

She's a 22-Year-Old Mother of 13

It was love at first sight for Katie Davis—not an abnormal feeling for a senior in high school. But for Davis, it was life-changing, not merely emotional.

During a three-week trip with her mother to volunteer at an orphanage in Uganda, Davis immediately fell in love with the country's people.

"We held babies and cared for hungry, hurting, beautiful children," says Davis, now 22.

So in 2007, when she was invited to return after her high school graduation to teach kindergarten at the orphanage, Davis ditched her plans of a conventional life and moved overseas. She hasn't left.

Now Davis is the director of her nonprofit organization dubbed Amazima Ministries, which provides schooling and food for impoverished children in Uganda.

She is also the legal foster mother of 13 young girls, one of which has cerebral palsy. She plans to start adopting them all when she's 25—the minimum age required under Ugandan adoption laws.

"While we look different to the outside world, God has truly made us a family," Davis says. "Our house is full of love that flows from a source that never runs dry,"

Through Amazima's child sponsorship program, more than 400 children are able to afford schooling.

"School fees are about four times more costly than water or electricity—and most families go without both," Davis says.

Amazima also feeds more than 1,600 children near a slum community.

Davis' new book, *Kisses from Katie*, tells of her life in Uganda and her desire to live a life in service to God.

"I have to laugh a little when people consider my life radical because I do 'ministry,'" she says. "Our very lives, these are our ministries, and every aspect of them are our acts of worship."

Mixed Offerings

There's good news and bad news for local congregations supported by tithes and offerings. Although some churches are reporting a growth in offerings, others are still feeling the recessionary pinch in 2011.

- **71%** of pastors are meeting or exceeding budgets
- **50%** say more members are volunteering
- **48%** report more members have lost jobs
- **22%** of pastors report lower offerings
- **15%** are delaying construction projects
- **10%** are delaying hiring

Source: LifeWay

Research

Praying for Our Enemies

Nov. 13 to be a day of prayer for the persecuted church and its oppressors

Intercessors around the world will head to their prayer closets on Nov. 13 to observe the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. They'll pray for both persecuted Christians and their oppressors. In more than 60 countries, some 100 million Christians face persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. Of the world's 6.8 billion people, 70 percent live in countries with high restrictions on religion, according to the Pew Research Forum on Religion & Public Life.

"Millions are living every day under severe persecution because they choose to be followers of Christ," says Carl Moeller, president of Open Doors USA. "Imagine the impact of millions of people all praying on one day for the same thing."

A People in Crisis

When the United Nations declared a famine in two regions of Somalia, Christian ministries went into action to relieve the suffering. But from geographic obstacles to terrorist  groups blocking incoming aid, dangers thwart getting food and water to starving men, women and children in Africa's eastern horn. In Somalia, the victims number about 3.7 million.

Youth With A Mission (YWAM) associates in east Africa report from the area that the crisis is worse in some locations. In parts of Kenya, drought victims number more than 4 million.

Many of them are unreached tribal people, and 80 percent of the victims are women and children.

“What can we do as Christians who love our neighbors?” YWAM’s Amir Ibrahim asks. “I am reminded of the story of the Good Samaritan—that the person who shows an act of mercy is the real and true neighbor. Our acts of practical assistance will open doors in this region.”

Feedback

Canada vs. TV Host Sid Roth

I was very surprised to see the negative response by the Canadian government to Sid Roth and his ministry (Inform, August). Wow, he’s really doing it right to get that kind of reaction! Thank God for his boldness to preach the truth and demonstrate it in power to our Jewish brothers and sisters; and thank God people on his program are speaking out about Islam! We so appreciate *Charisma*.

Sharon Thompson, *Great Falls, Mont.*

Grading our PROPHETIC upgrade

Regarding “It’s Time to Upgrade the Prophetic” (by Francis Frangipane, August), the prophetic movement should throw away the tendency to “perform.” God calls individuals, not a movement, and nothing can take the place of solid Bible-study foundation. The Word comes first, then the gifts. Not the other way!

Andrew Igene, *Dallas*

Wait Just a new york minute!

"In a New York Minute ..." (Inform, August) contains a quote from former Judge Roy Moore of Alabama about the passage of a bill by the New York Legislature allowing same-sex marriage. Presenting this quote with no counterpoint displays a startling bias. Heterosexuals bear the brunt of the guilt for destroying marriage in America. How can we preach about the sanctity of marriage when our own house isn't in order? If we want to be a witness to our culture, we must live exemplary lives in our homes and marriages.

Benjamin Ferrarini, *Raleigh, N.C.*

The church's 'GAY DILEMMA'

I applaud the *Charisma* team for your July issue addressing the homosexual crisis we're in ("The Church's Gay Dilemma"). I was very pleased to find the articles not skirting the issue but telling it like it is! Thank you for your discernment concerning how important this issue really is.

Candace Long, *Roswell, Ga.*

We must begin to intercede for those in the homosexual lifestyle, as Abraham did for his family. I thank the Lord for someone who interceded for me while I was living the gay life. I have been delivered for 26 years by God's grace. I pray that if you're a practicing homosexual, please repent and invite the Lord in. I am a witness that He can deliver you.

Harold Simms Jr., Tacoma, Wash.

Fasting

But thou, when thou fastest ... fast ... unto thy Father which is in secret ... **—Matthew 6:17-18, KJV**

Digital

Could tablets and the digital revolution be a godsend for Christian television?



Dropped like a rock.

That's how the Inspiration Network (INSP) felt after cable television provider Dish Network suddenly decided, amid ongoing rate negotiations between the two, to no longer carry the faith-based network's programming. The decision came in early August, and within minutes of discovering the news, thousands of faithful INSP viewers flocked to social media sites to voice their outrage.

Using Facebook, Twitter, email and other online vehicles, the army of supporters lobbed a massive yet organic onslaught of complaints toward Dish and furthered the attack with a digital petition demanding that INSP's family-friendly programming be returned. Dish even removed posts from its Facebook wall because of the swell of people complaining. And by the end of the month, the two sides reached an agreement and INSP returned to its familiar channel 259 spot.

"Social media has democratized the flow of information in this country," INSP Chief Strategy Officer Bill Airy said during

the ordeal. “It’s not a one-way process anymore. People who never had a voice now have one. It’s phenomenal to see how many people have seized on social media as a way to express themselves.”

God Is on Your Side

If the Lord had not been on our side when men attacked us ... they would have swallowed us alive. ... Praise be to the Lord, who has not let us be torn by their teeth. —**Psalm 124:2-3, 6**

The Mighty Macs



It’s 1971. Cathy Rush is a woman ahead of her time, but she’s about to embark on an adventure for the ages. Recently hired as the coach of tiny Immaculata College, Cathy faces challenges as imposing as the big-school teams her Macs will face. There is no gymnasium, no fan support and no money. To top it off, Cathy may not even have enough players for a team! While it appears the Macs don’t have a prayer, all hope is not lost. This inspiring true story hits theaters Oct. 21.

Aiming To End Poverty By 2035

An alliance of global Christians, churches and faith-based groups are uniting to eradicate global poverty. The Christ-centered global initiative known as 58: was founded on Isaiah 58, in which God calls on His people to end poverty.

The centerpiece of the initiative is *58: The Film*, which is being used to inspire Christians to continue (or begin) living by the truths of Isaiah 58. The 75-minute documentary takes viewers into the lives of the poor, provides facts and statistics, and features examples of how the body of Christ can take action to tackle the remaining 26 percent of global poverty.

Ten organizations have worked through the 58: initiative to simplify the steps necessary to achieve what some may see as an impossible feat.

However, for Dr. Scott Todd, senior adviser at Compassion International and one of the architects of 58:, the question isn't whether eradicating poverty is a possibility. Instead, he says, "The question is, 'How fast [can it be eradicated]?'"

The partners of 58: are convinced it can happen within the next two decades. In fact, they have set 2035 as the end date.

But to do so, it will take the efforts of those willing to respond to the call of Isaiah 58. It will take the church.