



T-SHIRTS + MUGS+ STICKERS + MORE!

# 15% OFF

purchases of \$25 or more! Use code [NEWSLETTER](#) at checkout.

Shop at [cotnishop.com](http://cotnishop.com)



# CHILDREN OF THE NATIONS®

NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2021

## You Changed Their Lives—Now, They’re Changing Nations

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” (John 15:12 NIV)

Because of your generosity, thousands of children have learned about God’s love. Now, they are inspired to share the Word of God with others.

If you’ve ever wondered whether your support is truly transforming nations, all you have to do is look at Steven and George.

Coming from desperation and poverty, they should have had no chance for survival, let alone success. But you changed their future.

Now, inspired by your generosity, they are spreading God’s love throughout their communities.

Changing the world isn’t as hard as you might think. It starts with helping just one child.

For the Children,

*Chris & Debbie Clark*

Chris and Debbie Clark  
Founders



**Place a Bible in a child’s hands for just \$10**

The Word of God is one of the most precious gifts you can give. Give \$10 today to help a child learn about God’s love! They will receive a Bible in a language and at a reading level they can understand. Your gift may also provide Bible study materials, Sunday school curriculum, or pastoral training.

Visit [donate.cotni.org/give-bibles](http://donate.cotni.org/give-bibles) to give now.



Children of the Nations is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your donation is tax-deductible and you will receive a gift receipt in the mail.

Children of the Nations (COTN) seeks to be the best possible steward of our partners’ finances. In cases where financial gifts exceed program/project budgets, or where local conditions prevent program/project implementation, COTN will redirect funds to activities that are identified as most needed or will have the biggest impact on the children and families we serve.

## ✓ YES, I’ll give Bibles and other spiritual care materials!

I’ve enclosed my gift of:

- \$10 for a Bible and more for one child
- \$30 for Bibles and more for three children
- \$50 for Bibles and more for five children
- \$100 for Bibles and more for ten children



You can save time and money by giving online at [donate.cotni.org/give-bibles](http://donate.cotni.org/give-bibles) or by calling 360-698-7227



**From the streets of Freetown to the pulpit.**

Being in a wheelchair did not stop Steven from spreading the gospel!



CHILDREN OF THE NATIONS

PO Box 3970 • Silverdale, WA 98383 • 360-698-7227 • [cotni.org](http://cotni.org)







(Left) Steven in 2008 at COTN-Sierra Leone's Banta campus. (Center) Steven graduated in 2017 from The Evangelical College of Theology with a certificate in Christian ministry. (Right) Steven achieved his dream of being ordained as a pastor in 2020!

## Nothing Can Stop Steven from Spreading God's Word

He was begging on the streets to survive. Now he's a pastor.

For the children left orphaned by Sierra Leone's brutal civil war, there were few options for survival. There were even less for children with disabilities—children like Steven.

After losing his family, Steven began begging on the street in Freetown, Sierra Leone's capital. Even after being taken into a home for people with disabilities, he still had to beg in order to get enough food each day.

Steven would likely still be on the street today if it weren't for what happened next. "By God's grace I finally left the street in 2002 when Children of the Nations came to my aid and support," says Steven.

He finally had enough to eat, started school, received vital medical care, and no longer had to worry about how he was going to survive. But the biggest transformation took place in his spiritual life.

Steven had grown up Muslim, but when he went

to summer camp his first year at Children of the Nations, he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. He was baptized a few years later.

Since then, sharing God's Word has become his life's purpose. He hasn't let being in a wheelchair stop him from spreading the gospel and making a difference in his community.

As a 19-year-old, he hosted a soccer tournament that brought together over 80 players and many spectators from the community. Steven was the promoter, fundraiser, game scheduler, accountant, and concessions director for the tournament.

**Steven would likely still be on the street today if it weren't for what happened next.**

"I wanted to use the tournament to spread the gospel...I spoke before the games and had an opportunity to share my testimony with some of the players," says Steven.

In 2020, he returned to Children of the Nations to help with some of the teaching at the summer camps—a full-circle moment for this young man whose life was so drastically changed by his first summer camp.

In March 2020, Steven achieved his dream and was ordained as a pastor. Now a leader and a beacon of hope in his community, Steven is transforming Sierra Leone by spreading the gospel.

We can't wait to see where God takes him next. ■

## You Gave Him Hope—Now, He's Giving Hope to the Children of Malawi

How you helped one child overcome poverty and start his own nonprofit.

George was born in an impoverished village in Malawi. Before he was even one year old, his life changed drastically—his father passed away. All of a sudden, there was no breadwinner in his family.

His mother didn't know how she was going to care for George and his four brothers, so they prayed—and God opened up an opportunity for George and his brothers to join Children of the Nations. He was just three years old.

"God is hope. I feel like I had a hopeless life, but Children of the Nations gave me hope and helped me find God through this," says George.

George should have been destined to a life of hunger and poverty. But thanks to the support of his sponsors, George was able to stay with his mother and receive the food, medical care, education, and emotional support



George should have been destined to a life of hunger and poverty. Instead, he is helping marginalized children in his community.

he needed to rise above the hardship he was born into.

In 2018, George started attending Livingstonia University. Now, still in university, he is already giving back to his community. In 2019, he started a nonprofit—the Nzotheka Foundation.

**"God is hope. I feel like I had a hopeless life, but Children of the Nations gave me hope and helped me find God through this."**

"The word Nzotheka means 'it's possible.' I started it because I was inspired by my experience with Children of the Nations. They reached me and made a difference to me and I wanted to do the same, to give back and make a difference to others.

To bring hope to those who need it," says George.

Through Nzotheka, George works alongside other university students to help children from a similar background as his own. They hold Kids Clubs so the children have a safe place to meet, play, and be mentored. They provide clothes, school supplies, toys, soap, and food to vulnerable children. Last year, they donated masks to protect children from COVID-19.

George is now in his third year at university and is set to graduate in 2022. He is pursuing a bachelor's degree in social sciences and wants to become a human rights advocate.

When George imagines his future, he knows three things for sure: One, he wants to help support his family, the family who prayed and made it possible for him to be where he is today. Two, he wants to see Nzotheka reach more children who are marginalized and make a difference. Three, that God will be a part of it:

"The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom—whatever I do I should consult God, if I don't do this my plans are destined for failure. God should be at the center of everything I do." ■



## Giving with Confidence

At Children of the Nations, we take financial accountability and transparency seriously. We can't just expect people's trust—we have to earn it. That's why we're so proud to have received Charity Navigator's highest rating of 4 stars for the 10th year in a row.

This shows our commitment to financial integrity. When you give to Children of the Nations, you can give with confidence, knowing we will stretch every dollar and pinch every penny to help children rise up out of poverty and transform their nations.

Many of the young men and women in our program are now graduating from college and becoming doctors, lawyers, CEOs, teachers, and more. With a commitment to financial integrity and the help of generous donors, nations are being transformed.

Thank you for changing children's lives!

