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INTERNATIONAL RELIEF, INC.

BRINGING HOPE | SHARING JESUS | TRANSFORMING LIVES

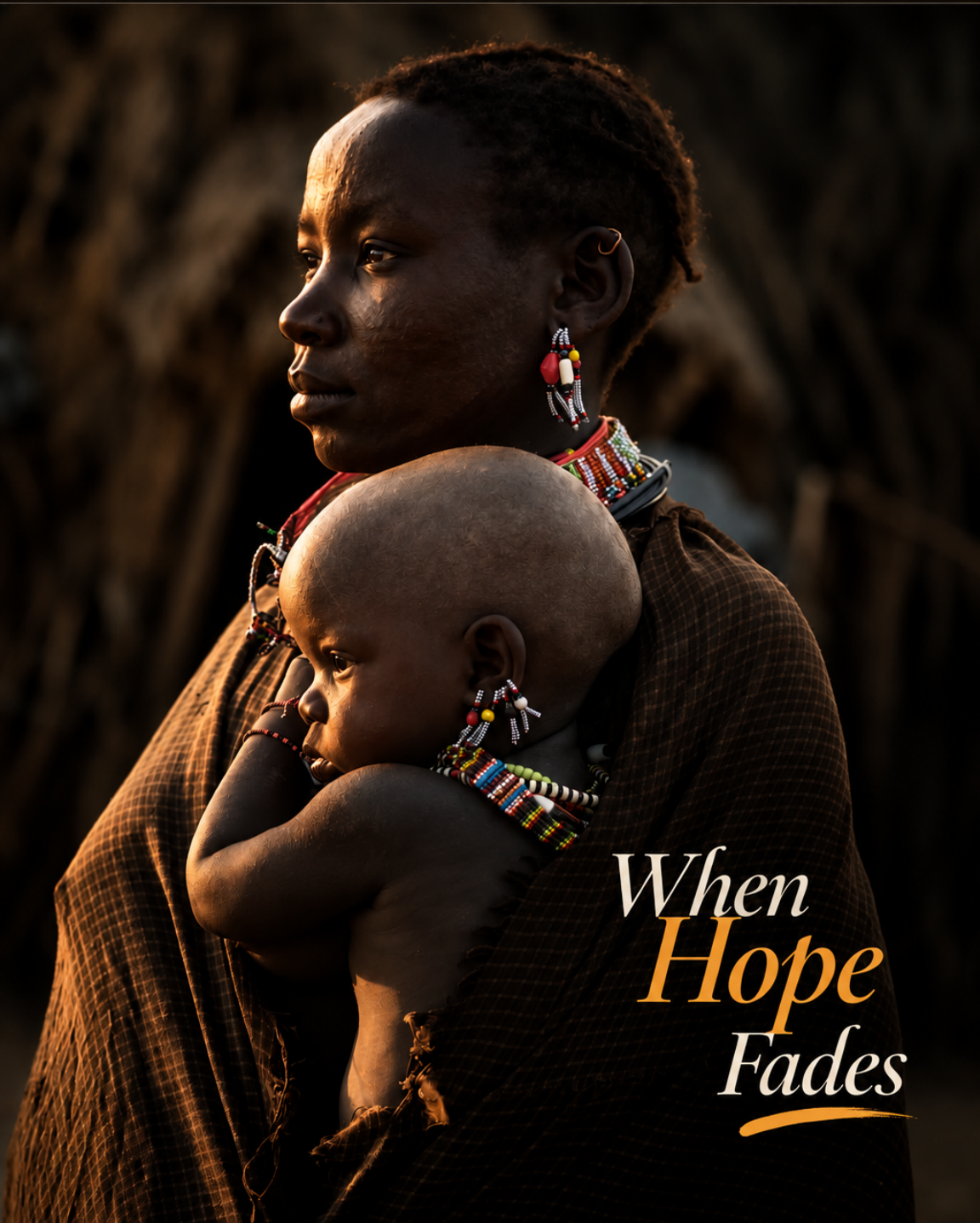
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— THE COMPLETE —

MARANATHA VOICE Newsletter

News & Stories of Hope, Faith & Transformation

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When Hope Fades



FROM THE

PRESIDENT'S DESK

When Hope Fades, Maranatha Kids International Relief Is There

Restoring Dignity. Renewing Hope. Reminding You That You Are Not Alone.

David Allen A.
PRESIDENT & FOUNDER
Maranatha Kids International Relief, Inc.

Dear Friends and Partners,

There are moments in life when hope seems to fade, when the burdens become too heavy to carry, and when the future feels uncertain. For many widows and vulnerable families, the loss of a loved one can bring not only grief, but also loneliness, financial hardship, and the difficult challenge of rebuilding life from the beginning.

At Maranatha Kids International Relief, we believe that no woman should have to face these challenges alone. When hope fades, Maranatha Kids International Relief is there to walk beside you, help restore your dignity, and support you as you rebuild the trust and confidence you need to move forward with renewed hope.

Our mission goes beyond providing assistance. It is about restoring hope, reminding women that their lives still have purpose, and creating opportunities for children and families to look toward the future with renewed courage. Through compassion, practical support, education, and community partnerships, Maranatha Kids International Relief seeks to bring encouragement where there is discouragement and light where life has grown dark.

To every widow reading these words: you are not forgotten, you are not invisible, and you are not alone. Your story still matters. Your dreams still matter. Your future still matters. Even after profound loss, there can be new beginnings, renewed strength, and reasons to hope again. Maranatha Kids International Relief stands committed to reminding you that your dignity is precious and that your life continues to hold purpose and possibility.

To our donors, volunteers, and faithful partners, thank you for standing with Maranatha Kids International Relief. Your generosity makes it possible for us to reach children, widows, and vulnerable families with practical assistance, compassion, and the assurance that someone cares.

Together, we can help restore dignity, strengthen families, and build a future where hope is not lost but renewed. With your continued support, Maranatha Kids International Relief can keep reaching those who need encouragement, assistance, and the opportunity to begin again.

May God continue to guide Maranatha Kids International Relief as we serve with faith, compassion, and love.

With sincere appreciation,

David Allen A.
President & Founder
Maranatha Kids International Relief, Inc.

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MARVELEC & MINA

Two Little Sisters, One Journey from *Loss to Hope*

When childhood is interrupted by tragedy, compassion can help open the door to a new beginning.



A Childhood Changed Forever

Marvelec was only nine years old, and her little sister, Mina, was just eleven months old when their world changed forever. The two sisters, from Kisii, Kenya, lost both parents to AIDS-related illnesses, leaving them without the care, protection, and security every child deserves.

For Marvelec, the loss meant facing a future filled with uncertainty at an age when she should have been learning, playing, and dreaming about what she might become. For Mina, still a baby, it meant beginning life without the embrace and protection of her mother and father.

Two little girls who needed someone to hold them close were suddenly left dependent on others to determine their future.

A Search for Safety That Became Another Ordeal

After their parents died, a social worker began searching for places where the sisters could receive care. They were taken to different care centers in the hope that responsible adults would provide the protection and support they desperately needed.

Tragically, the places intended to offer safety did not always protect them. During this vulnerable period, Marvelec and Mina were exposed to abuse, and Marvelec endured repeated sexual abuse by people entrusted with caring for them.

The very people who should have protected these children betrayed their trust. Experiences that no child should ever have to endure became part of the sisters' early lives.

Their story reminds us of a painful truth: providing a roof over a child's head is not enough. Every child needs responsible caregivers, protection from harm, emotional support, and an environment where their dignity is respected.

Marvelec and Mina needed more than another place to stay. They needed a place where their safety mattered, where their voices could be heard, and where their future could begin to look different.

A New Beginning at Maranatha Kids

Eventually, the sisters were brought to a support center operated by Maranatha Kids International Relief.

There, a new chapter began.

Instead of being defined only by the losses and painful experiences of their early childhood, the sisters could begin moving toward a future shaped by care, stability, and renewed hope. Marvelec could begin to experience the freedom of being a child again, while little Mina could receive the attention and nurturing every baby needs to grow.

Today, Marvelec is described as a happier child, with the opportunity to look toward life with greater hope. Her journey toward healing is a reminder that what happened to a child does not have to determine the rest of her life.

Mina, still so young, has the opportunity to grow in an environment where her well-being can be placed first. Together, the sisters have the chance to build new memories—memories shaped not by abandonment, but by care, encouragement, and the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

Healing takes time. It requires patience, consistent protection, and caring adults who understand that trust cannot be demanded; it must be earned. But with the right support, children who have experienced profound loss can begin to rediscover joy and imagine a future filled with possibilities.

> *"Together, the sisters have the chance to build new memories—memories shaped not by abandonment, but by care, encouragement, and the promise of a brighter tomorrow."*



A Promise That *Continues Beyond Today*

For Marvelec and Mina, a new beginning is not simply about finding a safe place to stay. It is about having the opportunity to grow up surrounded by people who recognize their worth, respect their dignity, and care about the future they deserve. It is about helping Marvelec rediscover the joys of childhood and giving little Mina the nurturing environment she needs during these important early months of life.

Their journey reminds us that the work of caring for vulnerable children does not end when a child arrives at a support center. It continues every day—in the patience of a caregiver, in the encouragement of a trusted adult, in access to education and appropriate health services, and in the commitment to protect children from further harm. For children who have experienced loss and abuse, healing requires time, consistency, compassion, and support from qualified professionals.

At Maranatha Kids International Relief, we understand that every child carries a story that deserves to be treated with care. We may not be able to rewrite the painful chapters of a child's past, but together we can help create the conditions for a different future. A future where children can learn without fear, dream without feeling forgotten, and grow knowing that their lives have value.

This is why the support of our donors, sponsors, volunteers, churches, and community partners matters so deeply. Every act of generosity helps sustain the work of reaching children and families facing difficult circumstances. Behind every contribution is an opportunity to strengthen a community, encourage a caregiver, and help a child take another step toward stability and hope.



The Power of *Being There*

Sometimes, the most meaningful difference begins when someone chooses not to look away. It begins when a child's needs are heard, when protection becomes a priority, and when a community decides that no vulnerable child should have to face hardship alone.

Marvelec and Mina's story calls us to remember that compassion must be more than a feeling. It must become action: protecting children, supporting responsible caregivers, listening to those who have been hurt, and ensuring that every child entrusted to our care is treated with dignity.

As their story continues, we hope that both sisters will have the opportunity to build joyful memories, discover their gifts, receive an education, and grow into the people God created them to be. Their future is still being written, and it deserves to be filled with safety, love, opportunity, and hope.

We invite you to stand with Marvelec, Mina, and the many other children whose names and stories may never appear in the pages of a magazine but whose lives are just as precious. Through prayer, generosity, service, and a shared commitment to protecting the vulnerable, we can help make sure that hope is not merely promised—it is experienced.

Because a child is never defined only by what they have endured. A child also deserves the opportunity to discover all that their future can become.

At Maranatha Kids International Relief, this is the promise we continue to pursue: to stand beside vulnerable children, to help protect their dignity, and to remind them through our actions that they are seen, valued, and loved.

One child at a time. One act of compassion at a time. One future transformed by hope.



Marino Rojas Jr.
EDITOR-DIRECTOR
The Maranatha Voice

FROM THE

Editor-Director's Desk

When Hope Fades, God Sends the Right People.

Sometimes, the answer to a prayer comes through the hands and hearts of others.

Dear Maranatha Kids Family,

There are moments in life when hope seems to slip away. The doors we once believed would open remain closed, the strength we depended on begins to fade, and the future becomes difficult to imagine. In those quiet and painful moments, we may find ourselves asking God for help, wondering whether anyone sees our struggles or hears the prayers we can barely put into words.

Yet, time and again, we discover a beautiful truth: when our hope begins to fade, God can place the right people in our lives to become instruments of His love, compassion, and provision.

Sometimes, His answer arrives through a friend who chooses to listen, a stranger who extends a helping hand, a volunteer who gives their time, or a generous heart that decides to make a difference. These encounters may appear ordinary to the world, but to someone who has been praying for a breakthrough, they can become extraordinary reminders that God has not forgotten them.

This is one of the reasons I believe so deeply in the mission of Maranatha Kids International Relief. To me, Maranatha Kids is more than an organization. It is a prayer answered in the lives of hundreds of people who, in their most difficult seasons, need a helping hand, a word of encouragement, and the reassurance that they are not alone.

Behind every family in need is a story. Behind every struggling mother is a heart that still dreams. Behind every child facing uncertainty is a future worth protecting. And behind every act of compassion is an opportunity to demonstrate the love of Jesus in a way that people can see, feel, and experience.

We may not always be able to change every circumstance overnight. We cannot erase every loss or prevent every hardship. But we can choose to stand beside those who are struggling. We can offer practical assistance, restore dignity, encourage weary hearts, and remind people that their lives still have value and purpose.

That is the power of a helping hand. That is the beauty of serving others. And that is why the work of Maranatha Kids matters.

As we continue this journey of faith and service, I invite you to remember that you may be the person God uses to answer someone else's prayer. Your generosity, your time, your prayers, and your willingness to care can become the very encouragement another person needs to keep going.

When hope fades, God can send the right people. And through Maranatha Kids International Relief, we have the privilege of being there for those who need a friend, a helping hand, and a reason to hope again.

Thank you for being part of this mission and for helping us bring hope where it is needed most. May we never underestimate what God can do through a heart that is willing to serve.

With gratitude and faith,

Marino Rojas Jr.

Marino Rojas Jr.
Editor-Director
The Maranatha Voice

"You may be the person God uses to answer someone else's prayer."





MAKENA WANJIRU

When Hope Fades, Maranatha Kids International Relief Is There

When everything seemed to be disappearing, hope found its way back.

Makena Wanjiru's name carries a beautiful meaning. In some interpretations, **Makena** is associated with happiness, while Wanjiru is a traditional Kikuyu name. Yet, for a season of her life, happiness seemed like a distant memory.

Once a hardworking small-business owner, Makena had built her hopes around a modest perfume business. Every bottle she sold represented another step toward providing food, clothing, and a better future for her family. Her little business was more than a source of income; it was a symbol bf her independence and the possibility of a brighter tomorrow.

A Season of Deep Loss

But life does not always unfold according to our plans.

Little by little, her business began to struggle. The customers became fewer, the income declined, and eventually, the business she had worked so hard to build slipped away. With it went much of the security she had known.

Then came an even more devastating loss: her husband died after battling an illness related to AIDS.

In a moment, Makena lost not only the man she loved but also the primary source of support for her household. She was left to face an uncertain future while worrying about her own health and the responsibility of caring for her young son.

> ***"The future I once imagined seemed to be fading before my eyes."***
>
> — Makena

How could she provide for her child when she could barely provide for herself?

Days became increasingly difficult. Food was uncertain. Clothing and other basic necessities became challenges she could no longer ignore. Every mother wants to see her child safe, nourished, and hopeful, but Makena found herself facing the painful reality of a child who was hungry and a mother who did not know where the next meal would come from.

The weight of grief, financial hardship, and fear began to overwhelm her. The future she had once imagined seemed to be fading before her eyes. Her strength was being tested, and the hope she had carried for so long felt as though it was slowly disappearing.

Yet, even in the darkest chapter of her life, her story was not over.

A Name She Heard When She Needed Help

One day, when Makena was struggling to find a way forward, someone told her about ***Maranatha Kids International Relief***.

It was a name she had not known before, but the possibility of receiving help was enough to make her take a step of faith. She reached out, carrying her worries, her grief, and her deep desire to give her son a better future.

She did not need empty promises. She needed someone willing to listen, someone who would recognize her dignity, and someone who could help her begin again.

Through the support and compassion made available to her, Makena began to see possibilities where she had once seen only obstacles. The burden did not disappear overnight, and the past could not be undone. But a new chapter was beginning—one in which she no longer had to face every difficulty without hope.

For the first time in a long while, the future seemed to hold something beyond fear.



From Surviving to Looking Forward

With renewed hope and a path toward a more stable future, Makena could begin to focus again on what mattered most: caring for her son and rebuilding her life.

The dream was no longer simply to survive another day. It was to create a future in which her child could grow with greater security, where basic needs could be met, and where tomorrow did not have to be defined by yesterday's losses.

The woman who had once felt forgotten began to look forward again. Her circumstances had challenged her deeply, but they did not have to define the rest of her life.

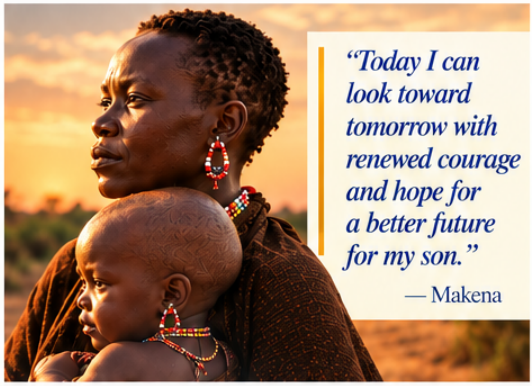
And perhaps the most beautiful change was this: hope was no longer just a word. It had become a reason to keep moving forward.

Maranatha Kids International Relief represents the heart of a mission that seeks to stand beside vulnerable people in difficult seasons—to offer compassion, practical support, and encouragement when life feels overwhelming.

Because sometimes, a new beginning starts when someone is willing to listen, extend a hand, and remind a struggling family that their lives still matter.



BRINGING HOPE | **SHARING JESUS** | **TRANSFORMING LIVES**



The Hope That Lives Again

Today, Makena's story stands as a reminder that even when hope appears to be fading, a new chapter may still be possible. The loss of her business and the death of her husband brought her to a place of profound uncertainty. But the story does not have to end there.

What seemed to be disappearing has begun to live again.

Makena can look toward tomorrow with renewed courage, holding on to the hope of a better future for herself and her son. Her journey reminds us that hardship does not erase a person's worth, and that compassionate support can help open a door when every other door seems closed.

At Maranatha Kids International Relief, we believe that behind every struggle is a human life worthy of dignity, care, and hope.

When a mother is overwhelmed, when a child is hungry, and when tomorrow seems impossible to imagine, no family should have to believe that they are alone.

When hope fades, Maranatha Kids International Relief is there to help restore it.

