

Words of HOPE

AN UPDATE FROM Get HOPE Global

JULY 2021

*Get HOPE Global
envisions a world where
at-risk women are
hopeful, empowered,
and free!*

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From the Administrative Director

"Once upon a time..."

How many times have you heard a story begin with these words? How many movies and fairy tales have rocketed off in countless directions, each one springing from this familiar launch pad? We are conditioned to stop and listen when someone invites us into a tale that happened "once upon a time."

"Once upon a time" doesn't always lead to a fictitious era in a fantasy landscape, however. As I read through each loan application that is sent to Get HOPE Global, I read story after story that could begin with "once upon a time." As our HOPE team meets, plans, and prays for one another, we tell stories of how God is at work personally as well as globally. The stories we share are just short chapters in the grand story of what God is doing to redeem His creation.



So today, I invite you to listen to a story. "Once upon a time, a girl named Rehema was born in Tanzania..."

Take the time to read Rehema's story. Pause and marvel at the way her story has traveled through time and distance to come to you. Stop and treasure this episode in the larger story of God's work of redemption.

*Michelle Baylor
Administrative Director*

Travel Plans

We continue to experience the effects of COVID-19, as well as civil and political challenges abroad. These challenges caused us to again postpone our travel plans to Haiti for a Train the Trainer conference, and to Tanzania for a visit with our HOPE leaders and business women there. Another Train the Trainer trip to Cameroon has been changed to a virtual training instead.

The disappointment is deeply felt but we remain hopeful that we will soon be together with our partners overseas.



Peace and Justice

Did you know that

- Many traffickers prey on poor families who are unable to provide opportunities for their children. Traffickers pay the family and promise to provide schooling or employment for the child. Instead, the child is sold into prostitution or slavery in a mine, boat, farm, or household.
- 1 in 4 victims of modern slavery is a child.
- Human trafficking generates \$150 billion annually.

Get HOPE Global helps to counter this injustice. By providing women, girls, and students with the business acumen and support they need to create a thriving business, families become less vulnerable to the enticements of traffickers. In HOPE groups, women develop strong relationships with one another. Together they become resilient enough to persevere through tough times. Each business lesson contains a Bible lesson, a reminder that God loves them. He works to reverse hopelessness, fear, and shame.

He has told you, O mortal, what is good: and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

- Micah 6:8

Get HOPE, Give HOPE

Have you seen our new website? We redesigned it just for you.

Some of you want to...

Get HOPE

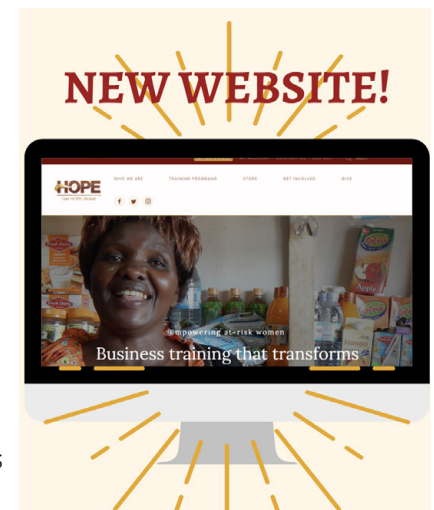
You will easily see how to purchase and receive our powerful business training curriculum to use in your work with at-risk women and students. Plus, you can receive HOPE's Train the Trainer resources to equip local leaders.

If you are ready to...

Give HOPE

You can take a few steps to become a HOPE Hero with your monthly gift. Sponsor a HOPE loan and empower a woman with a new or growing business. See how easy it is to post, share, and spread the word about Get HOPE Global.

All of this can be done from our beautiful new homepage, so check it out today: Get-HOPE-Global.org



The Justice Run

HOPE is proud to once again be represented at this great event. The run raises awareness and funds for non-profit organizations involved in the fight against human trafficking. Join us on **October 3** at Hudson Gardens in Littleton, Colorado.

When you register to run the 10K or 5K be sure to name Get HOPE Global as the non-profit you'd like to help - and plan to stop by our booth on race day.

Justice Run Registration

If you are not in the Denver area, you can donate here:

Justice Run Donations





“Once Upon a Time...” Rehema's Story

Rehema is a 26-year-old member of the HOPE program in Mwanza, Tanzania. Here, translated from Swahili, is Rehema's story in her own words.

MY CHILDHOOD

I am the first born of two siblings from my mother's womb. My mother is HIV+ for years now. She was divorced when I was five years old. She is currently living with another man. After my parents' divorce, I lived with my blood father and stepmother for nine years while my young sister went to live with our grandparents. After my primary education, my father was not willing to support me further and he left me at home.

It really hurt me when I saw that my stepmother's children were getting an opportunity for education while I, who was a good student, lacked the opportunity to continue with studies. Due to hate words from my father, I decided to run away and return to my grandparents who insulted me but nevertheless, they allowed me to live in their home.

I had missed secondary school. My grandfather enrolled me and provided me with school supplies. I faced difficulties in my school life and at home. I remember there were times when we missed even dinner at home. Despite walking long distances to school, I never knew tea in the morning. It pained me to see my classmates changing their school shoes while I continued to wear the same shoes every year. I wished I could find a parent or guardian who could help my family even slightly.

When I finished Form Four, I passed my studies but due to lack of enough classrooms, I was not selected to a government school. My grandfather could not send me to private schools due to lack of school fees. By this time he was retired. His main occupation was peasant. Undeterred, I went to apply at a technical college where I studied hotel management and hospitality courses.

AFTER COLLEGE

After college, I got a job at a hotel in Dar es Salaam. I thanked God and began to care for my grandfather's family and their needs. Unfortunately, after six months, the contract expired and I had to return home. Life with my grandparents was not easy because they often pushed me to go and search for a good life because I have energy. There was a time when my grandmother scolded me for not having enough flour to eat that day.

I had to return to Dar es Salaam to search for a job and I got one in the Chinese-built building. At home they kept accusing me of not sending money to them, even though I was being paid very low wages. One day my grandmother called me to ask for money. I didn't have any so I decided to tell my supervisor. My supervisor told me that they did not have enough money in the office, but promised to give me some later in the evening after work.

He called me that evening to a place where they preferred to drink beer. When I arrived, he told me to order a drink and food. Trusting him, I ordered chicken, chips and Coca cola. After eating, we continued drinking. Then I did not understand what happened. I found myself waking up with him in the Lodge room, very tired and with a headache. I asked my friends and we suspected there was usage of sleeping pills. Two months later, I found out I was pregnant.



My supervisor did not want to understand about the pregnancy. He kept telling me, "It is impossible for me to have sex with you and you get pregnant right away. And if you keep saying this, I will lose you completely in this world. First you have to quit your job and get completely lost in this city." I was fired.

BACK HOME

I returned home quietly without saying anything because if my grandmother had known, she would not have allowed me to send her that shame.

That was another difficult time. I was rejected and bullied by people. No one was on my side. Even my grandparents who were eating my money before, also turned on me. I looked like an ugly, cursed and naughty girl. It really hurt me because it wasn't my plan to get pregnant at this age without marriage.

Life was hard. I gave birth and continued to raise my child without a father or a close relative. I was confused and actually lost my focus on life. Several times I cut off my hair in order to at least look like men. I wondered why I would not be born a boy. For why don't boys get pregnant? See, the supervisor goes on with life, but I'm spinning here. I just agreed; let the past go, and raise my daughter Angel because I have no other choice.

HOPE

One day while I was fetching water from a tap, a sister friend of mine told me about HOPE's training at a church. She said that there were white people from the USA who want to help vulnerable women. I really wanted to join them, but I was afraid that I might not be the right person for them. I felt I could not be accepted, but she encouraged me to go and try my luck. On Saturday, I prepared myself and I was the first woman to arrive at the church. I found two people who introduced themselves to me as Alex and Laurence. They welcomed me warmly and explained that it was the right place for me to stay. I felt good to find friends who saw that I fit to stay with them. After a while other people came, then the pastors came and together we launched our HOPE group. As the weeks went by, I was deeply motivated by the lessons and Sara's Story and decided in my heart that I, too, should be Sara of Igoma (the place I live.) After receiving a HOPE loan, I opened a cosmetic shop. Later I turned to duck breeding.

HELPING OTHERS

In our studies, we learned a lot about volunteering to help others. For me, this grew beyond the HOPE class. I started volunteering to help my leaders with various tasks. One day a mother participating in the HOPE program was beaten by her drunkard husband and robbed of all her sales money. I felt very bad and wondered if we could have a better system to safely collect money from the group members. I told Alex about this idea and



that I was ready to help him by collecting the repayments in the middle of the week. He was very excited and told me I have a very good heart for the growth of the HOPE Program. I am also grateful for the stipend I got from Get HOPE Global that time as it gave me the morale to be more dedicated.

TOGETHER

From then on, my relationship with Alex changed dramatically and he came to love me and my work. He trusted me and enjoyed having me in the office. He gave me the idea he thought of, establishing an organization that would serve the community regardless of their denominations, race or tribalism. Laurence and I were the first people to contribute towards the establishment of the *Opportunity for All* organization. Alex and I continued working as our relationship continued day by day until last quarter 2020 when he told me he wanted to get married with me.

GOD (AND ALEX) SEE MY HEART

Alex shared this news with some people but they completely disagreed with him to marry me because of the baby. It hurt me even more to see his parents disagree with their son's decisions. Even some church people went on disagreeing over the issue. Some wondered at Alex why he wanted to marry a woman with a child and without life plans. Many considered me as an adulterous woman and that I should not marry an educated and dreamy man like Alex.

I am so thankful to God for Alex's heart. He always seems to be consistent and believing what he wants to do in life. Even though he listened to everyone's opinions, he would call me and tell me, "God forgives and forgets man's history and he sees a person's heart." These words really encouraged and gave me to set Alex's place in my heart. Alex repeated these words, "Rehema, there is something in you that Satan wanted to steal. God has given me to see it. I will make sure it produces fruits for his glory. Many people see your history, but God has given me to see what is in you."

I was amazed at the favor I received from Alex. I remembered how working with him has greatly expanded my imagination, especially in serving the community. Alex has helped me in realizing my purpose and potential to serve the community, especially children and young people. I have a vision to pass encouragement on to others with various challenges, abuse, violence, isolation, and poverty.

I thank God for all those who dedicated for me in one way or another. I am ready to start a new life with my beloved Alex. I believe all the challenges have enriched us and given us a new perspective. I will help my husband serve the community while recognizing the great burden of service he has.

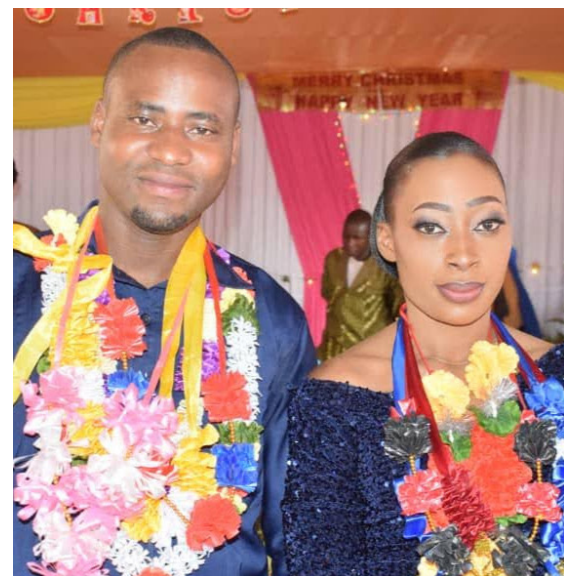
May God bless you as you move with us through prayers, encouragement and kind support.

Rehema Andrew Kisiki

HOPE Program Leader

Mwanza, Tanzania

Note: Rehema and Alex celebrated their wedding day on June 26, 2021!



HOPE *at a Glance*

GIVING

ONLINE

<https://Get-HOPE-Global.org/donate>

BY CHECK

Get HOPE Global
P. O. Box 27584
Denver, CO 80227

WHILE YOU SHOP

Amazon Smile
Kroger Community Rewards

Get HOPE Global is a nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization. Thank you for your support!



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Special Opportunity

We are working to replenish our loan fund. As our partners regroup and restart their businesses following COVID-19 setbacks, access to business capital is even more important. Join us in helping small businesses recover. Sponsor a single loan or help several women in a group. Visit get-hope-global.org/sponsor-hope-loan to provide a loan.

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Elaine Sauer
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Assistant Director

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