

# BORN TO SERVE

I WOULDN'T BE WHO I AM TODAY, IF IT WASN'T GOD!



I SAID YES TO HIS CALL!

# DEAR FRIENDS & FAMILY



As this is my first update in this new decade, I want to thank you so much for your amazing support, praying for me & my ministry, giving financially, believing in Jesus in me, and encouraging me! I am really blessed by your love & passion for this wild adventure Jesus has put me on here in Africa and to the ends of the earth!

God has led me on this journey to prepare me for the great work of bringing His glory to the yet unreached world. He has prepared me through experiences in real life, teaching me to trust Him fully in everything. I am so humbled by all God has done and what he is doing with me. I am not done yet; I believe He is still working on me!

Read to see what God has done in my life since 2014, the passion He has given me for the future & the message He has put in my heart through this journey.

STAY BLESSED - RICHARD



LEAVING ALL TO FOLLOW

## 2014 - HE CALLED ME - 2015

After making a vow to God during my college theology studies to serve Him fervently to the ends of the earth, I found myself in Tanzania living what seemed to be the good life with a good job, money, and all that any worldly young man would yearn for. Then in 2014, when God told me to lay down my life to follow Him, I quit my job and left everything to follow His will.

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)*

Nothing else mattered but His voice. I obeyed God's call and did cross-cultural ministry training with Iris Global in Mozambique. It was a new journey of trusting God fully. In one of the villages where I preached during an outreach, He told me vividly, "This is what I called you for. Bring glory to my name among these people. Teach them." Since that day, my passion has been eradicating poverty in rural communities by empowering local people with skills to change their lives for the better.



# LOVING KIDS

LEADING THEM TO A BETTER FUTURE

After completing my training in Mozambique and serving in outreaches in South Africa and Tanzania, I joined Corrie Ockhysen at Iris Matola-Rio Children Centre to serve children with HIV/Aids. By God's grace, these kids are growing up over the age of 18; however, due to the sickness and misery they have endured, most of them could not further their education.

Like me, they have grown up with many difficulties, but I believe that the Lord can open so many doors for them and the unemployed people in our churches and communities through schooling, vocational training, skills development, and jobs. So, we started making plans for a vocational training centre, aimed at equipping our children from a young age with a skill that will benefit them and a new life perspective free from an entitlement spirit or orphan mentality. With the few resources available to me and any time not spent on evangelism and administration, I started computer and English as a second language classes, involved the kids in gardening our own fruits and vegetables and animal farming, and started sports and other extracurricular programs that would enable them to stay healthy and focus on their future goals.

MATOLA RIO | 2016 - SPRING 2019

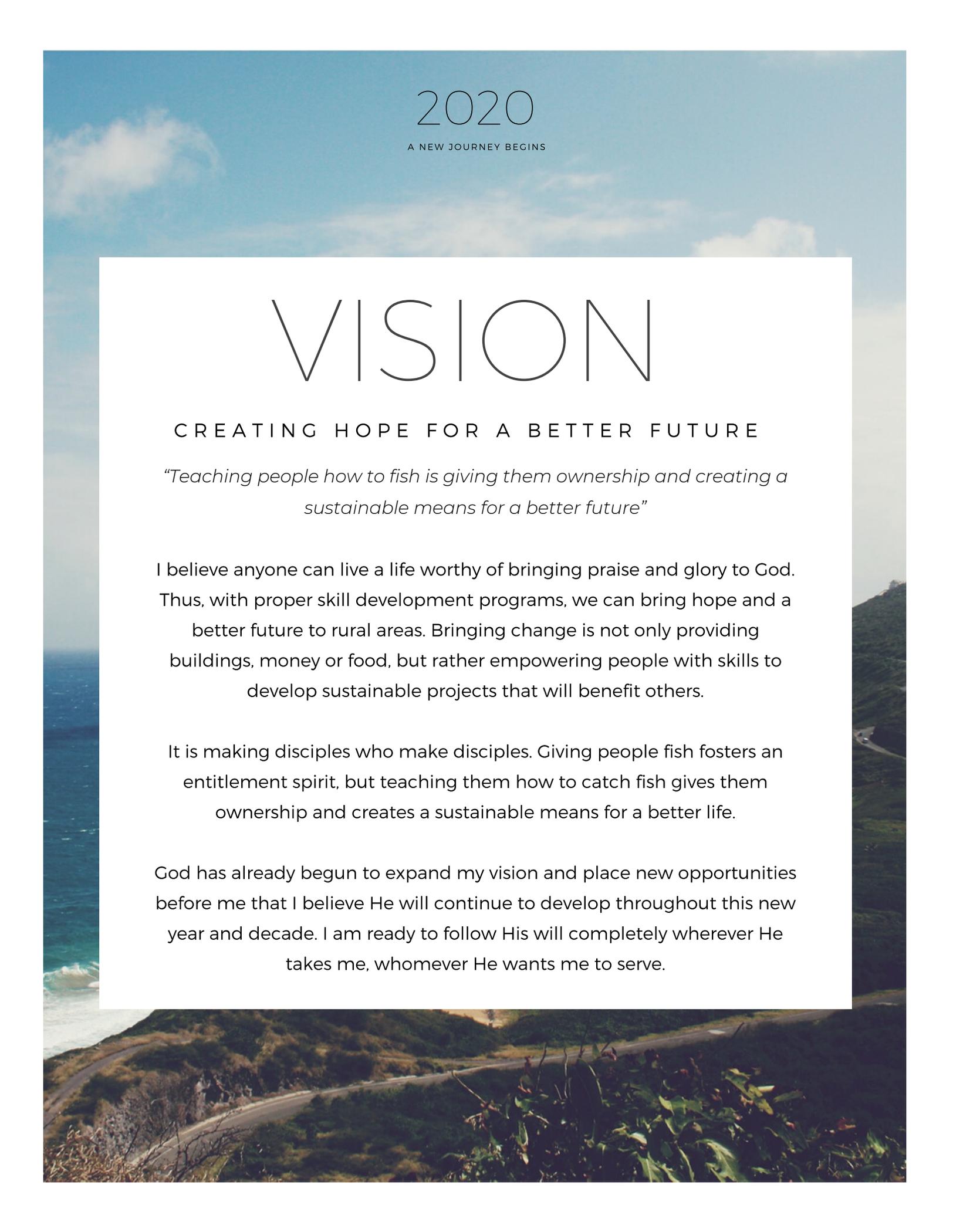


## BUILDING THE DREAM - 2019

UGANDA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

After Stop Poverty (SP) showed interest in supporting our vision at the base in Matola Rio, I found the best step for me to learn and gain experience in running sustainable social business projects was for me to serve as the Project Coordinator for SP's community development initiative in Jinja, Uganda after completing a few months of training in project management and community skills development in South Africa.

When I arrived in July 2019, we immediately began the construction of facilities for the on-site housing and vocational training of teenage mothers (in fields such as beauty and fashion, tailoring, and management) while their children study in our pre-school. I oversaw the construction, developed the leadership team, and led community outreach. We already serve more than 70 children between the ages of 3-5, and we expect to expand to 110 children in 2020.



2020

A NEW JOURNEY BEGINS

# VISION

CREATING HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

*“Teaching people how to fish is giving them ownership and creating a sustainable means for a better future”*

I believe anyone can live a life worthy of bringing praise and glory to God. Thus, with proper skill development programs, we can bring hope and a better future to rural areas. Bringing change is not only providing buildings, money or food, but rather empowering people with skills to develop sustainable projects that will benefit others.

It is making disciples who make disciples. Giving people fish fosters an entitlement spirit, but teaching them how to catch fish gives them ownership and creates a sustainable means for a better life.

God has already begun to expand my vision and place new opportunities before me that I believe He will continue to develop throughout this new year and decade. I am ready to follow His will completely wherever He takes me, whomever He wants me to serve.

BETTER  
TOGETHER

NEXT STEPS

HOW TO PRAY

HOW TO GIVE



I am partnering with others to develop a ministry that equips disciple-making disciples to serve the unreached and impoverished in difficult places.

I am now training to use discipleship counseling to assist these disciples in building Christ empowered outreach on a firm foundation.

Meanwhile I am establishing partnerships with like-minded people & organizations who have the skills, resources, and open doors needed to fulfill this vision.

As I work on these projects remotely, I am also praying & preparing the necessary documents.

## YOUR PRAYERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

1. Pray for healing and peace in our world as COVID-19 continues to spread disease and fear. The timing of upcoming international travel depends on the resolution of this situation.
2. Pray for wisdom and favor with visa applications and interviews.
3. Pray for the new ministry partnerships that are developing & for financial provision for all.
4. Pray for God's grace to be upon me as He directs my path.

## YOUR GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

**Go to: <https://www.irisglobal.org/give>**

Scroll down to: Iris M\*\*\*\*\*

**Select "M355: Richard M." on drop-down menu.**

Enter amount & consider checking "Repeat Monthly."  
Click GIVE & Checkout.

**All gifts are tax-deductible in the USA.**

For mail-in giving in the USA or tax-deductible giving in other countries, please contact me.

# DEVOTIONAL

AND I WILL BE TO HER A WALL OF FIRE ALL AROUND, DECLARES THE LORD, AND I WILL BE THE GLORY IN HER MIDST.” (ZECH. 2:5)

We are looking for much more fire and glory in our midst, more of the Holy Spirit and more of His presence. During the past few years of my life, I have seen more of God’s love and power especially amongst those who have accepted his will and call.

Jesus is quite clear that if you love Him you will obey Him. That means everything He says down to the letter. You see it demonstrated repeatedly through out the Bible. God chooses Moses in His sovereignty and instructs him at the burning bush very clearly about His purpose. Moses, like all of us, sees a few issues with God’s plan and has the nerve to point them out. He makes excuses, anything to persuade God out of this poorly thought through plan of His. God is patient with this man and slow to anger, but eventually Moses pushes Him to lay down Fatherly discipline. I cannot imagine what Moses must have experienced as the anger of the Creator of the universe burned against him. Certainly he stops trying to get out of it. Then we come across a strange passage where we are told that God was about to kill Moses but his wife, Zipporah, saves him. What had Moses done to deserve this death sentence? He seems to have overlooked the circumcision of his son. In my head this is not a big deal and God is surely overreacting. Why did God not send a polite reminder first? But what it demonstrates is that “obedience is a matter of life and death”.

When Jesus calls you to do something, it is going to be good, but it is not always easy to see that when you are in the process. When Pharoah doubled the work of the Israelites and Moses had to bear their anger, he was not glorying in the incredible call he had been given. I am sure that, like us, he was trying to work out if he had heard this correctly. The sacrifice of a call, of obedience, is all encompassing. Jesus does not require a part of us for Himself; He wants our entirety. He wants us to die. Dead people do not dream or sin or plan. He is after hearts that are utterly surrendered to His will.



From the moment God ordained our conception, He was there forming us in our mother’s womb, knitting us together and putting inside our hearts a desire for Him. We have one purpose in life: to experience and reflect the fullness of His glory. He did not give us life so we could busy ourselves on earth trying to find pleasure. He breathed life into us so we could enjoy the One who created all this and the only relationship that will ever satisfy. Jesus promised us life to the full, not just in eternity but now. When we realize life without Jesus is pointless, it is a great delight to give up everything in the pursuit of His loving presence. If you encounter the One who gives life, then you know that nothing else feels like this because nothing else is what we were created for.