

# Stories of Hope

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COVENANT MERCIES 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



COVENANT  
mercies





A LETTER  
FROM THE

# Executive Director

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As I reflect on 2018, I am filled with gratitude to the Lord for the work He is doing in rural Eastern and Western Uganda; in the bustling capital city of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa; and in the village neighborhoods of Ndola, Zambia. These areas are home to **over 1,400 children** who are breaking out of multi-generational cycles of poverty through the care they are receiving from Covenant Mercies. 24 full-time and part-time indigenous staff members serve these children and their guardians, while sharing and teaching the good news of Jesus Christ.

These areas are also home to special initiatives designed to enhance and complement our Orphan Sponsorship Program. Lighthouse Christian School in Zambia continues to thrive. Through the Mapalo Scholarship Fund, Sponsorship Program graduates are receiving the opportunity to pursue university studies. And in 2019, we will break ground on **a brand new primary school** for the community of Kiburara, Uganda.

To our sponsors, donors, church partners, and volunteers — **thank you** for your partnership. We celebrate this work with you, in joyful acknowledgement of the prayers, labors, and giving that make this ministry possible. On behalf of the Covenant Mercies Board and staff, I am delighted to share the following Annual Report. I pray these highlights of 2018 are an encouragement to you.

In all things, we praise God, the Father to the fatherless and the Giver of every good and perfect gift. His faithfulness, grace, and mercy abound.

*Warm regards,*

**Doug Hayes**  
*Executive Director*



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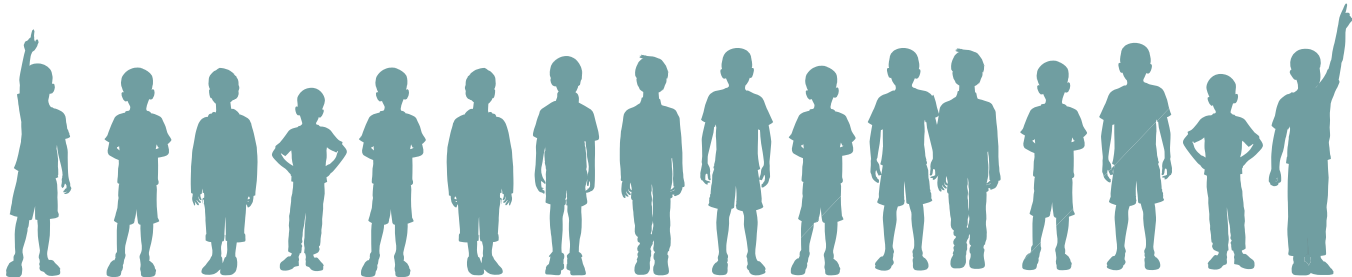
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# Mission, Vision, and Core Values

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O U R  
**MISSION**

*Covenant Mercies exists to serve orphans in collaboration with indigenous local churches in the developing world.*

O U R  
**VISION**

*To see orphaned children rise above poverty, and become positive stewards of their gifts and resources to the glory of God.*

O U R  
**VALUES**

**1** We believe *the gospel should be central to all we do*; its effect on us is the primary motivator for our ministry, and its effect on others the desired result.

**2** We believe *every child is made in the image of God and given gifts by Him* that should be cultivated for His glory.

**3** We believe *that the family is a gift of God’s grace*, and that we are called to nurture and promote safe, healthy family environments for our children.

**4** We believe *the poor should be served in a personal manner*, honoring their dignity and recognizing their potential as individuals created in the image and likeness of God.

**5** We believe *compassionate action toward suffering people is a vital facet of the Christian life* that must somehow find expression in the life of every believer and local church.

**6** We believe *collaboration with indigenous staff, churches, and communities fosters culturally appropriate and sustainable solutions* to the challenges facing the children we serve.

**7** We believe *we have a responsibility to God, our donors, and the children we serve to be faithful stewards* of our financial resources, and to maintain excellence, integrity, transparency, and accountability in all our financial practices.

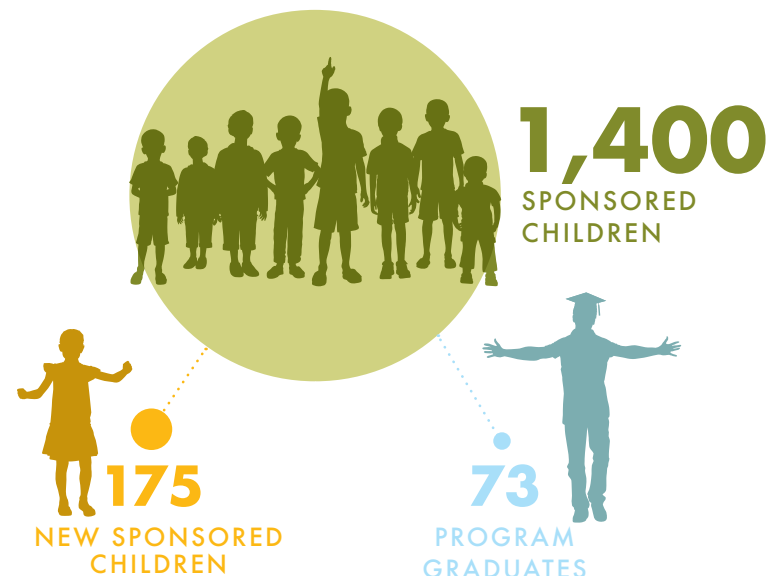


# Orphan Sponsorship Program



- Covenant Mercies serves **over 1,400 orphaned children** in four program locations: Maundo, Uganda; Kiburara, Uganda; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and Ndola, Zambia.

- In 2018, we added **175 new children** to our Sponsorship Program and celebrated the graduations of **73 children**.



ETHIOPIA

UGANDA

ZAMBIA

## COVENANT MERCIES SPONSORS PROVIDE...

### • EDUCATION

Caseworkers monitor each sponsored child's progress and offer supplementary tutoring opportunities as needed. Our goal is that every sponsored child would be able to learn in classrooms with well-trained instructors, small teacher/student ratios, and access to fundamental supplies.

### • HEALTHCARE

In addition to medical care and wellness checkups, children receive hygiene and disease prevention education. Caseworkers also visit children in their homes and schools regularly, to ensure safe and healthy family environments.

### • LIVING SUPPLIES

Sponsored children receive vital supplies like bedding, clothes, shoes, nutritious food, and hygienic supplies.

### • VOCATIONAL COUNSELING AND LIFE SKILL TRAINING

Covenant Mercies caseworkers collaborate with guardians and teachers to develop tailored learning plans for each child, based on the child's gifts and interests. We teach essential life and social skills, while helping children explore job training or higher education opportunities.

### • GOSPEL OUTREACH

Together with our indigenous local partner churches, we seek to point our children to one who is the "Father of the fatherless and protector of widows," (Psalm 68:5). Staff members and church partners regularly share the gospel of Jesus Christ with our sponsored children and their guardians, and offer opportunities for Bible teaching and discipleship.



**“** We were able to see firsthand what a big heart the in-country staff has for the families. You could tell that they are not just social workers, but people committed to bringing dignity and excellent care to mothers and children. Covenant Mercies is filling the gap to provide social services in a country that needs help to care for its most vulnerable families. They provide access to schooling, tutoring, groceries and healthcare, which are all vital to help these children grow up to be everything that God has designed them to be. Instead of worrying about finding basic necessities from day to day, these children have a chance to be healthy and to go to school to learn.”

**SPONSOR MEGAN CROWELL**  
following a meeting with her sponsored child in Addis Ababa



# Education

## LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

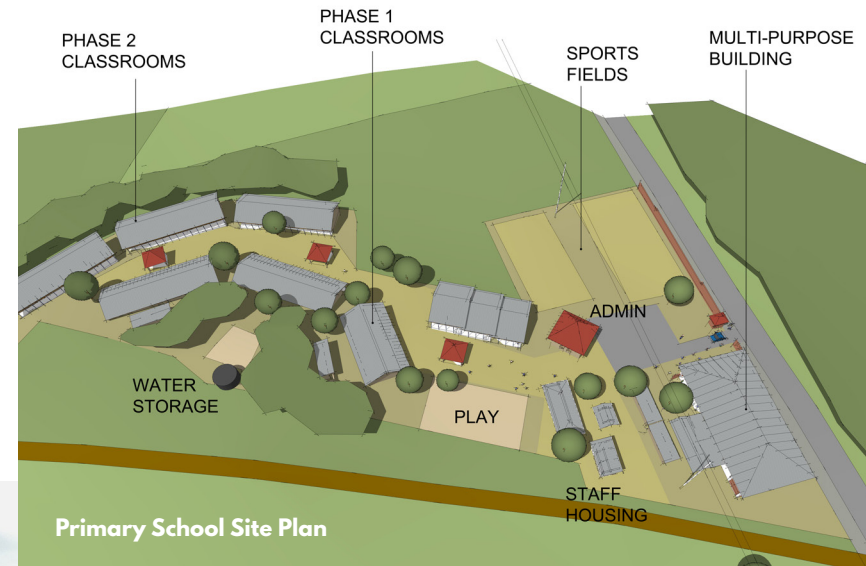
Covenant Mercies enjoys a longstanding partnership with Lighthouse Christian School in Zambia, where over 280 students in Pre-K to 7th grade are receiving an education. In 2018, Covenant Mercies purchased additional land to continue expanding the Lighthouse Christian School campus. This land currently provides an athletic field and recreation area for the students, but it can also accommodate additional buildings in the future. A local architect is drafting plans for a new Lighthouse building that will include a computer lab, science lab, and an assembly hall. In addition to benefiting the student body, the assembly hall will generate local revenue for Lighthouse through weekend rentals as a part of our sustainability initiatives.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

**100% of our 2018 Lighthouse graduates**  
*passed their national exams and qualified for secondary school!*



Primary School Site Plan



RIGHT: COVENANT MERCIES STAFF, KIBURARA, UGANDA  
BACKGROUND: FUTURE SITE OF KIBURARA PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL IN KIBURARA, UGANDA

In 2018, Covenant Mercies collaborated with a global Christian engineering organization to develop a comprehensive site plan for a new primary school in Western Uganda. We will begin Phase One of this project in 2019, which will include the construction of two classroom buildings (containing three classrooms each), an administrative building with office and meeting space, a kitchen, a recreation field, water storage, and staff housing (a requirement by Ugandan law). Lord willing, the school will launch in 2020, serving students from Pre-K to Grade 1 in the village of Kiburara. By 2026, the school will be equipped to accommodate 300 students in Pre-K to Grade 7. Should the local population increase in future years, the campus will have the ability to serve up to 680 students annually.

The school property offers Covenant Mercies the opportunity to establish a **new sustainable farming project**, as we have created in Maundo, Uganda. The second construction phase of the campus will also include a multi-purpose room. Similar to the assembly hall project at Lighthouse, this building will provide space for the student body to gather, while generating local revenue through weekend community rentals.



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COVENANT MERCIES STAFF WITH SPONSORED CHILDREN IN KIBURARA



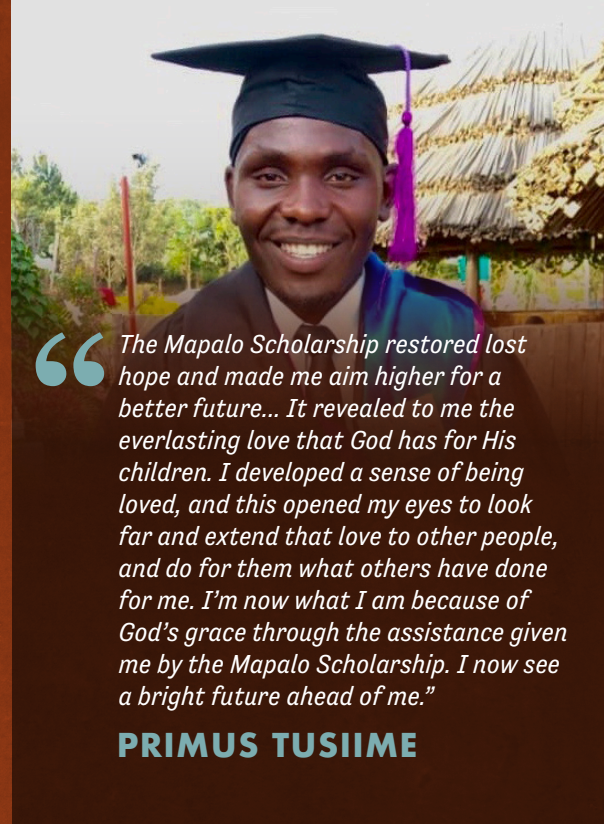


## MAPALO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In 2018, Covenant Mercies added more than \$60,000 to the Mapalo Scholarship Fund for higher education through a special matching gift challenge campaign. **We have now awarded 12 Mapalo scholarships, and a new class of applicants will be reviewed in early 2019.**

A few of our scholars have already decided to steward the mapalo (“blessing”) of their college degree by investing their skills back in their home communities. In Eastern Uganda, **Alex Obedo** graduated with a degree in Business Accounting, and has joined the staff team in Maundo as our Program Accountant. In Western Uganda, Social Work major **Primus Tusiime** has graduated and joined the Covenant Mercies staff as our newest caseworker, providing counseling and care for our children in Kiburara.

*In 2016, we created the Mapalo Scholarship Fund for eligible Sponsorship Program Graduates pursuing higher education.*



“*The Mapalo Scholarship restored lost hope and made me aim higher for a better future... It revealed to me the everlasting love that God has for His children. I developed a sense of being loved, and this opened my eyes to look far and extend that love to other people, and do for them what others have done for me. I’m now what I am because of God’s grace through the assistance given me by the Mapalo Scholarship. I now see a bright future ahead of me.*”

**PRIMUS TUSIIME**



“*I am very grateful to the Lord for the good work He has done in my life... Covenant Mercies, together with the Mapalo Scholarship, has enabled me to achieve my academic success up to this level. This is not only a success but a very great opportunity that has opened my life to a better living... I thank my guardians, sponsors, and friends at Covenant Mercies who managed to bring me this far. Glory be to God.*”

**ALEX OBEDO**

# A Covenant Mercies Story

*Please note: the following story contains difficult themes.*

**In Covenant Mercies’ Western Uganda program, there is a young lady named Abigail.\*** A few years ago, Abigail was attacked in her home and assaulted by a man in the community.

Word of this incident came to our Program Coordinator, Moses Nkwatsibwe, and he went immediately to the police. Moses then escorted a police officer to arrest the assailant, who was urgently tested for HIV and found to be HIV-positive. The team rushed Abigail to a medical facility where emergency treatments are available that, if implemented within 72 hours, could prevent the contraction of the virus. Abigail received the treatment, and by God’s grace she is HIV-negative to this day.

As you can imagine, the story doesn’t end there. This young lady had experienced an unspeakable trauma that has no 24-hour solution. For months thereafter, our team in Uganda met with Abigail regularly—to counsel her, to pray with her, and walk with her through her recovery and response to the devastating injustice she had endured. Abigail knows the Lord, so our team has been able to help her apply her faith in the midst of this dark trial.

Despite all this, Abigail continued undeterred in school, and graduated last year from secondary school as the top female in her class. **In 2018, she was accepted to a prominent university in Kampala and awarded a Mapalo scholarship.**

This is a story of God’s love, justice, and mercy extended to a young woman. It is a story of our indigenous partners, who are reaching children in their communities with the gospel through the Sponsorship Program. It is also a story of how our Covenant Mercies sponsors and donors are helping to provide life-changing opportunities for vulnerable children, so that a girl like Abigail—who has faced unfathomable adversity—can rise up, press forward, and break out of the cycle of poverty.

*\*Abigail’s name has been changed to protect her privacy.*





# Church Partnerships

At Covenant Mercies, we believe that working with and through the local church is essential for effective orphan care. That's why, in addition to collaborating with indigenous local churches in our program areas, **we also seek to build church relationships within our support base around the globe.** We simply couldn't do what we do without these vital partnerships.

In 2018, we visited 10 churches to introduce Covenant Mercies to new congregations and update our current partners. Local PA and DE churches also joined us for a special 5K event called the RunFAR Challenge (Run For African Relief). Together, **the teams raised over \$21,000.** Our Western Uganda Program Coordinator, Moses Nkwatsibwe, was even able to join us for the race!

PASTOR JOSEPH STIGORA (L) WITH  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR MOSES NKWATSIBWE (R)



“The Bible is clear: pure and undefiled religion — the gospel itself — is displayed in our care for orphans (James 1:27). So when I first became aware of Covenant Mercies well over a decade ago, I knew I wanted to personally support the ministry. And I knew I wanted to give my entire church an opportunity to invest in a ministry that respects the dignity of poor and suffering children created in God's image by meeting physical and spiritual needs. Covenant Mercies' partnership with local, indigenous churches and leaders, and their financial transparency and integrity, sealed the deal. It's been our church's joy to join Covenant Mercies in their mission to practice true religion.”

**RICK GAMACHE**

Lead Pastor  
Sovereign Grace Church, Burnsville, MN







## HOW DOES COVENANT MERCIES

When we introduced our beautiful new *Do Justice, Love Mercy* t-shirt on Covenant Mercies Sunday at our founding church, a great question was raised at the sales table. One person asked, “How is Covenant Mercies doing justice?”

There are many ways to answer this question. The phrase on the t-shirt is a reference to Micah 6:8, where the Lord summarizes what he requires of his people. They are **to do justice** (or “act justly”), **to love mercy**, and **to walk humbly with their God**. The first thing that stands out about this phrase “do justice” is that it is active. **We are called not merely to avoid injustice (which is passive); we are called to actively pursue justice.**

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

In the broadest sense, doing justice means doing right by others, treating them with the dignity and respect they deserve. By this definition, we do justice for our sponsored children simply by recognizing them as people made in the image and likeness of God, and treating them accordingly.

### AND HOW ARE WE TO TREAT OUR FELLOW IMAGE-BEARERS?

According to the second great commandment, we are to love them just as we love ourselves (a high bar). Jesus communicated a similar burden when he charged us to do unto others as we would have them do unto us (Matthew 7:12). So those interested in doing justice will

# “Do Justice”?

BY DOUG HAYES

ask, “**How would I wish to be treated if I were a fatherless child growing up in extreme poverty?**” and then treat those children that way. To know how to act justly toward the children of Covenant Mercies, I need only think of how I would want my neighbor to act toward my own children if I was no longer in a position to care for them myself.

If we lived in a perfectly just world, this broader definition of “doing justice” might be sufficient. But as we know, that is not the world we live in. We live in a world where the strong exploit the weak, and where the small and powerless are vulnerable to oppression at the hands of those who have no regard for Jesus’ law of love. As a result, our calling to “do justice” also involves standing in the gap to prevent an injustice from occurring, or to correct an injustice that has already been done.

**Indeed, fatherless children in the developing world are vulnerable to all manner of injustice.** “*Do not move an ancient landmark or enter the fields of the fatherless,*” (Proverbs 23:10) has the ring of a bygone era to the Western ear, but this is a very present and literal issue for many of our sponsored children. In our rural Ugandan program areas, our staff teams regularly step in to protect our children’s land inheritance rights from others in the community who would take advantage of their helplessness. Not infrequently, our indigenous teams have intervened to prevent girls as young as 13 or

14 years old from being coerced into early marriage to an older man, as a presumed “way out” of her predicament. Because our children are powerless, we need to stand up and do justice on their behalf.

At times I have been asked whether Covenant Mercies is doing anything to address the issue of child trafficking. While we do not directly rescue children from the clutches of traffickers or wield the sword of justice in courts of law (we thank God for the great organizations that do!), there is another side to that issue. **The reality is, the children we sponsor are the would-be victims of such crimes.** Orphaned children growing up in extreme poverty are desperate; and the greater their desperation, the greater the enticement of the traps set to lure them in. If you’re a young orphaned girl living in the slums of Addis Ababa, an offer to work as a live-in maid for a rich family might sound alluring. An aunt or grandparent with no means of providing for her might also fall for the deception. But as a sponsored child receiving a quality education, nutrition, mentorship and medical care— this young girl has hope for a brighter future, and an opportunity to see the deceit behind the offer of an “easy way out.”

I have no doubt that together with our sponsors, donors, and partners, we have prevented many of our children from falling prey to the worst kinds of injustice imaginable. May the Lord give us grace to walk humbly with him, as we continue this great work of mercy and justice together for his glory.

*This article originally appeared in an e-newsletter on November 30, 2018.*



# Board & Staff Listing

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*PRESIDENT*

Marty Machowski  
*VICE PRESIDENT*

David Sharp  
*SECRETARY*

## STAFF & PARTNERS

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David Mayinja  
*DIRECTOR OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT*

Joanne Burak  
*DIRECTOR OF  
DEVELOPMENT*

Carlos Garcia  
*FINANCE MANAGER*

Joyce Rickert  
*SPONSORSHIP  
ADMINISTRATOR*

Charlot Sanders  
*FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR*

Emily Evans  
*CHILD PROFILE EDITOR*

Rebecca Rudy  
*CHILD PROFILE EDITOR*

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*PROGRAM COORDINATOR*

Sabina Digrande  
*CASEWORKER/  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT*

Hibret Gashaw  
*ACCOUNTANT*

Girum Gizaw  
*CASEWORKER*

## MEMBERS

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Tim Ashford

Day Fogarty

Doug Hayes

Kevin Michals

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Moses Etyang  
*OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR*

Alex Obedo  
*ACCOUNTANT*

Andrew Amodoi  
*CASEWORKER*

Arthur Oburu  
*CASEWORKER*

Charles Onyango  
*CASEWORKER*

Harriet Wabule  
*CASEWORKER*

Amos Odongo  
*PROGRAM NURSE*

Patrick Epuret  
*FARM MANAGER*

Christine Achieng  
*ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT*

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**Moses Nkwatsibwe**  
*PROGRAM COORDINATOR*

Denis Lumumba  
*ACCOUNTANT/OFFICE  
ADMINISTRATOR*

Gorreti Komusana  
*LEAD CASEWORKER*

Geoffrey Ndeggyeya  
*CASEWORKER*

Godfrey Tumusiime  
*CASEWORKER*

Primus Tusiime  
*CASEWORKER*

Siima Tumugabirwe  
*PROGRAM NURSE*

### ZAMBIA



**Zicky Chanda**  
*DIRECTOR, LIGHTHOUSE  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL*

Pasha Magaba  
*CASEWORKER*

Aggie Kamba  
*ACCOUNTANT*

Berlia Nanyinza Mwansa  
*ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT*

*The Covenant Mercies Staff and Board of Directors would like to express our special gratitude to all the individuals and churches in our worldwide family of sponsors and donors, and the many volunteers who make our work possible. We thank God for you.*





[covenantmercies.org](http://covenantmercies.org)



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## Our New Covenant Mercies T-Shirt

*These soft navy blue shirts feature a hand-lettered "Do Justice Love Mercy" design on the front (Micah 6:8) and the Covenant Mercies logo on the back. You can purchase yours today at [store.covenantmercies.org](http://store.covenantmercies.org).*