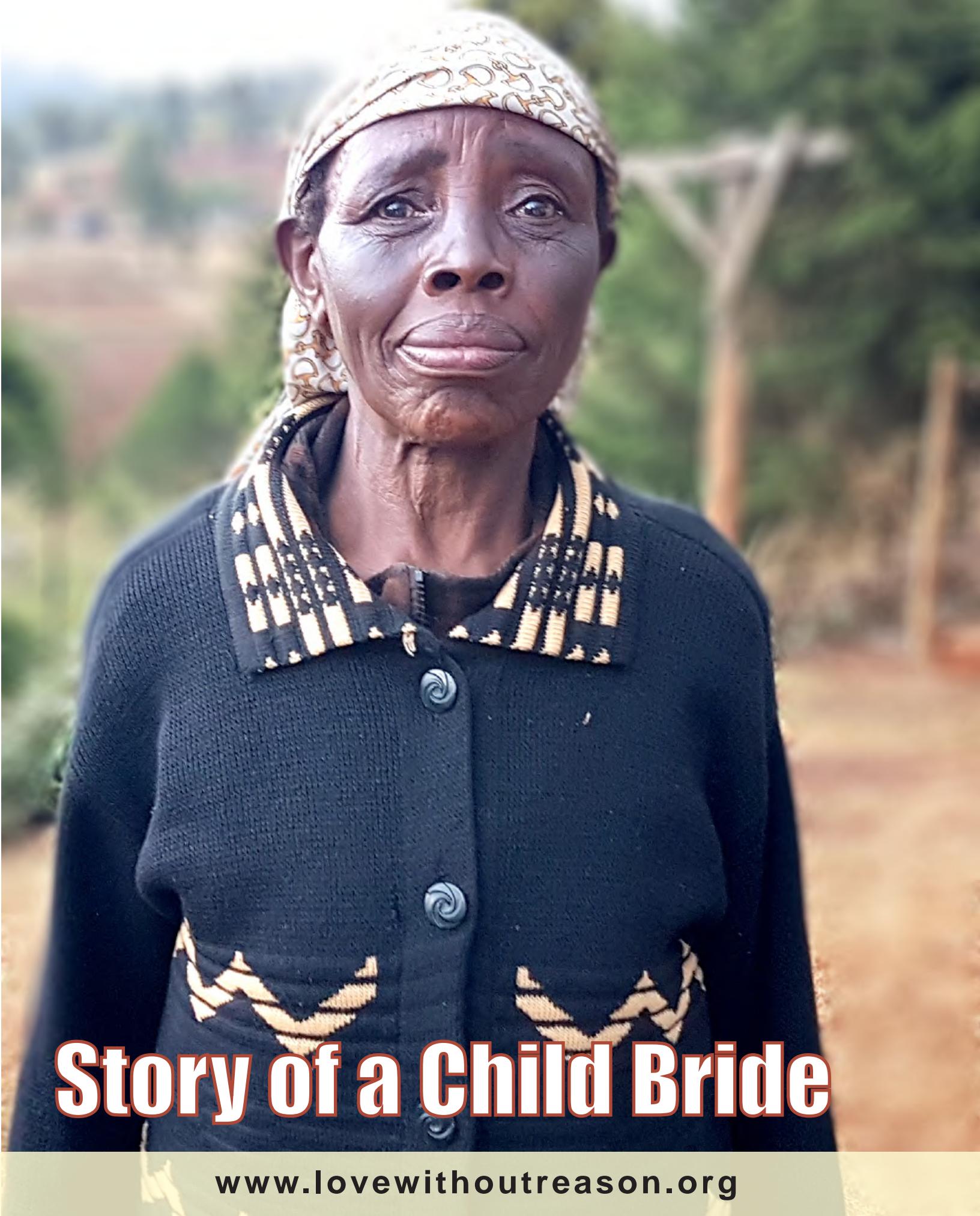


June 2019



# Story of a Child Bride

[www.lovetruth.org](http://www.lovetruth.org)

# God, Only God!!!

We saw Mary from a distance; she seemed to leap over the hills without losing her breath. We were in the outskirts of Eldoret, Kenya. Our translator, Mama Salome, said, "She is calling out that her son has come home." As we met at the hilltop, the tears flowed, and the hugs would not stop. Mama Mary grinned with pleasure. She led us down the hill where her home stood.

As we settled in the tiny living room area, we asked Mary to share her story.

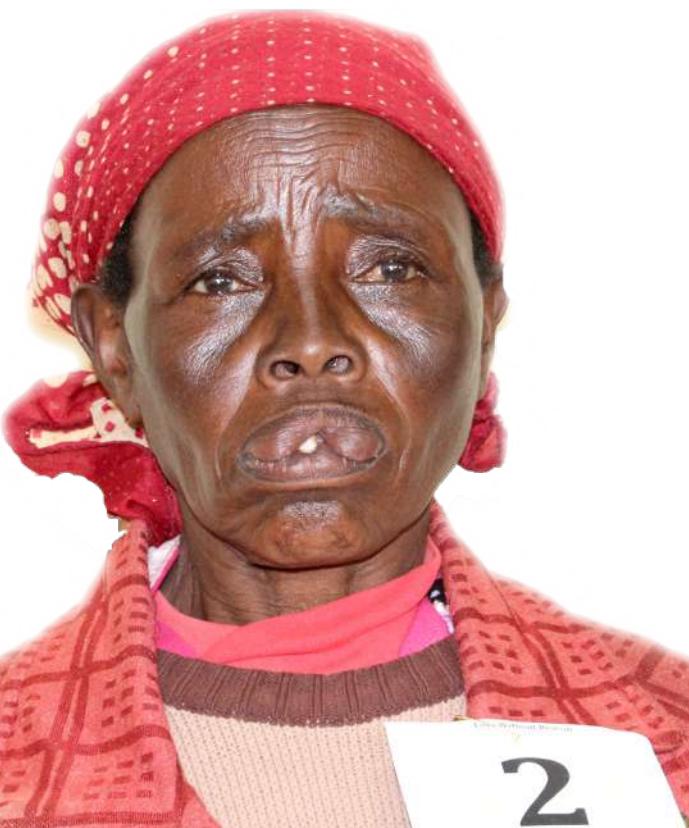
She told us that her parents had never seen a cleft lip before and were ashamed of the disorder. They did not allow Mary to go to school. She stayed at home never venturing out of the house. She grew up hearing humiliating comments, hurtful accusations, and superstitions. To the world, she had no value. When she turned 15 years of age, her parents arranged her marriage to a 54-year-old man.

Child marriages are another form of human trafficking. Each year, 12 million girls are married before age 18, according to *Girls Not Brides*. For some regions, child marriage is a tradition that has been passed down through generations. In general, the thought that males are superior to females seems to be the driving force behind this practice. Because there is little to no value for a daughter, "marrying the burden off" to another family is a practice. Poverty also plays a role in child marriages. When natural disasters occur, some of the most

vulnerable are the girls who can quickly be married off to save the family, and even "save" the girl.

Mary was abused throughout her married life. She had eight children and buried four of them. She had to work as a maid in homes in order to earn a small income. She worked to raise her children after her husband passed.

We asked her, "What gave you strength during these 64 years you have lived with a cleft lip? What gave you hope, during the years of ill treatment and mocking voices around you?" Her response strengthened us. "God, only God gave me hope all these years."



She told us that people from the region still come to look and admire her face after her lip repair. They ask her, "Who did this? Who helped you?" She pulls out her Love Without Reason records and brochures, showing them to the people. "I would tell them that one day these people will come to my house."

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- [www.GirlsNotBrides.org](http://www.GirlsNotBrides.org)

mother to several cleft camps in Kenya. However, she was never selected for surgery, until Love Without Reason came.

As we made our way to leave her home, we asked her what message she wanted to convey to the donors and sponsors that made her cleft lip repair possible. She would not stop with the thank yous. "Please tell them don't stop with just helping me. There are more people like me, and they are waiting for people like you. Thank you."

- Susan Mathews  
From Eldoret, Kenya

Below: Susan & Santhosh with Mary's family



# Medical Mission Zimbabwe, July 22 - Aug 5

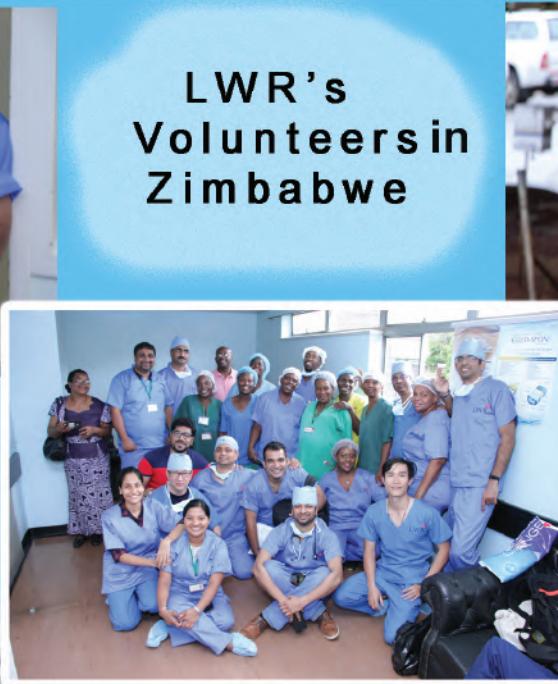
Love Without Reason's 4th African Medical Mission will be held in Harare, Zimbabwe. Our plan is to conduct 75 surgeries in 5 days at the Parirenyatwa Hospital in Harare.

Our team will consist of medical professionals and support staff from all walks of life (medical and non-medical). We expect patients to come to the camp from all over the country. Zimbabwe has a 5-year backlog of patients with cleft disorders waiting for surgery. Let us know if you are interested in going before June 10th, 2019.

Email [info@lovewithoutreason.org](mailto:info@lovewithoutreason.org) for more information.

**Total cost of the Medical Mission is \$70,000. These funds will help provide cost-free surgeries for nearly 75 patients.**

**Use the enclosed envelope to donate in honor of Mama Mary.**





## **Philip completes 12th grade and graduates from The McCallie School**

On July 28, 2000, various specialists came to report the results of the CT scan of Philip's brain. The report of absent corpus callosum, migrational disorder, and absent eye and ear all indicated that Philip would have significant cognitive and developmental delays. He probably would never speak, never walk, never play the guitar or do any coordinated activities. He would require special education for the rest of his life. The prayer of broken parents was simple: "Let him know who Jesus is, and everything else will be ok."

Philip was monitored by the state and enrolled in Siskin Children's Institute (SCI), where he had treatment from vision, physical, occupational, and speech therapists, as well as educators and nutritionists. Before his sixth birthday, during the transitional meeting at SCI, the final report read, "Philip has no developmental delays.

**UNTIL  
THE WORLD IS  
CLEFT-FREE**

And the growth and education of Philip continued. On Sunday, May 19, 2019, we watched with great joy as Philip walked across the McCallie School stage to accept his high school diploma with an acceptance letter from Lee University in hand.

Philip deferred his admission to Lee for one year. During this one year, his desire is to see what his parents have been working on since December 2007, when LWR was founded. His work begins in June 2019, with speaking engagements in Dubai and India. Then, he will be preparing for the July mission to Zimbabwe. Philip has asked for prayer as he makes plans for his future, and as he completes his first book.

His motto remains the same. *“I will work.... Until the World is Cleft-Free!”*



*The future beckons ...*

## Save the dates:

5K Run4Love, Saturday morning, September 14, 2019, at the Tennessee Riverpark.  
Registration opens June 15 on [www.5krun4love.com](http://www.5krun4love.com)

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Philip, I'll join you in  
making the world cleft-free



\*\* Make all checks payable to:

Love Without Reason, Inc, P.O. Box 21009, Chattanooga, TN 37424.

[www.lovelwithoutreason.org](http://www.lovelwithoutreason.org)