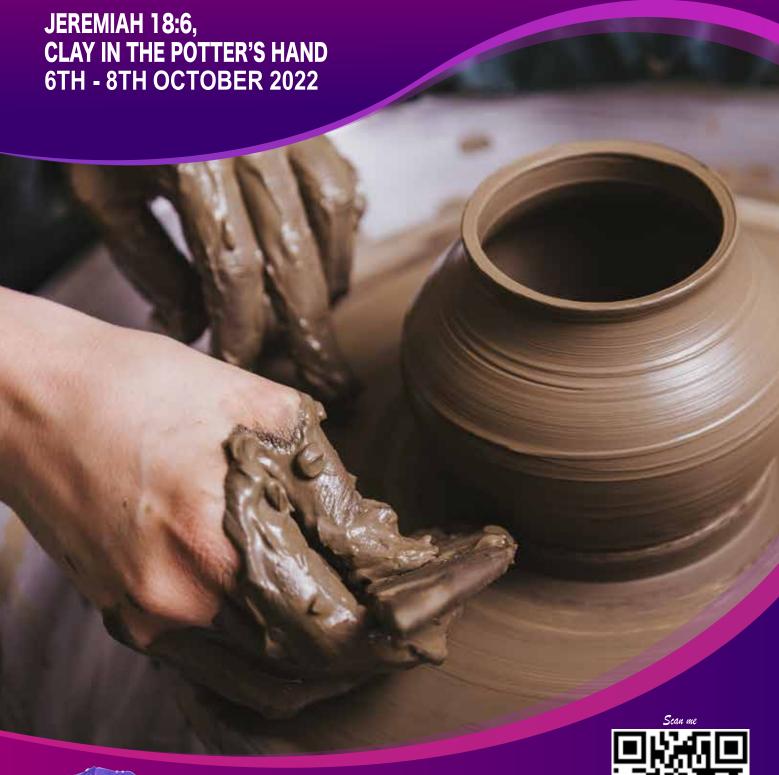
THE BLOOMS

MAGAZINE

6 TH EDITION





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GOSPEL BLOOMS INTERNATIONAL

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GOSPEL BLOOMS INTERNATIONAL

Great women are not born they are made. A great woman chooses to be great. She has the right priorities for her life; she is wise and disciplined; her family and estate prosper. The word "house" in Proverbs and the rest of Scripture is oftenmuch more than the building you live in. It is broader than that. It describes a family and/or estate, career, community and even Ministry. A wise woman can improve a marriage, family, home, and estate, even into future generations. A foolish woman can ruin all of this and destroy her legacy. Gospel Blooms International is a ministry of Gospel Centers International. The ministry endeavors to minister to women of all ages striving to live according to God's Word by advancing the kingdom of God. Understanding that we are from different backgrounds and have unique needs we feel it is important to reach out and minister to women by embracing, accepting, and loving them where they are and who they are irrespective of the background.

MISSION

To embrace our diversity, connectivity, and strength with purpose as Blooms ("About Gospel Blooms International | GCI Women's Ministry")

VISION

The great commission fulfilled with excellence

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To pursue and ensure spiritual growth among women of all ages through prayer and sound
- 2) Biblical teachings and principles.
- 3) To pursue and ensure spiritual growth among women of all ages through mentoring & Damp;
- 4) Establishing an atmosphere where women will be prepared and nurtured to hear, receive, accept and grow in the Word of God.
- 5) Create a collaborative environment with other ministries in and outside the church.
- 6) Empower women leaders.
- 7) To ensure that the identity of Christ is evident in our actions.

GBI PILLARS

Gospel Blooms international operate under six pillars with the objective of empowering the women, girls, and teenagers. Over the years we have learned that there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women. And what is true of women is true for their families, is true of communitiesand, eventually the nations. I believe 100% that women are the pillars of the society. When women are empowered, the entire world is empowered. Women and girls empowerment can therefore not be negotiated.

a. Spiritual

The programmes under this pillar include but not limited to holding GBI conference, branch church fellowship meetings, chapter individual conferences, prayer meetings and any other activities which may be specific to a region/county.

b. Develop and Support Women Ministers

This include supporting pastors' wives in their respective regions/churches to be able ministers so that they can effectively support their husband's ministries. GBI run mentoring programmes for pastors' wives and other ministers who are called to minister.

C. Christian Women in the Marketplace

Women who are in this category are supported to be effective leaders and aspire for leadership in the marketplace, in church and other spheres of influence they operate in. Christian women can excel in their careers despite the unique obstacles they face, and they can do this without compromising their faith.

d. Women and Health

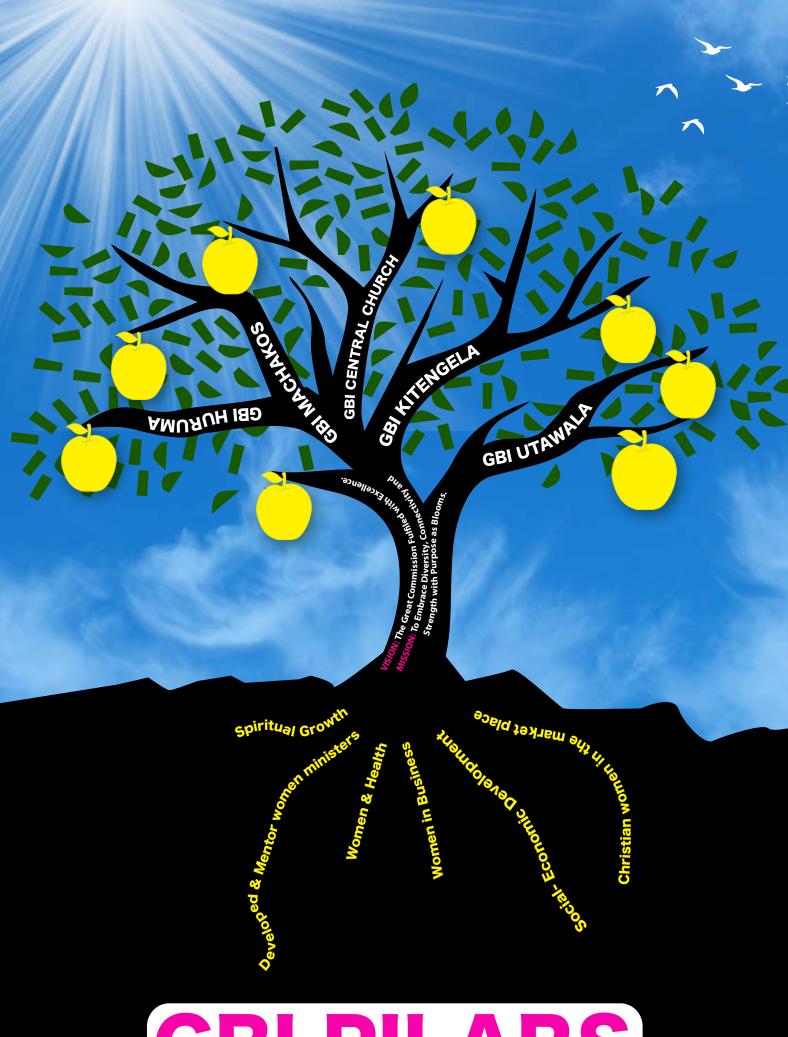
This will cover all ages; the objective is to ensure women are in control of their bodies and Health.

e. Women in Business

The programmes will include building capacity for women in business.

f. Social Pillar

This includes support for orphans, widows, and needy church members.



GBI PILARS

GOSPEL BLOOMS THEME FOR 2022 IS CLAY IN MASTER'S HAND

Gospel Blooms theme for 2022 is Clay in master's Hands Jeremiah 18:1-3 "The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, (2) Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. (3) Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels."

The Potter has a singular purpose. He desires to produce vessels that will:

- a) That will be profitable
- b) That Will be found useful
- c) That Will bring honor unto Himself.

God excels in taking old worthless clay and transforming it by His grace into vessels of honor and glory. He takes those things that are useless and turns them into vessels of honor.

God is interested in taking the worst he can find and changing it into the best Heaven has to offer.

The clay as found in the ground is not suitable for use. It is dug out and brought to the pottery and allowed to weather for weeks. It must be transformed into a useable state, and this is a process that takes time and energy on the part of the Potter. We are worthless to God in our natural condition. However, He is able to see the vessels that we can become. Therefore, He begins the process that will bring us to a place of usefulness. He digs us out, dries us up and washes us clean.

Are you on the Potter's wheel? Do not fight the process, do not murmur – Let God re-make you to fit His purpose and destiny for your life. The lord says just as the potter designs each clay pot in different shapes and sizes, he has designed and created each clay pot in different shapes and sizes. Everyone has been born with a unique purpose and plan. Each one of us have been strategically designed for a particular purpose and God will deal with each one of us in a specific way, therefore let us not fear the potter's wheel. This is the place where God is molding us and conforming us into his image. This is where the rough edges are being smooth out, broken vessels are restored, and old mindsets are dismantled. This where our mindsets are renewed.

In our natural when we look upon a lump of clay, it is possible to see a dry piece of dirt you, which is good for nothing and can't do much with it. But when the potter looks at the same, he would see an empowered man/woman with endless possibilities. This is exactly how our relationship with God is.

God is our Master Potter, and we are like clay in his hands. Knowing this can help us better understand the trials we face in this life. They are all used by the potter to shape and mold us into honorable vessels, fit for the master's good use. God can form and reform us if need be. So even if we get off his wheel, we can get back on and allow him to reform us into the vision he had in mind, to begin with.



HARD PRESSED BUT NOT CRUSHED STAY THE COURSE

The above statement was made by Paul because of what he had experienced. In "2Cor 1:8b. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it." 2 Cor. 1:9 (NLT).." In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead" and in "2 Cor 1:10 (NKJV) "who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us", God delivered you in the past, He will deliver you today and He will deliver you tomorrow – you can trust him.

I know we are living in hard times; everything has become expensive and the prices of everything seems to be increasing every day and we can say that we are hard pressed on every side but we are not crushed. I want to encourage you that, as long as you have breath, do not give up, stand still and see the salvation of God. This does not mean as you wait you will not be scared, it is okay to be scared but cry unto God, do not join those without faith in complaining but have hope, faith and trust God whole heartedly. From 2 Corinthians chapter one to chapter four, I want to highlight some principles that we can draw from Paul's experience that can help us to stay the course however hard pressed we are:

- 1. You must have a seal of ownership, Holy Spirit of God deposited in you which guarantees that you belong to Jesus Christ- II Cor. 1:22. stamped Belong to Jesus. Owner's guarantee means irrevocable and unconditional guarantee of the obligations of the maker. When hard pressed, you can call on God as your father because you belong to him.
- 2. rinciple of integrity and godly sincerity powered by God's grace II Cor 4:12 Integrity and sincerity are very difficult unless they are powered we have con people everywhere, they borrow and never pay back, empty promises, wanaingia merry go round, ikifika wakati wao wanachukua pesa na kuhepa.
- 3. Principle of forgiveness for the sake of Christ and others forgive II Cor 2:10 11. Joyce Meyer says that many people ruin their health and their lives by taking the poison of bitterness, resentment and unforgiveness. Who are the most people who suffer ulcers and acidity, stomach problems? Joyce says that you are happier and feel better physically when you are not filled with the poison of unforgiveness. notice how she calls it poison. Somebody is backbiting you and you got to hear about it? From today release them because after all they are in the back, which means you are ahead of them. You are better than them that is why they backbite you



4. Be a pleasing aroma of Christ to saints and sinners – Il Cor. 2:14 – 16 – kuwa manukato so that when people are around you they beam with joy, they smile, laugh and want to be around you. Don't be a spoiler, planting seeds of discord, everybody is bad apart from you.

GBI Deputy Patron

5. Be the light of the world – II Cor 4:6 – Let light shine out of darkness, in darkness be the Light - that's how you stay on course - Psalm 112:4a (nlt) Light shines in the darkness for the godly; The world is full of darkness but Jesus has brought his light through believers. Believers are the light of the world, so light your life to the full as if you are the only light – when those around you are complaining because they are hard pressed, let your light shine bright and bring them hope. being a light in the darkness - you attract a lot of moths, criticisms, but do not deem your light,- you are supposed to be a pace setter - leading and others following. Don't deem your light by conforming to the patterns of this world as said in Romans 12:2 - stay on course. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. Psalm 30:5

SERVING GOD AS A WOMAN LEADER



Resident/Education Ministry Pastor GCI – Central

Serving God as a woman is not a walk in the park: In the past, only men would serve as elders, pastors, deacons and majorly take up all the senior leadership roles. The women would be allowed to teach the children or just attend church only. For this narrative to change, women must prove themselves competent, able, committed, and willing to serve. As a woman leader I decided to form my own principles to serve in my church and I am not trying to say it is easy. A few of those principles are as follows:

Know that my audience is one. Knowing Christ deeply and growing in Him is my priority because I can't teach what I don't know, one can't lead Jesus' flock without knowing what He wants from and for them.

Know that I can make a significant, and positive difference in the world. God gives His work to those who come to Him: men or women. "To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12 when we know that gender is not an issue in kingdom service, then we achieve the highest that there could be.

Know how to become productive as I work with others without engaging in endless arguments about women's leadership roles. Arguments waste God's time and that of people and can lead to stress and discouragement. I trust my God and myself and I know that I am a leader by God's design. Instead of engaging in what gender can or cannot serve, I chose to become productive in every assignment given to me so that this can serve as a prove that no gender is limited.

Keep learning. I have personally refused to let anyone think that I cannot. I study my Bible and read books to sharpen my axe-head, I try my best not to disappoint in any assignment given to me, (note that am not saying I don't make mistakes).

Close my ears. I am not ignorant, I don't refuse to listen to people but I have made a deliberate decision to listen to the first part of any conversation and if it is going towards the wrong direction, I stop it with wisdom or redirect the conversation but if it is constructive, I welcome it. I am a sensitive person and for a long time I have been affected by what people say or do to me but not again, I appreciate the fact that everyone is entitled to their own opinion and since it is their opinion, that it is not mine but theirs.

I often forgive myself when in error. This was initially a big struggle. When called upon to preach, I would go back and listen to my sermon and get disappointed at the mistakes that I made on the pulpit but not again, I have always reminded myself that I am human, and humans make mistakes.



DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Isaiah: 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn.

3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified (NKJV).

Do we have drug and substance issues in our homes, churches, and communities?
How do we treat those affected?

Drug and substance abuse is the repeated harmful use of any substance. This includes drugs and alcohol that may be legal, prescribed drugs or banned substances as well some that aren't even classified as drugs for example overdose of prescribed medicines, illegal substances which include khat/miraa, marijuana/bhang(weed), stilnox (by Nairobi prostitutes to drug men in nightclubs before robbing them), cocaine, heroin, (brown sugar, hard stuff), opium and sniff glue.

The individual begins to use the substance to feel good, high or manage stressful issues but without his/her knowledge this becomes a habit. Slowly the individual then begins to rely on the substance and over time they lose the ability to control the use of the drug or substance and continues to use them regardless of the adverse negative effects in their behaviour in school, work, finances, and social relationships. At this point where the person is dependent on the drug, he/ she is said to be addicted to what they are abusing. When one is addicted,



Pastor Rose Kirungu GCI Kitengela

the person is unable to stop using the substance yet its causing harm to self or others. Addiction is a bond the devil is using to enslave, kill and destroy God's people. A drug and substance addict wakes up to look for the substance of abuse as the very first thing in the morning in order to be 'sober' able to operate well. (Kutoa lock)

The society views substance use behaviour as a moral problem, those suffering are considered to be bad people who lack self-control and self-discipline. These misconceptions still inform attitudes and prejudices toward it to this very day. This is an area many people, churches and the community have ignored yet destroying the young generation, families break up, causing deaths and accidents

DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Drugs and substance abuse alter normal brain functioning.

All drugs and substances are chemicals that when ingested they disrupt the normal functioning of your body. They affect how your nerves receive, send, and interpret signals which eventually alter your brain's communication system. It is important to note that human brain is still forming and developing as late as the early 20s. Exposing the brain to psychoactive substances influences the brain formation and the more likely it is that they will develop some form of mental health condition.

Just like any other disease such as diabetes, drug addiction is a disease related to the brain and recognized as a chronic disease that needs to be treated, managed and monitored over a person's lifetime. Addicts don't have the ability to discontinue their substance use on their own without the appropriate treatment or tools, for this reason it's me and you that God will use to deliver and save them from the slavery of their addictions.

How can you know that someone is abusing drug? Early detection of the involvements in substance abuse can save a family or community a lot. Some of the symptoms that should have you concerned include: A physical appearance with bloodshot or red eyes, pinpoint, or dilated pupils, persistent itching in a specific area of the body, slurred speech, lack of personal hygiene and self-care such as not showering regularly, not brushing their teeth, not cleaning their clothes are some of the quick indicators. Other red flags include: Weight loss without any recognisable medical issue, extreme fatique or laziness as some substances makes a person extremely lethargic sometimes to the point where they are barely able to keep their eyes open. Changes in personality including extreme mood swings where Someone becoming irritable and short-tempered while under the influence or experiencing withdrawal. Some may appear extremely agitated, unable to sit still and becomes snappy for no apparent reason.

Sudden drops in school performance, continually getting late to work, regular involvement with crime issues like driving when drunk, stealing or pawning possessions. Uncommon reclusive and private behaviour such as Withdrawal from their usual relationships and become secretive. Spending extended periods in their room, locking the door when they leave or when they enter their private space, changes in sleep habit e.g., Oversleeping or staying up for extended periods – relative to their usual habits are other signs that should never be ignored.

The common causes of Drug abuse

The teens succumb to peer pressure while exploring and seeking to be accepted especially immediately after joining high schools. The experience of the sense of freedom away from parental observation is also a promoting factor. Difficulty in negotiating way out in teenage issues such: identity crisis, low self-esteem, poor school performance, family problems etc. are also key contributing factors for drug abuse among the teens.

Easy availability of the substance in our society has also contributed a lot especially because most of the residential houses have spirit and wine shops around them.

Childhood traumatic experiences which were never addressed for example when divorce occur, separation of parents, death, domestic violence, sexual abuse in childhood. It is sad that in all these children's emotions are never put into consideration but in the attempt to numb their pain children fall into drugs that lead them into addiction.

For the adults, family problems, work pressure, poor conflict and problem-solving skills, financial problems and lack of stress management skills are the leading causes of drug and substance indulgence.

Is there hope for those struggling with drug and substance addiction?

Yes, there is, and we need to announce it. The journey of getting back to sobriety is possible but if you're looking for some quick fix to help manage the recovery of a child with addiction, it doesn't exist. Recovery is a process that has setbacks along the way, but the most important part is that you're willing to make sacrifices to walk together. It calls for unconditional support, rebuilding strong relationship with unwavering love without being judgmental. It also calls for patience, open-mindedness and putting boundaries between love and enabling the behaviour. Enabling occurs when you protect, cover and sympathise with the addicts or drug abusers when caught for example by police. Quickly bailing them out and shielding them from bearing the consequence of the behaviour goes to encourage the behaviour unknowingly.

In the journey towards building up those that have been broken by drugs and losing them that have been held captive, we need to be deliberate to affirm and celebrate the person for any small positive step made to crawl out of the darkness the drugs have put them in. This builds back their self-esteem, self-acceptance, and confidence that someone still loves and cares for them and this becomes a motivating favour and a boost for their will to live again.

Recovery is a journey that need you to separate the behaviour and the person. Address the person as a person and behaviour by its own. Don't label the person "you drunkard/mlevi" as this promotes despair and causes many addicts to resign to fate. Offer the patients emotional and physical support and let them know that you are in it with them and be available listen to the challenges they could be facing.

The helper in this journey also needs to assess his or her emotional condition because addiction causes a lot of emotional trauma which might requires one to seek help in order to heal and boost their capacity to give support to others.

Don't ignore the problem or make excuses. For families with a loved one addicted to drugs or alcohol, daily life often revolves around worry, anger, and fear. Addiction affects the entire family unit emotionally, physically, and mentally. There may be added pressure to keep the family "secret" within the four walls of your home because 0f stigmatization Choose to break the silence, speak up if you notice strange behaviours don't be afraid to confront the issue. The earlier you confront it the easier it is to handle. Keeping quiet or hiding it reinforces the idea in the abuser's minds that they are okay, and they do not need help. This often causes them to delay seeking treatment.

If left unaddressed, addiction will take a toll on their physical and mental health, their finances, their relationships with others, and their sense of self. With the high rate of drug and substance involvement the church needs to arise, be a voice especially by creating awareness on dangers of drug abuse, impact to the family, society and the nation. We also need to change our attitude towards those struggling with addictions. It's important for us to see them as people who need help instead of judging them or blaming them. If we consider them as part of the mission of Christ for us, then we can receive them with unconditional love and remove the stigma they have gone through that makes it difficult to share their struggles and seek help from the church. Provision of free counselling and psychoeducation to church members who are struggling with addiction is another great way the church can participate in creating light into the darkness as most of them cannot access such services. Offering them help to reconnect them with their significant others such as: parents, spouses, siblings is very important. The recovering persons also need to be put in support group which can offer support, follow-up, accountability of each other.

The broken hearted out there are waiting for you and me lets ARISE and, REACHOUT

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.



TRANSFORMATION IN THE MASTER POTTER'S HANDS

Jeremiah 18: 1-4 (NKJV)

'The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying: "Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words." Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so, he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.'

What does it mean to be clay in the hands of the potter

It is a way of expressing God's sovereignty over us; a way to express our need to yield to His divine plan and purpose.

Since from the beginning, the image of the potter and clay shows up so frequently,

God physically shaped Adam from the clay of the earth and breathed into him the breath of life. Apostle Paul referred to our bodies as "jars of clay" (2 Corinthians 4:7 NIV).

In 2 Timothy 2:2 the Bible also tells us that God wants to spiritually fashion us into vessels fit for His use, molded as images of our Lord Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul says God wants to form us into "a vessel of honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work"

Job concurred: "Your hands have made me and fashioned me... You have made me like clay" (Job 10:8-9). This gives us a biblical warrant for thinking of the events and influences of our lives as His hands and fingers, shaping us like a potter shaping clay.

The potter's work becomes easy when the clay is ready for Him – meaning that, for God to mold us, shape us, we need to be yielded unto Him. For us to be in the master potter's hands, our lives must be yielded fully unto Him to create us as He wills. Yielding to Him is laying our lives to Him wholly withholding nothing. I want us to look at three principles of a life yielded to God the master Potter: -

1. God created us to be useful

When I look at our day-to-day life, I wonder what we would do without the variety of containers we use every day? Plastic water jars, glass jars, plastic containers of all sorts among others. I think of their benefits and looking at the biblical days, especially in the Old Testament, I find one kind of a container, which served a multitude of purposes – clay jars.



I wish to let us know that, we are created by God and for His use. Sometimes in life due to our backgrounds, past experience and probably what people say about us, we lose values for ourselves. We may be broken, with blemish, without shape but in God's hand, we are useful-sing praises to Him with that voice, preach the good news of Christ, mentor others (Disciple), be the hand made of resource/ prayer etc.

2. God's hands shape us unto Christ's image

Our lives rests in God's hand therefore, God's hands form us and, His hands are on our life. Like a skilled potter, He knows how to skillfully apply pressure, how to relax His grip, how to score your life with His fingernail, how to squeeze and nudge — all of it designed to make us and increase our fitness as vessels for His use. Sometimes He even places us in the kiln where the fires of life turn us into more solid vessels for His use. Romans 8:28 says that God works all things for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose, but the next verse gives us His purpose: "to be conformed to the image of His Son" (Romans 8:29).

God permits trials in our lives as a tool in the skillful hands of the master potter to mature, develop and conform us into the image of Christ. Our God uses most of the events we encounter day to day as tools with which to shape and sculpt us into the image of Christ. He wants to deepen our faith, to develop within us the quality of perseverance, and to make us watertight containers of His love, joy, patience. (Galatians 5:22-23). When we experience pressure in our lives, families, careers businesses, we can visualize the divine potter's skillful hands using it for good in our life.

When we trust Him, we echo the prayer of Isaiah "But now, o Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and You are the potter, and we are the work of your hands" (Isaiah 64:8). Let us trust the process and be yielded to go through it in order to be shaped to Gods image.

3. God's hands reshape our broken lives and dreams Jeremiah 18:4 (NKJ)

'And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.'

His hands are re-forming us!

Sometimes we think we are unstable and even unredeemable because of our actions that has brought as shame, pain, failure, and guilt. We begin to think that God can no longer change or use us, our situation is beyond repair. There is hope for us in Christ Jesus. When we confess our sins earnestly, to Christ, nail it to the cross of Christ, and surrender it to the power of His blood, God will take away our sins, pain, guilt, shame, name it and then mold us into a vessel that glorifies Him. He is able to turn around our lives and clothe us with His glory.

At times we look at our lives and we are broken, with blemish and feel like our dreams and life are shattered. No! When in the hands of our divine Potter, He sees the blemish, the cracks in the clay He is using and according to Jeremiah 18:1-8, He re-shaped the pot again. In His process of re-forming/re-shaping, He will add value to us, beautify us and position us into a place of honor. May we not despair, nor loss hope of our lives, calling, career, business, and children for the Lord is creating us into vessels of honor to fit His use. He wants to use us to reach out to the lost souls, to discipline others and to raise leaders; we just need to release ourselves wholly to Him have His way in our life as He shapes and reshapes us into His wonderful image. Surrender to him and He will re-shape you out of that pain, brokenness, and use you for His glory.

We are the clay pot, marred by sin, often feeling unusable. But in the Potter's hands, He is able to transform us into a new creation. We don't have to be perfect to be used by God, just willing. If we give ourselves to God, He will mold us into a new vessel fit for His purpose and every good work He has planned for us. We may be broken when we come to God, but He can make us whole. He will take away your brokenness and renew you to a new vessel.

May we be yielded to Him wholly for we are safe in the master Potter's hands.

PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS



Pastor Betty Biwott GCI Kipwastuiyo

I was married in the year 1993 to Mr. Stephen Biwott, it was a lovely marriage and we lived happily. God blessed us with four children (two boys and two girls). During then I can't say we were financially stable but thanks to God we could afford the basics. Later on, my husband came to be employed at the previously Telkom Kenya.

It was until 2006 where trouble started. My husband was retrenched from his job, I had no job so basically, we looked up to him for all the basics. This came as a big blow to our family. Life became tough, everything changed for us. I remember it was then that my first born was to join form one. This forced us to sell out most of our resources that we had acquired to cater for the school fees. It got to a point where putting food on the table was a problem. We sought help from friends but to my shock they were not able to support us. I realized that friends have left us, and the only friend left was God; He did not leave nor forsake me. At some point I had to do casual jobs to sustain my family.

For ten years we tried to make end meets no matter the situation. My husband and I were so stressed, we had no friends, to add on that we were rejected by family members; this was quite humiliating. At this point I came to realize that people will only honour you when you have money. Thanks to the Almighty who gave me the strength to face each situation at ago.

Being with God on my side I started calling upon him without ceasing (as written in the book of Jeremiah 33:3). Through prayers things started changing to the positive. Things began to work on my favour, I became stronger and stronger each day. Glory be to God, truly if you call upon Him, he will definitely answer. Little did I know that He was preparing me to serve in his ministry as a Pastor.

On 23rd March I was appointed as the assistance Pastor of Gospel Centres International – Kipwastuiyo. I was then in the hands of a potter, He started making a new pot in me as in Jeremiah 18:5-6.

Serving in the Ministry while my husband was not saved was another challenge, it wasn't easy. On Thursday 20th January 2022 he gave his life to Christ, my children and I were very happy, indeed this called for a celebration. I could then serve the Lord without any hitch, Christ indeed gave me strength and grace to serve Him better (Philippians 4:13, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me).

I have to know that the Christ I serve is indeed a Way maker, True Friend, Redeemer and above all he is merciful.



RE-DIGGING THE ANCIENT WELLS (GEN. 26:18)

He had begun to dig with a lot of sadness in his heart. In order to damage him, his enemies had filled all his wells with earth, the same wells that his father had dug many years earlier. The damage had been tremendous. Howwould the beasts quench their thirst? With what would they irrigate the fields? What would people drink? He was a very rich man but in that arid region water could not be bought.

This event happened in the valley of Gerar in the land of Abimelech, the king of the Philistines. Isaac's father, Abraham, had once been there, but years later when Isaac came to this same land, he didn't find it in the condition that his father had left it. Abraham's servants had once dug wells there, but the Philistines came along after Abraham died and stopped up those wells, filling them with earth. Since Isaac and his livestock needed water, the Bible says that he dug again the ancient wells of water that had been dug in the days of Abraham.

Isaac was faced with two hurdles in re-digging the old wells:

- a. The first task was to locate the wells themselves, as the Philistines had not only filled them in, but also hidden them from view.
- b. The second task, of course, was to clear out the trash so fresh water could again bubble forth.

He managed to locate them, but the Philistines had filled them with debris and covered them over. So what did he do when he found them? There was only one thing to do: put his hand to the spade and remove the debris, to find that pure water that everyone needed. The work was difficult, discontent spread among his men, sometimes fights broke out. And there was no water. Nonetheless, he did not allow himself to be discouraged and despite everything, he continued to dig. At last, they found water and their work; toil had not been in vain.

The Church today is in a similar situation. There are incredibly valuable wells of spiritual life and nourishment that have been stopped up by the devil. Sometimes life has a way of clogging up our spiritual arteries and the flow of God's power. A well that has been in use before, even if is blocked up, can be revitalized again. That which has been abundant before, in past generations, can be revealed again. Where the water of the Spirit once flowed; where His power once gushed, you will see Him move again.



Each one of us must find for himself or herself the source of spiritual vitality. Philistines who would deprive us and hinder us from finding the wells of salvation are still among us. If we permit the evil one, who walks about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, to engage our interests and activities to the extent that we forget where the wells of salvation are, for all practical purposes they have been stopped up as were the wells during the days of Isaac.

Points to Note:

- There's need to rediscover the well of the Word of God. (Josh. 1:8; Psalms 1:2; Psalms 119:32, 36);
- We must re-dig the well of private prayer (Matt. 6:6), as well as the well of fellowship with the saints (Heb. 10:24–25);
- Another well that we need to re-dig is the well of witnessing (Matt. 28:19), the great commission.
- It is time for us to re-dig the wells of revival. Go back to our original commitment and return to our first love.

Let diversions die and revival quickened in our lives. I believe God is saying we can go to the ancient wells of our spiritual lives and dig up-again to find new streams of revival bubbling forth.

Now, let us bring our shovels and pickaxes in order to once more re-dig up and open the ancient wells of spiritual well-being and prosperity in our lives. AMEN, Shalom.

MESSAGE TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG WIDOWS



This message is to encourage young widows to soar higher and never hold on the past that will pull them down.

My story: I lost my lovely husband when I was 29 years old. My kids were 6 years and 4 months old, a boy and a girl respectively. To be honest it's has been a tough journey of 6 years but I'm grateful to God, He has been my only source of strength since then. I'm also grateful to my church and family for being my strong support system. I thank God for entire GBI (Gospel Blooms International)-Kitengela for holding my hands. Even when I feel like giving up, they always pull me up to run the race, their love is so immeasurable, they're so close to my heart. Indeed GCI, this a true religion. James 1:27.

How I picked up: It was not easy for me, especially starting alone. I had to start thinking how to manage the family alone, I had to move to another house which I could afford the rent because life had to go on.

Healing and accepting for me took about two years. I Could not sleep, my son and I were so traumatised, but one day I just woke up and said enough is enough, life must continue.

I used to work in Nairobi next to General Motors, on my way from work on Tuesdays I would pass by our HQ church for Tuesday evening prayers. One day my childhood friend Margaret Muya who is also in Gospel Centres International Church, told me about Pastor Simon (of blessed memory) and the prayers he was conducting for the congregation for breakthroughs. I was convinced and booked an appointment. When I went, he prayed and anointed me. I can attest since then I felt better, and my healing started gradually to date. Healing can take time even 10 years. So, widows don't condemn yourselves when something triggers your wound and tears roll down again.

About the in-laws: I was blessed to have good in-laws; we were always close. My in-laws have played a big role in my life, we still enjoy a close relationship to date.

They have given me and the children love and emotional support such that they do not feel the absence of their father.

Every December, we take a trip to the village, my daughter always long to meet their father in the village (my immediate brother-in-law).

Please keep them close but it also depends on how you relate with each other.

Also remember to keep your children inheritance by yourself if any were left for them because some in-laws can take advantage of you.

How to handle our babies during grief:

It's good to tell your children the truth about the cause of their fathers' death, lying to them in the name of protecting them might cause negative outcome in their future. I said, my daughter grew up without knowing that her father passed on, this happened only for some times until she became mature enough to handle grief. I remember on her 4th birthday is when I disclosed this to her, later when she was 5 years, I took her to her father's grave and showed her where he was laid. This is when I said God's Grace is sufficient for me and His Power is made perfect in my weakness, 2Cor.12:9.

Remarrying: This has been a challenge to many young widows to a point of making wrong decisions. Forgetting that the child/ren are in the picture who are also affected by the death of their father. Ladies let us not forget that children are also part of this decision. Young windows let's not make rush decision that will affect our children. Most children get hurt along the way; some are even being abused by the same men. I also went through this but only met men who wanted to take advantage, I looked at my kids and said they will always come first in my life. As much as we want our children to respect us, let's also learn to respect them.

Let's leave one day at a time, remember when God's time is right, He will bring your Boaz while we are working on the field.

Giving up isn't an option: Let me encourage a young widow, who feels like giving up is an option and they feel like there's no support like before. Please don't give up, work for your child/ren, at least you have a reason why you need to wake-up. If you feel like the income is not enough for your family like before, do extra jobs we call them side hustles. Don't be selective on the job, provided it is legal and put food on your table. Don't settle for less until you reach your goal. The Bible also teaches about gleaning, fear not go and glean there is plenty in the field. Deut. 24:19.

My strength: What kept me strong and bold is serving in different ministries in the church. This has helped me a lot by keeping me busy and occupied so definitely the devil cannot find his way in my life. Psalms 121:1-8

Take home: Lastly young widows, remember how our children are vulnerable Deut. 16:11. Any time we mess our children's life, it triggers the pain of losing their father.

Let's embrace our children and correct them with love, let's teach them how to be responsible at tender age remember charity begins at home. Let's teach them how to read the word of God and how to pray. No one will do this for us. This is always my say, "I'm raising a generation" that God Has entrusted me with according to my ability. I believe one day I'll look at them and say I have done my work that God gave me to do. The Bible says train a child in the way he should go.

Prov.22: 6-15.

Note: Don't leave your children to be raised by someone else, as much as you can, do it yourself. You may feel that you can't manage to bring them up alone, sometimes it's hard yes, but let's try our level best to bond with our children.

It's my prayer that God will impart to us more wisdom to enable us to bring up well-mannered children that no one will finger point at them that they are a bad influence in the society because they are raised without earthly father. Remember they have a wonderful Heavenly Father.

May the Good Lord guide you as you raise a good generation. God bless you,





In reference to Titus 2; I would like to thank our GBI Patron and the leaders for coming up with the women builder's program that entirely has transformed my life.

Having been out of employment and business for quite a while, I slowly lost my confidence in view of life. My dreams slowly faded away as they seemed unrealistic to achieve. I felt I had lost it all.

I was reluctant to join the training at first that I missed the first session 'The wheel of life'. Thanks to Pastor Queen Katembu who offered to re-do the class for those who had missed it. 'The Wheel of life 'lesson completely transformed my thinking and a new insight was built in me. I reflected on my life as a whole and it dawned on me that I wasn't doing well. Scoring the` Wheel of life segments` wasn't easy as I was doing poorly in all. I did it anyway with the most scoring three out of ten.

Below is the 'Wheel of Life' sample.

I have since endeavored to grow my `wheel `and expand it especially in my career path while maintaining a balance. I thank God for His sufficient grace to pick it up again.

I have been challenged to be industrious; a woman "who seeks wool and flax and willingly works with my hands "[proverbs 31:13] to profit; to reach out to the needy [proverbs 31:16; 19&20] and hence bear the marks of Jesus Christ the Master Builder.

To my fellow women, young or matured, of all status that could be in the position that I was, I challenge you to enroll in this program and your life will be enriched in many ways. The Women Builders Program helped me to see my potential and purpose in life.





Linda Kilaka GCI Mombasa Road

Is it really necessary to serve God? The answer to this question is found in 1 Peter 4:10: Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

I relate my calling to that of Jonah in the Bible who was called by God and he decided to run away from God's calling; instead of Jonah going to Niveah where God had sent him, he decided to go to Tarshish.

Born and brought up in a Christian family, I attended church regularly. I personally gave my life to God in my teenage years and am glad I have a relationship with Jesus Christ. I knew my calling was in teaching so immediately after high school I decided to enroll for a teacher's training course which I successfully completed and qualified as a trained professional Kindergarten teacher and counsellor.

Knowing that my call was not just enough, I felt a strong sense of urgency and a strong inclination to walk in obedience to my calling but I did not know how the Lord wanted me to serve Him. I continued to attend church and got involved in many church activities.

I can testify that God used the people around me to confirm my calling. A number of my friends and family would tell me that am well-suited for the children's ministry but instead I tried to run away from their suggestions and I preferred just to teach grown-ups. I certainly did not want to be a Sunday school teacher because I feared dealing with children every Sunday morning.

I served in the Teens and Youth Ministry Church as a Bible study coordinator in the Anglican church but I still felt that the Lord was leading me to engage with Sunday school children. In many occasions where I served, the brethren around me would give me the opportunity to minster to the little ones.

With intense and fervent prayers, I eventually sensed that God was being very specific that I should use my gift in the children's ministry. I came to a point of repentance and praised God for the gift he has given me. When I look back, I can say that God was preparing me and positioning me for the next stage of my life. I joined GCI Mombasa Road church last year in the month of June and I did not wait to be asked the department I would serve in. I voluntarily joined the Sunday school department.

I have learnt that effective teaching begins on your knees with a lot of prayer preparations, studying the Bible and allowing the Holy Spirit to be in control. It is a joy to teach Biblical truths and see the children begin to apply it in their lives. The children are very receptive to the word of God and they enjoy bible stories, class discussions, reciting memory verses, dancing and singing gospel songs and taking turns to pray.

The best part of Sunday school is serving the Lord and the kids. There is nothing quite fun like being around children. Their laughter, questions, blunt statements and their different personality traits is just amazing. Children do not have to be biologically yours for you to guide them; when you are committed to your assigned role you go beyond. I have learnt to serve God wholeheartedly through prayer, faith and giving. It is not about me receiving attention or glory when I serve the Lord it is for Him to receive all the glory.

I have experienced the grace, favour, peace and divine physical healing. I believe that my destiny is connected to my calling and I am excited to see where God will take me in the next 20 years.

THE HOME MAKER/FOOD SECURITY

Food is an integral part of a human being and a family. A family that has access to food and feeds well on a regularly basis is secure family.

The worst form of poverty is food poverty. As women we need to do everything within our power to ensure that our households are secure in terms of food

The proverbs 31 woman in verses 14 and 15 states that: She brings her food from a far, she also rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household. We need to emulate this woman as far as our breadbasket is concerned. There is some sense of security in a woman's heart when she knows that her family is well taken care of.

Factors to consider when making food provision for a family There are some factors you need to consider to sufficiently provide for a household this include and not limited to Ages of family members

All stages of growth have different food requirements; therefore, one should be able to know and plan appropriately for her household

Occupation

A person's occupation will determine the type of food a person will take. For instance, a person that sits down throughout the day working behind a computer will require less starches compared to a person who walks throughout the day doing sales

Gender

while planning for a household food one should always factor in the gender of the people in the house, men body demand a larger quantity of food than women

Special needs

Special need is a case where someone in the family that could be having a disease that is nutritionally informed e.g., diabetes hyper-acidity etc, and old age and even pregnant

All these categories must be considered and planned for well To be able to meet all the requirements in a family a good home keeper must be a good meal planner.

Meal plans: is any strategy used to map out what a household is going to eat on a particular day, week, or month. One of the biggest headaches especially for career women is to think of what the family will eat daily, with a meal plan this challenge is taken care of.

A meal planner must endeavour to make every meal as balanced as possible therefore all the meals must include; energy giving foods (carbohydrates) protective food (fruits and vegetables), body building foods (proteins)and minerals In your meal plans you will be to tell the consumption of food in a specified period of time and hence help in budgeting Meal plans will also help you source for what you need and at a reasonable price without running into a crisis



As much as possible avoid food wastage by making enough meals that can be eaten while they are still fresh and have their nutritional value.

There are some simple hacks that will help you have food security in the home

Buy in bulk especially cereals like bean sand flour, take advantage of special offers in the supermarkets., you can all pull resources together friends and buy in bulks in reduced prices, anywhere you can save a shilling do and put it to good use.

- Groceries from wholesale markets as opposed to retail supermarkets to cut down on cost
- Make foods that can be eaten in two meals especially dinners and lunch to save on fuel, oil, groceries, and the likes
- Plant vegetable gardens to avoid spending money every day in a convenience store if you don't have a storage facility and also just to provide fresh food everyday
- Use natural foods for energy giving foods like sweet potatoes and nduma as opposed to bread every day especially if you have male children from teenage and above
- Make your own bread and mandazis as this will give you quality and quantity as opposed to buying every day
- As much as possible organize for packed lunch from home and avoid purchasing every day, it saves quiet an amount
- Learn how to make your dish washing soap and bleaches to help you save and invest that money elsewhere
- As much as possible avoid buying what you can make.

Golden rule; Never Be Found Without Food In The House.

WOMAN SMALL PERSONAL DOUBTS

The Women Builders Program has really opened up my mind in all stages of life, I thought I had learnt more than enough but when I went through the program, I received more than enough knowledge through God.

The wheel of life helped me to look at all the areas of my life and adjust where I was failing.

The Proverb 31 woman, being a woman who has a vision and can withstand the challenges of life through empowering herself.

The program helped me address fears in my life, trust my own intuition, believe in myself through God.

The program took me through all the circles of my life

- Relationship
- My family
- Health and fitness
- Finance
- My space
- Setting boundaries
- Learning to accept to look at life with positivity.
- My prayer life and spiritual growth.
- Personal emotional development this is a sensitive area that brings most of us down but after going through the program, am now strong enough to understand my emotions.

I learnt to trust God more and in return trust myself other than looking for affirmation, opinion, and approval from the outer world.

Through the program, I learnt on personal grooming and my dressing code.

The many little things in our lives that we take for granted we can deal with them through surrendering to God, deal with the past and face the present through God.

The program helped me to harmonize myself with the way the world is flowing which in turn gives us the inner serenity with personal fulfilment.

I would encourage as many of our women in the church to keep on enrolling for the program. May God show us the right direction and open up our mind and thoughts so as we keep learning and leaning onto his word.

Thanks to Gospel Blooms International and the Gospel Centres International for availing this program for our women in the church, we appreciate.



CORRELATION BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE AND SUCCESS



CORRELATION BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE AND SUCCESS

There is positive correlation between knowledge of the word of God and successful Christian living. The word of God says this in Hosea 4:6a "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...." Knowledge of God's word is one of the keys which help believers to live successful Christian lives pleasing to God.

Christian dictionary refers knowledge to examples, truths and commands that God wants us to know, believe and heed. Therefore, Christians should not only know but also believe and obey the word of God. Success is the accomplishment of an aim or purpose. The aim or purpose of Christians is to do the will of God, or rather obey His Word. Why do we say knowledge of the word of God and successful Christian living have a positive correlation? It is because Christians may find it difficult to practice or obey what they don't know, hence leaving an unsuccessful Christian life. For instance, in making of decisions. Christians are faced with situations which need them to make decisions which please God; but because they are ignorant of His word, they end up making wrong choices leading to disobedience to God. Some of these bad decisions bring guilt, shame, defame the church and God's name etc. leading to unsuccessful Christian life. If they knew God's word and obeyed, they would please God.

Knowledge can be divided in to two. First, knowledge of the law of God (Joshua 1:8). In this scripture "God's word and Joshua's commitment to it would be the pillars supporting his success" Enduring Word Commentary. Likewise, Christians are called to not only read but also to speak, mediate and do what the Word says then, experience success.

Second, Christians need to have knowledge of the grace of God (Hebrews 4:16). As much as believers are called to obey the word of God sometimes their inadequacy manifests. Grace comes in to remind them that through Christ they can live a successful Christian life. This knowledge helps believers to rely on God in accomplishment of His purpose. 2 Samuel 24:14-16: David had sinned against God and to Him he humbly submitted himself. He knew God is merciful and later God relented from destruction. David's knowledge of God's merciful character was a great support to his successful life decision.

In summary, knowledge of the word of God which involves doing it and knowledge of His grace go hand in hand with successful Christian living.



I AM CLAY IN THE POTTER'S HANDS

Many are the men with life out of tune and buttered and torn with sin, but the master comes and cleanses this man with his precious blood.

Just as the clay is in the potter's hands so is my life in God's hands

My life is not a perfect one, am work in progress just like the pot before the end product, I do mistakes yes, but I don't stick to my mistake because who is in me is greater than who is in the world. Just as the clay is in the potter's hands so is my life in God's hands.

My fellow bloomlets and blooms at large it never the end till the porter says you are fully furnished, don't feel let out, don't feel forgotten the porter knows you are there, and he is going to work on you in due time Just as the clay is in the potter's hands so is my life in God's hands.

THANK YOU!

ABIDING IN THE POTTER'S HANDS

My name is Samantha Ruby a bloomlet from G.C.I Ngata Nakuru. I am 13 years old, saved and I love Jesus. As a young Christian I am learning to abide in the potter's hands. God is the potter and we as Christians are the clay in His hands. Clay does not speak to the potter to tell him how to be shaped. God moulds us into the shape He pleases.

Regardless of the condition of the clay, the Potter never gives up on it. God also will never give up on us when we are in his hands. When we surrender our lives to God as clay he is able to make us into a good vessel that he is proud of. We are supposed to surrender all to God and give him time to make the best out of us and to lead our ways for he knows us better.

A clay that is not moulded is ugly and shapeless in god's eyes.



Arshley J. Sogomo - GCI Central



THRIVING IN THE POTTER'S HOUSE

My name is Claire Wambui Mutheu Ngui from GCI Kitengela. I am 8years old, I always have fun attending Sunday school were i get to praise and worship, pray, and learn the amazing word of God.

I love cycling and skating and it's my desire to work on my hobby even professionally because it's one of the things that brings joy in my heart. Talking about joy being raised in the house of God because it's a gift when we move from survival to thriving hence giving me a reason to rejoice.

I have been raised in the house of God and I have attended Sunday school in GCI Kitengela since I was 2 years old, through the years I have learned how to pray, recite memory verses, and read my bible well every Sunday in church is a new day to learn what God has prepared for me.

I would encourage every child to be and participate in Sunday school to thrive in the Potter's house just as Samuel in the bible grew in the house of God.



Claire Wambui Mutheu Ngui GCI Kitengela



Shanna Wendo Mumo - GCI Utawala

THE LORD HAS BEEN GRACIOUS TO ME

When I first moved to a new school, I was scared of what people would think of me, but I really enjoyed my first day, everyone was so kind to me even the teachers. I like my new school, the meals they serve us and the club activities. The best part is going to a school that is owned by our Church. I am so grateful to God because he has helped me throughout even in these hard times. My prayer is that God will give me strength to overcome challenges and also give me knowledge and success in my forth coming exams. May God protect me and my family from any harm.

THE GOD OF ALL SEASONS

Praise the Lord! The Lord has helped me in different ways for years. The first time was a time my Mum was very sick, and she had to go to hospital several times. We prayed for her, and she was healed. The second time the Lord gave my father a lot of money after we had prayed. He used some of his money to take us to Mombasa. The Lord has been gracious to me through out my life, am now in grade 6, am a candidate and I pray that God will help me pass my exams and go to a good school.



Gracejoy Njambi Ngamau - GCI Utawala

LIVING MY LIFE IN THE PORTER'S HANDS

My name is Tabitha Chebet. I am ten years old; I go to Gospel centres International Church where I attend the Kings kids' children's church. I am in grade five at Bethlehem Academy. I have learnt a lot of things in Church, one of them being that God is the one who created heaven and earth. If it is not because of him, we wouldn't be alive. God created human beings with clay. He has moulded me so that I can be beautiful. In the bible, Isaiah 64:8 says that "yet, o lord, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hands". In this verse God is the potter. He is the one who moulded us so that we could be alive. He is the one who created animals, plants, and other living creatures. He is the one who gave us life.

God is everywhere, whenever I am in school, God is always with me. We go to Church to praise him because of all the great things he has done for us, we give offering to God as a gift. He guides us whenever we do wrong, he is the one who corrects us.

Whenever I am in school, God is the one who gives me understanding and knowledge. Whenever the pupils in our school want to take tea or lunch, we always pray to God to bless the food we are eating. Whenever we have class presentations, I always pray to God before we present to the other pupils. I pray to God to give me the courage to do the presentation. After praying, I feel courageous to present.

According to Jeremiah 18:3-4 or Isaiah 58:8. It says, "so I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel, but the potter he was shaping from the clay was marred in His hands, so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him". In this verse God moulded us so that we could be in shape. He made all GIRLS BEAUTIFUL AND THE BOYS HANDSOME.

God has smashed me into pieces so that he can shape me. We need to obey and respect God for all the great things he has done for us. I will always respect and obey my GOD because he gave me life.



Victoria Wambua – GCI Machakos

AM A CLAY IN THE POTTER'S HAND

My name is Victoria Wambua. I am a Bloomlet of GCI Machakos. I love singing, sharing, and dancing for the Lord. Am sincerely so grateful for God has been faithful to me despite of many challenges in my childhood. Many are times a piece of pottery turns out imperfect, my potter sustains me all through, my God gives me strength to endure. One thing am sure of my potter is able to take the clay and makes it into something else. Read Jeremiah 18:4.my parents and the church fraternity have helped me to stay in potter's house. So, my potter has the final say for in Him I trust everything is possible. I encourage each and every one to stay in the hands of our potter. May God bless you.





ABIDING IN THE POTTER'S HAND

In Sunday school I have learnt about the word of God through reading the bible and reciting verses so as to grow up being obedient, honest, and faithful. By going to Sunday school God has helped me to minister through singing and reciting memory verses.

During our Sunday school service, we usually use the bible, writing materials and a pencil to learn the word of God, our teacher also gives us printed materials to colour and write bible stories from the pictures. I encourage all the children to be attending Sunday service to grow in the word of God.





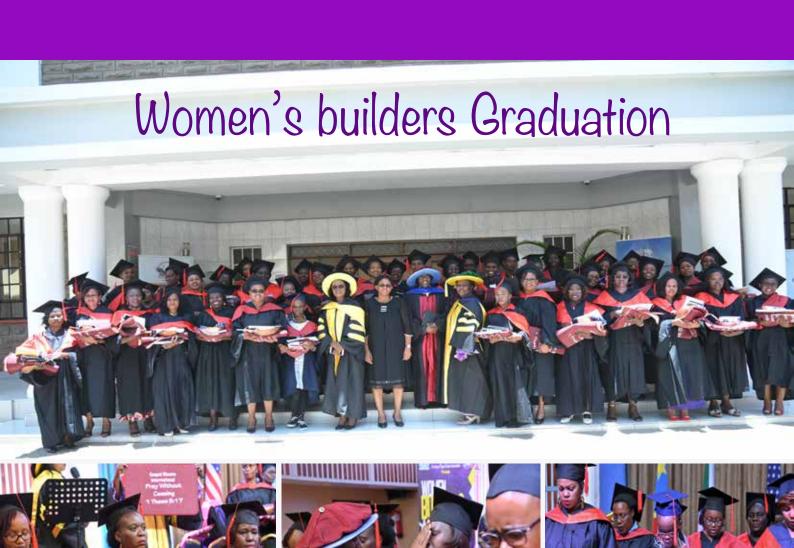
WOMEN BUILDERS PROGRAMME

The Women Builders programme is aimed at Empowering the Christian Woman to use womanhood to be a blessing in their homes, Church and in the society.

The programme is well structured and incorporates Spiritual, Personal & Professional growth. The Trainers are Seasoned Women of God who not only train passionately but share their lives experiences with the trainees as they interact during the sessions and learn from Trainers/Trainees diverse context. Through the Women Builders Program, lives have been changed, many encouraged, impacted, stretched, and inspired to be the best versions of themselves.

The Women Builder's Programme has graduated over 300 hundred women in the last three years. Our trainings are being run in all the GBI branches spread across all the existing assemblies namely GCI -Central Church, GCI Utawala, GCI Kitengela, GCI Mombasa Road, GCI Trans Nzoia, GCI Machakos, GCI Thika Road. GCI Siaya, GCI Huruma

All women and girls of all ages are welcomed to enroll for this programme.





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JEREMIAH 18:6, CLAY IN THE POTTER'S HAND



