

# Chimes

December 2017

## Tanzania

### Maasai Girl's School

This January Tanzania Action Committee will be sending five deserving girls to Maasai Girls Secondary School in Monduli near Arusha, Tanzania. The five are either orphans or extremely impoverished, and have proven themselves academically. Pastor Abel has assembled a committee to assist us in ensuring they are qualified and unable to attend a private Christian school without our assistance. With this commitment TAC has turned a new page in support of girls' secondary education.

Why have we chosen to support Maasai girls? The Maasai are a semi-nomadic, tradition oriented tribe. Male elders wield the power and are the main decision makers. Women have many disadvantages in Maasai culture. Polygamy is commonplace. Education for girls is considered unimportant. In some Maasai areas only one in five girls make it to 8th grade due to early marriage, preference for boys, and poverty. Female genital mutilation is prevalent. Girls are often considered property, forced into early marriage in exchange for a cow or two.

We believe Christian education provides the answer to independence, economic empowerment, and a closer relationship with Christ. Graduates of Maasai Girls School are seven times less likely to contract HIV. Their future income is three times the national average. They marry later in life and have two fewer children. Graduates' children have a 40% better chance of surviving to age 5.

Why Maasai Girls School? It is considered by many to be the premier facility for Christian girls in northern Tanzania. It has graduated more than 650 girls since 1999. Students are secluded on their lovely expansive campus in rural Tanzania to protect them from outside influences and kidnapping. The campus is well maintained and living conditions are excellent. Graduate test scores are among the highest in the country. So are graduation rates. More than 300 have gone on to post-graduate education.

This December TAC will be seeking sponsors for five or more girls. Won't you please consider being a sponsor? Talk to present Rockland sponsors. Ask them about their experience. Please drop by our table in fellowship hall in December to see pictures of our girls and read their stories. Thanks to our many sponsors and congratulations to our twenty- three 2017 graduates!

-Steve Selinski



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# Habitat for Humanity



## Empire

Thanks to Rockland and other volunteers, construction of a home in Echo Hills (off of Squaw Pass Road) has now been completed!

## Kittredge

Our home in Kittredge for a deserving family is under way, with insulation, drywall heating and electrical, roof and exterior now completed. We're beginning work on interior doors, cabinets, flooring and closets!



## Volunteer!

If you'd like to help, it's easy to sign up for any Build Days - volunteers will be needed on Wednesdays and Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in Kittredge! Visit the Blue Spruce website for more information - [www.bluesprucehabitat.org](http://www.bluesprucehabitat.org), or go to <http://bluespruce.volunteerhub.com> to volunteer! Adults and youth 16 years and older are welcome! No experience is necessary... there are on-site experts to guide you! We hope you'll join us. Questions? Contact Dusty Dodge at 303-909-7565.

## Rockland "Saturday Service" Event

We had a great crew of Rockland folks that provided oil changes and vehicle inspections on August 19 at their new facility in Golden! A total of three crews in three bays helped about 30 single mothers and widows-in-need... services that they often can't afford. A BIG "thank you" to our Rockland crew - Fred Gabler, Shawn Harris and Dusty Dodge - for being teammates!

Our next service days takes place on September 16 and November 18. It's only a 1/2 day commitment from 7:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. "Hands Of The Carpenter" is a faith-based ministry at Hands Automotive in Lakewood. No experience is necessary...please consider joining us in this important ministry! Questions? Contact Dusty Dodge at 303-909-7565 for information and to sign up.

**Hands Of  
The Carpenter**



## Rockland Men's Retreat

More than 50 men attended this year's very special men's retreat on August 11- 12. This year, we had a super-talented speaker recommended by Dennis Jeffrey, Pastor Anthony Randall. Pastor Anthony guided us through "Living A More Excellent Faith". Pastor Anthony grew up in Colorado. Lt. Colonel Randall is a renowned motivator of men that teaches ethics, character development, and leadership to over 3,000 soldiers a year. He serves as Lead Pastor for Crossroads Chapel Fort Benning, a thriving 350 person non-denominational military congregation. Anthony has more than 20 years of proven leadership experience including command teams, chaplains, and soldiers primarily in the Airborne, Ranger, Special Forces, and Special Operations community, the Pittsburg Pirates, and the Gonzaga Men's Basketball team! He also teaches in the CU Executive MBA program. Our men were tremendously impact by this year's retreat.

-Dusty Dodge

## Masthead-The Chimes

**Our goal is to inform, inspire and connect the people to the community of Rockland church**

All articles will be published and/or edited at the discretion of the editor and the staff of Rockland Community Church.

Questions? Call Shirley Johnson 303-670-0520

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# Overheard by the Church Mouse

*...In the midst of winter I finally learned there was in me an invincible summer” – Albert Camus*

Let me tell you a story...with a happy ending...the day before we were due to mail out Chimes, the number of our mailing crew had dwindled to three...some in the hospital, some getting out of the hospital, some out of town, some hosting family and friends as houseguests, etc. etc. In a panic the mouse did something that had not been necessary in 19 years...the mouse emailed for help. Next morning 14 helpers showed up to fold, sticker, label our hundreds of copies of Chimes. How sweet it is! And to celebrate, it WAS sweet, as Dick and Marge Over provided Halloween goodies: candies, donuts, cider, festive napkins and even pumpkin placemats. What a marvelous show of caring and camaraderie we share here at Rockland.

Amazing! That’s how the fifth Rockland Holy Land trip in 20 years has been described. Returning from this pilgrimage, pastors, members, all the travelers agreed their lives have been changed. Never again will they read scripture in the same way. The trip “made the Bible come to life.” Seeing Christians from all over the world – speaking in so many languages- being baptize in the River Jordan, joining together for Communion in the Garden Tomb, and utmost, the camaraderie within the group. What a grand way to get to know our fellow Rocklanders.

Those who made this journey: Walter & Susan Blake, Marc & Sheri Bokelman, Louise Decker, Dusty & Chris Dodge, Chuck & Carol Drage, Steve Engle, Betty Freeman, Joy Gabler, Alex Graves, Jim Gribnitz, Kevin & Tami Grieve, Steve & Marcy Hannah, Shirleen Haynes, Stan & Nancy Hill, Pieter & Ricki Hoekstra, Bob & Penny Jacobsen, Linda Kaiser, Fred & Lisa Karres, Barb Kleinwachter, Cindy & Tony Lainez, Curtis & Diana McMichael, Sherrod & Phyllis Miller, Peter Miterko, Dick Parks, Jon & Jane Runge, Craig & Karen Rutherford, Dave & Mary Teter, Ken & Kathy Mullin Williams, Stephanie & Steve Williams, Jack & Judy Wolfe, Kim Wolniak.

As to the future, there will be more trips, perhaps even one pilgrimage following in the steps of Paul. This trip, was the fifth Rockland journey to the Holy Land in the last 20 years...that first trip in 1997.

Our pastors past and present, Ken Williams and Jim Gribnitz were both thrilled with this trip and the many Rocklanders who wanted to join them in the Holy Land. Unfortunately, One member of the group suffered a heart attack on the trip and was hospitalized but she is back and it was wonderful to see Ricki Hoekstra at church and feeling well enough to read scripture at Sunday Worship services.

*Ricki wanted the congregation to know how she felt: “Thank you Rockland members for the many cards sent to me after my heart attack and for many prayers, that were so comforting. There is one thing that I discovered that I want to share with you. I fainted in a small restaurant, but thought nothing of it. It turned to be a heart attack as a doctor told Pieter to immediately get an ambulance. Nobody I met ever heard of that before. I am fine now and as the man next to me on the plane said: you now have "HOLY" STENTS. ”*

*...We don’t care how much you know. We want to know how much you care!*

The mouse would like to repeat this story from one of our congregants:

When sharing with a couple in church on Sunday about all that Rockland does in Congregational Care, specifically Daily Bread meals, caring visitors, etc. A woman in our congregation exclaimed, “Well I didn’t realize you had all of these services! I had surgery recently and no one reached out to me, and I’m a member”

My first thought was with all of the paper literature, articles, bulletins and so forth how did this person not know we had all of these services??

My reaction was to comfort her and apologize to her for us not reaching out but then I presented her with a question.

I said to her “Did you ever let someone know you were having surgery?”

My question was two-fold. One I wanted to make sure that she hadn’t reached out and we missed it somehow. Secondly, it was to place accountability on a person for not alerting us to her need.

Once I asked her, the reaction she gave me was beautiful. She stated “Oh my! I guess I never told anyone that I was going through surgery! How can you serve me if I don’t tell you?!?!?”

Needless to say it was an awesome moment of connection that contained a heavy message.

“How can we, Rockland serve you, if we have no knowledge of your need?”

Years ago as a Caregiver the Lord spoke to my heart “If you don’t speak your need, then the person I have waiting to serve you, won’t hear that need.”

*...Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass, but learning to dance in the rain. ”*

# Rockland Carnival 2017



# Women's Retreat



# Romanian Outreach Mission

During the final week in August Rockland hosted Cipri Tehei from World Vision Romania, along with two of the current students in the Romanian scholarship program, Tony Baran and Denisa Simiciuc. They traveled to Colorado to interact with Rockland members and experience our local area. A few excursions around Colorado were on the agenda, as well as a day at Golden High School. The three were introduced at the worship services on August 27 and participated in the church Carnival later in the day.

There was a need for 15 new students to be sponsored for the upcoming school year and thanks to the generosity of our Rockland congregation, this goal was achieved.

The ongoing outreach mission is called “I want to be in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade” program in Romania, and allows vetted high schoolers from rural villages the financial assistance to attend school. The cost of transportation and school supplies alone often prohibits otherwise worthy students from completing school.

The requirement to stay on track academically is an obvious requirement of the program, but Cipri’s oversight expands far beyond this. He is involved with all the students and knows their unique personal situations. Beyond school itself, he has organized training in personal finance, sports competition and overall exposure to life outside school and their villages. The program offers these students a window to the world where they can continue to grow and contribute for the rest of their lives.

Thank you, Rockland, for your generous support of these students!

-Jennifer Kelly



# The Death of Joan Cherry: An Historic Rockland Story

The historic Rockland church suffered hard times after the community dedicated it in January of 1880. The church operated intermittently for many years until the members resurrected it following World War II.

Joan Cherry was in many ways responsible for the resurrection of the church. Joan was a very popular young lady who died tragically at the age of 18, and her funeral brought a number of people particularly pastors to the church which resulted in it becoming a living church again.

Joan Cherry was a daughter of Elsie Cherry Lee Darling (Ralston). Her mother was a member of a group of women who were instrumental in resurrecting the church. They went by the name of *The Ladies Home Demonstration Group*. A newspaper took a picture of them in 1938, and we can see an excerpt from that picture in this article.

Colleen Connelly is another person who we can see in the photograph of the *Ladies Home Demonstration Group*. She is the young girl that we can see the lower right of the *Ladies Home Demonstration Group* picture excerpt. My Wife Ann and I interviewed Colleen Connolly in September of 2002. At the time, she was a retired Lawyer who was living in an assisted living home.

Joan was born on March of 1932, and she died on June of 1950 at the tender age of eighteen. We can see her as the smiling girl in the middle of the upper picture.

Joan was very good friends with Jean Ann Ralston who is the daughter of Strode Ralston. He is the person who built the rock wall in front of the balcony in the current Rockland Community Church. Joan served as Jean Ann Ralston's maid of honor when Jean Ann was married. A photograph of Jean Ann's wedding picture shows both Jean Ann and Joan Cherry. Jean Ann is still alive and living today in a nursing home in Kentucky. Her family plans to bury her in the Historic Rockland Church cemetery along with her husband.

Joan was a very popular young lady. One can see her outgoing nature in the picture. In fact, she was so popular that the cars extended all the way from the Morrison exit on Highway 40 to the Historic Church on the day of her funeral. Colleen told us that Joan died of "a communicable disease. She did not remember the exact cause of death, but she did tell us that many of the boys who knew her were crying at the funeral.

Reverend Vernon A. Loescher of the First Plymouth Congregational Church in Denver presided over the funeral; and he noted what a charming church Rockland was, even though the members did not use the church very much. He brought this information to the attention of the Denver Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers. The ministers were so impressed with the church that they decided to try to resurrect it. For a while, they held services for the Congregation in the evening, but they quickly tired of that.

They finally hired a young student at Iliff School of theology, Cy Eberhart, to be the first full-time minister of the historic church.

It was finally a living church again.

-Sid Platt, Rockland Historian



# Rock House undergoes upgrades and doubles mentee involvement!

When Ann and I got involved with the Rock House three years ago, the average number of kids in the mentoring program was 8 to 10 per year and same for tutoring – a solid participation but we all knew that the need was greater. Through interviews with the kids as to why it was hard for us to reach more, they commented that the run-down nature of the Rock House made it an ‘un-cool’ place to come. They suggested that a basketball court, some grass to play on and a general face lift would help.

We, as a board, agreed that we could fix that and embarked on a journey to raise funds to upgrade the Rock House. This summer was the summer we finally had enough saved to invest heavily and installed a new ‘Sport Court’, new artificial turf, new retaining walls, new patio, new storage shed and freshened up the interior with new paint.

The result of this, and the hard work of the director and mentor coordinator, is that we now have 25 kids who want to be in the mentoring program this year! Praise God. **But now we need 10 MORE Mentors ! A good problem to have – please consider giving one night a week to these dear kids – they need YOU!**

Here are some of the upgrades and the new look at the Rock House, made possible by your support:

New Sport Court on north side of Rock House and new retaining wall and artificial turf for kids to play on.



Here is a wonderful volunteer laying the patio brick and on the right, the finished patio and shed where all the adventure gear to support our boating, camping, rafting and bicycle excursions is now stored.

This has been made possible by our generous donor support and your help with volunteering as Mentors and Chaperones. As mentioned, we now have 25 kids interested in mentoring and only 15 mentors. **So we need 10 more mentors.** Please consider giving one night per week for these wonderful kids that need you so much!

Thank you for all of your wonderful support. The partnership between the Rock House and Rockland Church is working, and all for the glory of God in these precious lives!

-Howard & Ann Hargrove

Board Members Clear Creek Rock House and Members of Rockland Community Church

# Stewardship

## We Were Meant To Give

As with any healthy family or business, there comes a time when budgets need to be set. A wise man once told me, "If your outflow is more than your intake then your upkeep will be your downfall!"

Rockland takes the stewardship of the Lord's resources very seriously and that is one of the reasons behind our annual stewardship drive. When you let us know what you anticipate giving to Rockland in 2018, it allows us to better set a balanced budget so that by the end of the year our outflow is in line with our intake.

We are reminded in Matthew 6:19-24 that where our money goes, there our heart goes also. We believe that investing financially in Rockland helps us grow in our faith and commitment to Christ and His Church. So, if you haven't done so already, please fill out your pledge card, or better yet, go online to the church's website and complete the online form.

There are many ways to give listed on the pledge card; my personal favorite is through the auto withdrawal, or ACH program, where the money is withdrawn automatically from your checking account on or shortly after the 6<sup>th</sup> of each month. For more information on this method, see the back of the pledge card or feel free to contact me at [cjeffery@rockland.church](mailto:cjeffery@rockland.church) or 303-529-0668 ext 212.

Happy pledging and God bless,

-Coleen Jeffery  
Finance Manager



# Tanzania

## YOUNG LEADER: FROM POVERTY INTO A FUTURE

Vicky Joel was selected as a fourteen year old Tanzanian girl to be sponsored into secondary education in the Rockland Secondary Education Program. Her sponsor had enjoyed watching a previously sponsored student succeed in secondary education and set out as an early childhood teacher and decided to offer the opportunity to yet another young girl.

Vicky was from a poverty-stricken family of tenant farmers and Vicky was living in the home of her grandparents with shortages of food. From the beginning, she showed determination to rise above her circumstances through the opportunity of education. By the time she completed the second year, she was already second in her class. That enthusiasm and confidence has continued and grown over the last two years of her studies.

She has now completed her exams and graduated from MWEDO Secondary School as a leader in her class and a leader of the worship choir. When members of Rockland visited her school in March, she had been selected to be the representative to offer the greetings, welcome and words of gratitude to the visitors.

Over the four years of sponsorship for Vicky, sponsor and student have developed a beautiful relationship based on support, encouragement, and prayer.

In Vicky's words:

*I Love you so much dear Lovely mom as you know that when love comes into our life it makes the world to be a beautiful place. How merciful God has been in our life that has given us a great brilliant successful life. Let us say thanks to Him.*

*Mom, the aim of writing this letter to you is that I would like to say thanks for all you have done for me and for that you continue to help me. You tried to take care and treat me as your own daughter, thanks very much.*

*I'm going to do wonders until I ensure that you will not lose your happy, believes and hope in me. I'm just trying my level best while praying to God as I know that without God I cannot do anything. God bless you for sponsoring me dear lovely mom because you have let my future rise and make it to be brilliant and I know that I'm going to be a Doctor or pharmacist. Please pray for me.*

With Vicky's confidence in her Lord and her determination to reach her goals, her sponsor joins Vicky's confidence that she will.

- Nancy Clement



# Mean Street

It is told in Isaiah 6:8, “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’”

Mean Street Ministry’s vision statement is: To provide an on-going, God given source of hope to the homeless and poor that will enable self-betterment and termination of homelessness and poverty.

Through the years, we have tried our best to follow God’s call from both Isaiah and in our vision statement. We continue to provide a family winter shelter, food bank, café, counseling, a social worker, special events for fellowship with our clients and our street ministry to those in the motels along Colfax.

But this year we have heard God calling us to do even more. It is no surprise to anyone that the homeless population in the Denver area has exploded. Many of the homeless have nowhere to go. There are just too few shelters in the area or they fear the backlash of an authority figure. We wondered how our small ministry can truly help such a large explosion in homelessness. We asked, God answered bigtime: threefold.

**Family Winter Shelter**...we are moving from a severe weather shelter to a daily shelter from December 1 thru March 31.

We are excited to introduce our new Shelter Coordinator, Tina Stuckey, to our staff. She has a passion for helping the homeless and is excited to recruit and work alongside volunteers. Are you interested in volunteering?

**Satellite Office in Arvada**...we were approached by the City of Arvada to come alongside The Rising Church to help with feeding, counseling and sharing God’s word with the homeless in that area. The Severe Weather group is also working on getting a shelter into place this winter. We have some volunteers already in place for this great project, which will begin on September 11. Interested in helping?

**Bridges and Creeks**...as mentioned before, our homeless population is exploding. Many are flooding to the highway bridges and along creeks. James Fry, Todd Graber and Kathryn Otten (Jeffco Human Services) have accompanied the local police officers into those areas. The idea isn’t to run them out, but rather help them out of the condition of homelessness that they currently find themselves in.

Is God calling you into this adventure?



As you can see, Mean Street

Ministry is more active than ever.

We have great volunteers who are already working hard for God here, but the more volunteers we have, the more we can impact the growing homeless population in our area. Won’t you prayerfully consider joining us in God’s work here. Please call our office @ 303-232-2500 and we’ll get you plugged in.

Blessings, Mandie Gallagher

# WAM - Witness as Ministry

Our church has been supporting a wonderful ministry for the past two years. When the Syrian refugee situation became a humanitarian crisis, we felt we needed to educate ourselves and our church about this terrible situation that was displacing thousands of people.

We invited Jean Bouchebel, director of Witness as Ministry, (WAM) to spend several days with us here at Rockland. Jean is a retired director of World Vision Lebanon. Upon retirement, he started a new ministry. He is a native of Lebanon and a strong Christian, but now resides in California. Jean spent his time here educating us about his ministry and on the situation in the Middle East.

WAM is a Christian ministry that was established to help many of the thousands of displaced Muslims who are living in camps in Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan. They have joined with other non-profits to bring food and supplies to the camps. They also have set up educational programs. A unique part of their ministry is their support of Christian pastors and aid workers in the camps. They have supplied Bibles and support to them as they minister to these people and have been successful in bringing many to Christ.

These Christians work under very difficult circumstances, yet are faithful to their mission. WAM has now established a program to bring these pastors and workers to Lebanon to give them a rest and to receive trauma debriefing from trained psychologists as many of them are experiencing burnout and fatigue. This gives them the strength to return to their positions in the field. We have given them \$8,000 in the past

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TRAUMA TRAINING REPORT: She heard the sound of a mortar hit in the distance. A while later, she received a call from a friend asking if her husband was ok. She had no idea. She tried to call him but there was no answer. With her kids in tow, she started searching hospitals. At the third one, she dropped her son off at the front, and went to find parking. As she walked through the doors, her son, Michel, met her there. He had found his dad. He lay unconscious in a hospital bed, bleeding profusely. The shrapnel from a mortar that hit the front of the store they owned had caused a severe injury to his face and neck. Michel tried in vain to keep Ilham from going into the room. He wanted to spare her the image. Little did he know how God would forever change his mother through this heart-wrenching moment.

She picks up the story, *“As soon as I saw him on that hospital bed, I heard God’s voice. He said, ‘This is the going to be the hardest pain you will face, but I will bring you joy you have never known’ And in that moment,” she says, “I believed in God. That is the moment I believed in Him.”*

In the midst of chaos, God met Ilham. In the midst of her deepest pain, God made her a promise, a promise she says He has fulfilled. The months that followed that night were difficult. It’s still not easy, yet He gave her hope. Eventually, she found a church, and through them a support group for widows of war. Now, years later, Ilham helps lead this group. Now she walks alongside other widows who wrestle with grief and trauma.

This is the story of just one of the 22 Syrian Christians working with traumatized people in Aleppo who participated in our EMDR trauma training in Beirut last week. Although Aleppo is liberated, those who have survived are struggling with the emotional effects of all they have lived through. 20

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## OUR PURPOSE

To alleviate the suffering of those affected by wars and religious persecution. We are committed to fighting poverty and injustice, WAM strives to meet the needs of those in physical, spiritual, and emotional turmoil.

-Penny McDonald



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**DATED MATERIALS - PLEASE RUSH**

*For God So Loved the World,*

*That He Gave His Only Begotten Son,*

*That Whoever Believes in Him Should Not Perish,*

*But Have Eternal Life.*

John 3:16

Current resident or



**SERVICES AT 3:30 • 5:00 • 6:30 • 8:30 PM**

**[www.Rockland.Church](http://www.Rockland.Church)**

**We warmly invite everyone to join us for one of our hour-long Christmas Eve Services!**

**The services will include candlelight and carols.**

**Nursery up to age 3 at 3:30 & 5:00pm**