaign divided into two tactical phases. The immediate priority is to raise **UGX 2.8 million** by the end of August to acquire a high-definition broadcast studio camera, which will serve as the anchor asset for visual media production. Following the camera acquisition, the second phase will focus on raising **UGX 5 million** to secure vital auxiliary items, including multi-channel digital audio mixers, studio-grade microphones, lighting configurations, and acoustic soundproofing.

PROJECTED MEDIA STUDIO RESOURCE BUDGET

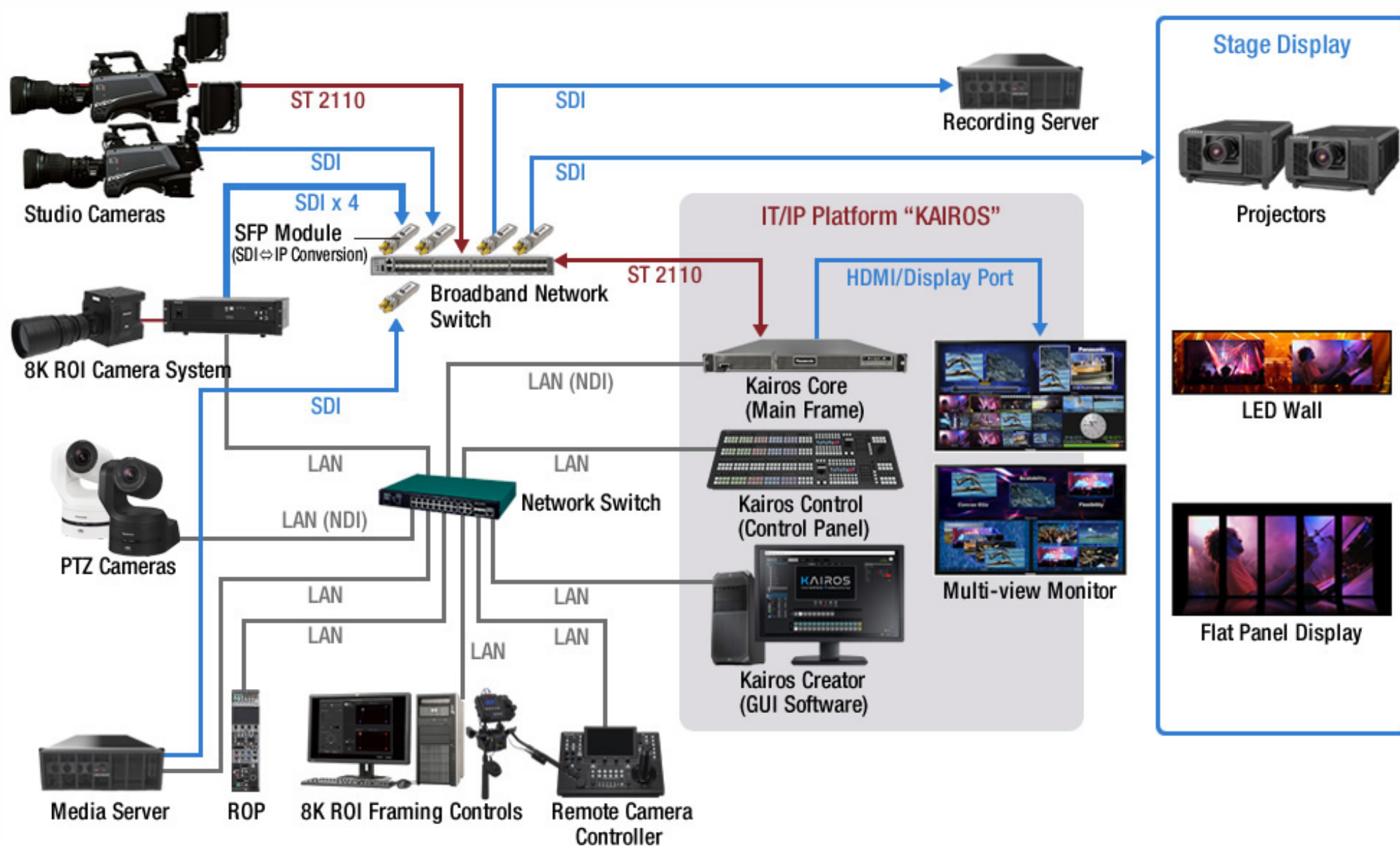
Item Description	Purpose / Application	Estimated Cost (UGX)
Professional Studio Camera (Phase 1)	High-definition live streaming for TV, conferences, and recording	
Audio Production Mixer & Consoles	Multi-channel mixing for live radio broadcast and artist recording	1,500,000
Studio Microphones & Acoustic Soundproofing	Crystal clear sound for live podcasts, vocals, and panel shows	1,200,000
High-Performance Broadcasting PC	24/7 seamless encoding and transmission to the church website	1,800,000
Cables, Lighting Softboxes & Monitors	Studio environment lighting and visual feeds	500,000
Total Media Ministry Investment Required		7,800,000 UGX



Church Impressions



Church Studio Camera Plan



4. A Living Testimony: Flipping the Village Label

Let me share an extraordinary, real-life testimony of how this dynamic functions when an individual steps out in radical obedience. In a certain village, there was a family where the father was publicly labeled by the community as “the poorest among the poor.”

It was a definitive mark of limitation, an identity meant to bind the family to perpetual lack. However, one of the sons looked at that severe label and made a conscious, spirit-led determination: “I have absolutely no contribution to make to this label. This will not be my final story.” He chose to stand on the truth of Galatians 3:13, which declares that “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law,” refusing to allow an inherited limitation to dictate his future.

He Weekly Legacy & Faith Newsletter Page 3 of 6 stepped out in faith, worked diligently, and became the very first individual in his entire extended family line to purchase and own a motor vehicle. To the natural eye, it was just a car. But in the spiritual realm, it was Joshua’s first stone of remembrance stacked on the bank of the Jordan. That single step of breakthrough caused his siblings to pause, look up, and ask a foundational question: “Wait, is this actually possible for us?” The moment they saw the barrier broken, their belief systems were completely liberated.

Today, that entire sibling line has risen out of destitution; as I write this, virtually none of them are called poor anymore. They moved from a legacy of stagnation to a legacy of infinite possibility. This is the very essence of Proverbs 13:22, which notes that “a good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children.” True inheritance does not always begin with an abundance of cash; it begins with an unyielding belief in God’s promises and a solitary, courageous step of obedience that changes what the entire family believes is achievable.

5. The Progression of Generational Uplifting Consider the immense power of a multi-generational trajectory when God is allowed to continuously multiply the small beginnings of each era. Look at this staggering three-generation progression: *The Grandparents:* Possessed absolutely

no academic certificates. Their lives were defined purely by quiet faith, grueling manual labor, and unrefined grit. Yet, they planted unseen spiritual seeds in the soil.

The Father: Attained only a basic, elementary education, which he strategically utilized as a raw foundation to acquire simple certificates. Yet, he surrendered his life to the call of God, climbed through adversity, and ultimately closed his eyes as a highly respected Reverend Canon in the protestant church. God literally fulfilled 1 Samuel 2:8, raising the poor from the dust and lifting the needy from the ash heap to set them among princes.

The Children & Grandchildren: Today, the children of that Reverend Canon hold advanced university degrees. The very son who broke the initial poverty cycle is a devoted *Pastor*, currently pursuing his doctorate with an explicit determination to become a globally recognized scholar. Furthermore, his own biological children are already operating as active ministers within the church! The family’s baseline has officially shifted: the grandchildren now graduate with a minimum of a bachelor’s degree as an ordinary standard.

The village that once labeled this family “the poorest among the poor” now looks across the horizon and calls them “manifestly blessed.” In fact, a young man from that same village recently looked at their global impact and remarked in awe that this family now “uses airplanes like bicycles to travel across countries and continents.” This is the literal, high-definition manifestation of *Psalms 126:1-2:*

“When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’” God took the ancient label of public shame and flipped it completely into a double portion of honor, exactly as promised in Isaiah 61:7. What began as a desperate cry in the dust has transformed into three consecutive generations of pulpits, altars, and academic

6. The Tragedy of the Stalled Heart

Yet, even in the midst of such an undeniable display of God’s favor, there remains a sobering lesson we must address. The young man from the village who observed the family using “airplanes like bicycles” remains trapped in deep financial struggle. The pastor has spoken to him individually, attempting to impart the exact same map, telling him: “If you put your absolute trust in the LORD, He will write a completely new script over your life.” But tragic as it is, the young man simply laughs it off. He, along with many others, continues to struggle daily—working themselves to the point of utter exhaustion, yet their ends never meet. They are living out the painful reality of sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind (Hosea 8:7), striving entirely in human strength without the blessing of the Covenant. If you find yourself trying to help someone who constantly laughs off the grace of God, remember these three pastoral truths: 1. You cannot force the seed to grow. Paul made it clear in 1 Corinthians 3:6: “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.” Your sole responsibility is obedience in planting the truth. A person’s temporary laughter cannot cancel the eternal weight of the seed you dropped in their heart. 2. Your transformed life is the loudest sermon. They may mock your words, but they cannot argue with your reality. They see the degrees, the ministry, and the global travel. As Jesus commanded in Matthew 5:16, let your light so shine that they cannot help but eventually see the work and glorify your Father. 3. Keep the door of grace open. Do not grow weary in doing good (Galatians 6:9). When a person finally becomes exhausted from the fruitlessness of their own striving, the memory of your testimony will serve as the exact beacon that guides them back to the altar of God.