

# THE MESSENGER

## Roxana's Story

*Meredith Omland is a SAMS Missionary in Mexico who recently shared this personal testimony from a young woman in her parish. Roxana's story is a testament to God's transforming power despite tragedy and suffering, as well as to the faithful day-to-day ministry of SAMS Missionaries serving God's people in the Church.*

**M**y name is Roxana and I grew up in a community outside of Fresnillo, Mexico. On August 25, 2007, when I was nine years old, my family and I were in a car accident. The man who crashed his truck into our vehicle was drunk and high, and his driving was out of control. My dad was killed and that was the hardest thing that has ever happened in my life. After the accident, my mom was in the ICU for a week



Roxana, age 10, a year after the accident

and both of my brothers were also treated for broken bones. I also had a fractured femur, a head injury, and a fractured spinal column, leaving me paralyzed from the waist down. I don't remember much of what happened during those days and weeks after the accident, but we ended up going to live with my maternal grandmother, right down the street from the church where I now attend.

In those years that followed the accident, everything seemed dark and I didn't have any hope of a promising future. My disability held me back and I was full of anger and bitterness. I didn't know to ask for help to deal with all my negative emotions. I thought my anger and bitterness was normal for someone in my situation and I didn't think I had any other option but to live feeling that way for the rest of my life. When I became aware of what was going on inside of me, I was 14 years old.



Last year Roxana graduated with honors with a degree in business administration

I started attending church in hopes of receiving an academic scholarship. I began to learn about God, about what He had done for me and about His great love. It took a while, but eventually I was able to overcome all those negative emotions that were controlling me. I was able

to share with my mom and help her feel better and know God's love for her as well. I continued going to school and preparing for the future because I wanted to be a better person.

One evening, at a special prayer time at church, God touched me and I was finally able to forgive the driver of the vehicle that killed my father and left me in a wheelchair. I was able to truly love God and know that His love for me is greater than everything else.

I know that at the beginning I started attending church because I wanted to be awarded a scholarship, but then everything changed when I came to truly know the Lord. I know that God used all of this in my life to prepare me for what He had planned for me, to be a children's Sunday School teacher, to read Scripture in church on Sundays, to be someone who shares God's Word with those who need to hear it, to help those around me, to be one who helps prepare various details for Sunday's worship service, to be one who prays for others, and above all, to know that God is with me always, even in the hard times. *continued on page 7*

# The Pellonis: Equipping in Cambodia

by Brendan Kimbrough

“The Cambodian Church is complex and communal,” Anthony Pelloni told me recently. “And because Cambodian culture is already communal, Anglicanism’s communal life and worship is a good fit for them.” Anthony and his wife, Anna, have served in Cambodia for over eight years, but now as SAMS Missionary Candidates they are in the process of returning with a more focused call. “The Lord has clearly given us hearts for the Cambodian people, but now with an emphasis on equipping.” The Pelloni’s have been very involved with the Anglican Church in Phnom Penh and that will continue but now the emphasis is on engaging new believers. “We will be part of the team launching a new church on the north side of the city. Young Cambodian students flock to the city to study and so we will be focusing on doing dorm ministry. Alongside two Anglican priests, we will be starting with a group of 60-70 people.” While the Cambodian church already has many believers, Anthony says that they are often not well equipped to share the gospel. “We see our role as discipling these Cambodian believers and giving them the knowledge and the tools to evangelize and disciple other new Cambodian believers.” The Pellonis will also have a role to play in bringing together the Khmer and English-speaking Anglican congregations who,



though they are part of one church, speak two of the three predominant languages there – Khmer, Mandarin or English. The Pellonis hope to help raise up a new generation of young Cambodians who know and serve Jesus and want new believers to do the same.

*Note: The Pellonis have been busy this year speaking to churches and individuals and have raised 52% of their fundraising goal, but they still need Senders who can make a monthly commitment so that they can return to Gospel ministry in Cambodia this Fall.*

# The Gressers: Equipping in Malawi

The Anglican Church in Malawi, part of the Province of Central Africa, is growing and with that comes even greater need to train the next generation of priests and laypeople to lead the Church. The Lord has prepared Bob and Traci Gresser to help meet this challenge, and has given them the vision to make an immediate impact through theological instruction at the Leonard Kamungu Theological College in Zomba, Malawi.

In addition to teaching, Fr. Bob will be helping the college seek accreditation, offering a bachelor’s degree as well as a distance learning program. This will eliminate the need for those seeking ordination to leave the country. The goal is to graduate 10-12 students per year, each of which will have pastoral oversight of approximately 400 people. Fr. Bob’s teaching of traditional biblical Anglicanism will make an immediate impact, especially for the Anglican Church in Malawi that stands at a crossroads.



*Robert (Bob) Gresser and his wife Traci with their children L to R – Peter, June, Andrew, Sarah and Daniel with son-in-law Clint*

The Gressers plan to move to Malawi in October. They have received support from enough Senders for outgoing expenses and 2 years of service due in part to generous one-time donors. They are still seeking a few more monthly Senders to walk in partnership with them past the 2-year mark. Please keep them in your prayers.





McCall Family



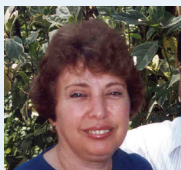
Amanda Scott



Steve &  
Debbie Buckner



Jack Melvin



Hilda Monzon



Vivanco Family



Russ & Heidi Smith



Benton Family

## September 1-3: Missionary Bridgers (One to twelve-month missionary interns):

Give thanks for the ministries of: **Catherine Annand** (Uganda), **David & Sarah Anderson** (Southeast Asia and Europe), **Amelia Bailey** (Thailand & Israel), **Deb Carr** (Kenya), **Patrick Lutalo** (Uganda), **Isabella Salerno** (Thailand & Israel), and **Cate Waddell** (Honduras). Pray that God's grace would lead them into fruitful service.

## September 4-10: NORTH AMERICA: Mexico

Lift up **Roger and Joanne** as they travel in Mexico to minister and support churches, seminarians, and those seeking ordination. Also, join them in praise to God for greatly improved health for both of them. Pray for God's wisdom as they mentor a pastor who is raising up a church in Aguascalientes. Pray boldly for Mexico's deliverance from the grip of cartel violence, and for God to strengthen and bless church leadership.

Join **Meredith** in praying that the Lord would continue to raise up godly leaders in Iglesia Gran Pastor, and that He would use her in her ministry of equipping children and adults to be committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

## September 11-18: CENTRAL AMERICA: Honduras

Lift up **Suzy McCall, Amanda Scott, and Steve & Debbie Buckner** in Tegucigalpa, serving at LAMB Institute for children at risk. Give thanks for a full summer of teams, permits to begin construction of the new daycare building in the inner city, the good health of four baby boys, and a new film about abandoned babies produced and directed by Cesar Lamb, who grew up in the children's home. Pray for the equipping of four spaces in the children's home for vocational training, continued healing of two teenaged mothers and a younger sister who have joined them with their two babies, and for caring, capable caregivers for their special-needs children.

## September 19-24: CENTRAL AMERICA: Honduras

Pray for **Jack Melvin's** Ministry of Presence, the scholarship children, and the outreach to the poor. Pray especially for 17-year-old student, Estefany Martinez, who has been diagnosed with cancer. Pray for healing as she undergoes chemotherapy. Also pray for the construction of the retreat center and Jack's home in Copan Ruinas.

## September 25-October 1: CENTRAL AMERICA: Honduras and Costa Rica

Pray for renewed strength for **Hilda Monzon** in San José, Costa Rica, and that the church there will make disciples faithfully.

## October 2-8: SOUTH AMERICA: Ecuador

Pray for **Roberto & Cameron, Graham, Liam, and Francis Vivanco** in Quito, for the ministry where Roberto is the Worship Pastor, for Cameron as she directs the Education Equals Hope program, and for a new Team Leader for the team of missionaries in Quito. Please pray for the students and families that the Vivancos get to impact, and for the Vivanco children as they study.

## October 9-15: SOUTH AMERICA: Chile

Pray with **Russ and Heidi Smith** in Temuco, for their Home Ministry Assignment from January through March, 2024. Ask that their current Senders will be encouraged, that new Senders will be raised up, and that there will be connections with those who may consider some type of missionary service with SAMS in the future. Pray that partnerships between those churches and the Church in Chile will be strengthened through these visits. Pray for needed provision during this time, especially the use of vehicles in the different locations they will be visiting.

## October 16-21: OCEANIA: New Zealand

Pray that **Guy & Summer, Isaac, Quinn, Norah, and Addison Benton** may shine Christ's light in Wellington, as they serve in parish revitalization and the discipleship of the congregation at All Saints Church.



**Whitaker Family**



**Pelloni Family**



**Larson Family**



**Long Family**



**Chaves Family**



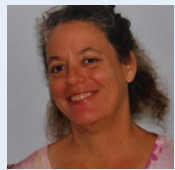
**April Sylvester**



**Gresser Family**



**Weeldreyer Family**



**Janine LeGrand**



**Weber Family**



**Cathy Clevenger**



**Richard & Martha Menees**

## October 22-October 31: ASIA: Cambodia

Join **Gregory & Heidi, Saeeda, Brynne, Aubrey, Ivy, and Madeleine Whitaker** in Phnom Penh as they intercede for Cambodia. Pray for the poor and vulnerable, especially those at risk of human trafficking. Lift up the Church of Christ Our Peace as its three congregations (Khmer, English, and Chinese) reach out, and as they prepare to plant another church. May the Whitakers thrive, including Saeeda and Brynne, at university.

Join **Anthony & Anna, Laurel, Bethel, Priel, and Isobel Pelloni** in praising God for His provision in raising up Senders. He has raised up over half of the Senders they need to return to Cambodia to join their church planting team. Pray that the Lord would provide the remaining support needed. Lift up their church plant as it prepares to launch in October, 2023, and that the Pellonis may be empowered to return soon.

Lift up Candidates **Eric & Liz, Zeke, and Elias Larson** as they raise up Senders for their missionary service. May God be with them as they serve their community and prepare for future ministry.

## November 1-6: ASIA: Indonesia

Pray with **James & Nanci, Anna, George, Mary, and Della Long** as Providence Anglican Church, in Jakarta, intensifies its focus on Indonesian and Farsi language ministries. Ask for the Lord's provision, protection, and power. May He grant their Farsi pastor deepened knowledge and understanding of his Word as he continues his online seminary studies.

## November 7-13: Kenya & Madagascar

Pray for **David & Lucy, Joshua, Paul, Zuri, and Mark Chaves** as they minister through Kenya Connection from Virginia. May God use Lucy's role as program director to inspire and equip Kenyan young adults to walk with and to serve the Lord.

## November 14-20: Zambia and Malawi

Lift up **April Sylvester** ministering in Ndola, Zambia. Pray that Zambians would experience restoration in mental health through her work. Pray for her graduate studies in mental health she is undertaking in Scotland.

Pray for **Robert & Traci, Andrew, Peter, Daniel, and June Gresser**, as they adjust to living in Malawi. Pray that their transition will go smoothly and that Bob's ministry at the Leonard Kamungu Anglican School will flourish. Pray that they would settle well into their new home and for the health of their son Andrew.

## November 21-27: AFRICA: Rwanda

Pray for **Wade & Chelsea, and Evelyn Weeldreyer** ministering in Kigali, Rwanda. May God bear fruit through their efforts in strengthening churches and equipping church leaders through the ministry of East African Christian College.

**Ben & Cherie, May, Conor, Abigail, Jonathan, Michaela, and Shiloh Weber** are praising the Lord for a smooth move to Gahini, Rwanda, in March. Please pray as they continue to learn Kinyarwanda and begin to discern how best to come alongside the churches in the Diocese of Gahini.

## November 28-December 3: AFRICA: Uganda

Pray for **Janine LeGrand** serving the Diocese of Masindi. May she have insight for changing situations. Lift up her recently started Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Nutrition (WaSH-Nut) ministry.

Lift up **Cathy Clevenger** in Masindi as she brings mental health education to the diocese. Pray that the community may be equipped to make known the love of Christ.

Lift up to the Lord **Richard & Martha Menees** as they begin their ministry in the Diocese of Kigezi. Pray for the Menees as they study language and culture, and as they form relationships with the people.





Jessica Hughes



Richard & Catherine Ranger



Nhial Family



David & Patricia Ayres



Kerry & Cynthia Buttram



Johann & Louise Vanderbijl



Jack & Mary McDonald



Behrens Family



Todd & Patsy McGregor



Anne Schaffer

## December 4-10: AFRICA: Uganda

Please pray for continued healing for **Jessica Hughes**, and for her to continue to grow closer to the Lord in her spiritual direction certificate program.

Lift up **Richard and Catherine Ranger's** ministry at Uganda Christian University. May they receive the blessing of additional support partners as they apply for renewals for their visas in Uganda to extend their stay. Pray that Richard's work with students in the Law and Business Schools as a lecturer and mentor, and that Catherine's work as a mentor would continue to support and enrich the students whom they serve.

## December 11-17: AFRICA: South Sudan & Northern Africa

Pray that Candidates **Abraham & Daruka, Naomi, Mary, David, Emmanuel, Martha, Anna, and Moses Nhial** may thrive as Abraham ministers as Bishop of Aweil in South Sudan. May the diocese preach the Good News of Jesus Christ. Pray for provision and recovery for communities suffering from the impact of poverty, flooding and famine and may God raise up Senders to partner in ministry.

Lift up **J&K** as they continue to serve in North Africa. Pray for wisdom and compassion as they minister to the international and persecuted church, refugees, and the local community. May the light of Christ shine.

## December 18-24: EUROPE: Germany

Pray that **David & Patricia Ayres** might be filled afresh by the Holy Spirit and that they might daily, by prayer and other spiritual disciplines, stay in the channel of His grace; that their relationship with Jesus might always be their first priority, and that by the power of that relationship, their work and ministry for the Kingdom might be effective for an eternal harvest in their church planting efforts, as well as in their refugee outreach in Berlin.

## December 25-January 1: EUROPE

Pray that **Steve V.** would have opportunities to impact the people of his country with the Gospel. Pray for wisdom in sharing the Lord with friends who don't know Him. Pray that informal spiritual direction meetings with local Christians would bear spiritual fruit. Pray for more Senders and that his Senders may experience God's unconditional love.

## January 2-8: EUROPE: The Netherlands

Pray that **Kerry & Cynthia Buttram** in Amsterdam will experience the strengthening presence and power of the Holy Trinity (Eph. 3:14-19) in their gospel ministry at Christ Church. Pray for ongoing efforts to connect with and recruit more Senders.

Lift up to the Lord **Johann & Louis Vanderbijl's** ministry in Heiloo alongside the people of Christ Church. Praise God that their parishioners naturally disciple their non-believing friends, who eagerly participate in several regular and special church gatherings. Pray for many new disciples to meet Jesus and then to make disciples themselves.

## January 9-15: NORTH AMERICA: United States of America

Pray with **Mary and Jack McDonald** in Blacksburg, Virginia, that international students at Virginia Tech would seek Christ and be found by Him. May God bless the Anglican Creation Care Network and Mary's veterinary ministry in Africa. Lift up to the Lord the McDonalds' children.

Lift up **Daniel & Rebekah, Sabal, Darcy, and Mary Behrens** in praying for the refugee program in Pittsburgh in conjunction with Church of the Ascension – a group of volunteers who befriend and support a refugee family over their first months in the U.S.

## January 16-22: NORTH AMERICA: United States of America

Pray for **Todd & Patsy McGregor** in Stuart, FL, as Todd serves as SAMS Mission Coach. Pray for continued fruitful partnerships with dioceses in Africa and for partnerships in the Diocese of Mahajanga as the McGregors continue to mentor and disciple others.

Lift up **Anne Schaffer** in Charleston, SC, that the Lord would grant wisdom and guidance to Anne and the missionaries she is coaching as they seek to learn the language and culture of those they are living among and serving.

*(This week's prayers continued on the next page.)*



Miller Family



Twitchell Family



Alenskis Family

Pray with **Mike & Kim, Liliana, and Katherine Miller** in St. Petersburg, FL, as they minister to missionary families with children and young adults, and as Mike and Kim pursue training in the spiritual, emotional, and physical care of missionaries and their families.

### January 23-29: NORTH AMERICA: United States of America

Pray for **Nate & Erika, Henry, Annie, George, and Jack Twitchell** in Pittsburgh, PA, as they discern and prepare for continued work in global ministry. Join them in prayer for the Gospel to spread in South East Asia.

### January 30-February 4: NORTH AMERICA: Canada

Lift up **David & Mary Beth, Austin, James, and Lily Alenskis** in Toronto. Pray for David's dissertation writing to go quickly and efficiently. May the Lord raise up new Senders to support their ministry. Pray for the Lord's guidance in discerning a placement to train church leaders globally, and that the Alenskis family may do His will.

### February 5-10: Associate Missionaries (USA-based, globally-focused volunteers)

Lift up to the Lord **Jesse and Sarah Blaine** (missionary coaching and church planting), **Chuck & Beth Bradshaw** (theological and musical education in Uganda), **Mary Chowenhill** (entrepreneurial development in Uganda), **Mike & Linda Chapman** (ministry among Hispanics in the USA), **Matt & Sora Colvin** (theological education and health ministry), **Bunny Cowan** (teaching in Honduras), **Jeannie Loving** (social outreach in Honduras), **Wayne & Nicole Curtis** (youth ministry in South Africa), **Kathy Decker** (communications in Peru), and **Trent Pettit** (Ethiopia/global Anglican mission partnerships).

### February 11-16: Associate Missionaries (USA-based, globally-focused volunteers)

Lift up to the Lord **John & Ninfa Dixon** (outreach on the Mexican border), **Cathy Donahoe** (health ministry in the Dominican Republic), **Chris Feuillade** (education in Chile), **Rusty & Tammy Firestone** (church development in Bolivia), **Tom & Maryjane Furrer** (health ministry in Nigeria), **Margarita Grachen** (children's ministry in Honduras), **Allen & Rachel Hill** (theological education), **Mike & Betty Kaszer** (education ministry in Honduras), **Grant & Wendy LeMarquand** (diocesan development in Ethiopia), **Jacky Lowe** (women's ministry in Madagascar) and **Frank & Shawnee Lyons** (youth ministry).

### February 17-22: Associate Missionaries (USA-based, globally-focused volunteers)

Lift up to the Lord **Ian & Polly Montgomery** (diocesan ministry in Peru), **John & Susan Park** (leadership development in Latin America), **Ana Reid** (social ministries in Honduras), **Maunette Tait** (education in Honduras), **Hunter & Stephe Van Wagenen** (evangelism in Spain), and **Jared & Abbi Wensyel** (church planting in Germany).

### February 23-29: SAMS Family

Pray for SAMS home staff: **Denise Cox, Nita Dempsey, Brendan Kimbrough, Julie Kirik, Howard McClellan, Dana Priest, Dale Schartner, and Stewart Wicker**, as they support, encourage and help equip missionaries and mobilize the church here in the USA and globally.

Pray that the Lord would raise up new **inquirers and applicants** discerning next steps in the mission field to which they are being called whether in the USA or abroad. Pray that He would raise up short-term **Bridgers** as well.

Give thanks to the Lord for all **Senders** and their Gospel-focused commitment to pray, financially support, and encourage Missionaries in a partnership focused on "making disciples of all nations."

# Memorials and Honors

## *Given by:*

Mr. Douglas and Mrs. Judith Bowers  
The Rev. Dr. Richard G. Copeland  
Mrs. Mary Lynne Barrow  
Ms. JoAnne Becker  
Mrs. Julie Hoogshagen  
Mr. Larry and Mrs. Julaine Wittmeier  
Mrs. Wynne Boone  
Miss Hannah Brooks  
Mrs. Carla Castle  
Mr. Johnny and Mrs. Melinda Rudder  
Mr. Matthew M. Cox  
Mr. Stewart & The Rev. Laura Wicker  
Mrs. Berniece E. Donnellan  
Mr. Stewart & The Rev. Laura Wicker  
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Patricia Hanlon  
Mr. Thomas E. and Ms. Cecelia Dew Brown  
Mrs. Nancy R Cole  
Mr. Paul and Ms. Frances Fernald  
Mrs. Charlotte and Mr. Danny Maxwell  
Mr. L.M. and Mrs. Jimmy Lynn D. Page  
Mr. Mervyn and Mrs. Lynda Postson  
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Mr. James and Mrs. Elizabeth Schaffer  
Mr. Sean Jennett  
Ms. Susan J. McDuff  
Ms. Norma Lowe  
The Rev. Alan B. MacKillop  
Christ Episcopal Church – Rector's Discretionary Fund  
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Mr. John Petroff  
Mrs. Rita Conley-Pitts  
Mrs. Katrina Reynolds  
Br. David Stanley  
Mrs. Megg Beverage  
Mrs. Linda McCoy  
Mrs. Julie Hoogshagen  
Mr. Paul M. Barnes  
Mr. F. Worth and Mrs. Elizabeth Hobbs  
Ms. Ann Wichman  
Mr. Brandon Daily  
Mr. Charles Jones

## *Given by:*

The Rev. William D. Roberts  
Ms. Melissa Sheridan  
Mr. Wayne and Mrs. Pamela Metlicke  
Mr. William and Mrs. Cheryl Harman  
Ms. Patricia E. Windsor  
Ms. Nancy W. McKirchy  
Mrs. Janis LeClerc  
Ms. Karen Maskarinec  
Mr. John A and the Rev. Valerie McCarty  
The Rev. Canon Thomas and Mrs. Alison O'Brien  
Ms. Christine Rose  
Mr. Bentley C. Gregg  
The Venerable Dr. Bryan and Mrs. Annabel Hobbs  
Ms. Carol Hovey  
Ms. Megan Bloomgren  
Mr. Norman Brent  
Ms. Celia Blakemore  
Dr. Teresa Pisano  
Mr. Clark and Deacon Lynne Curtis  
Mr. Eamon Bryant  
Mrs. Jeanne Hislop

## **IN MEMORY OF:**

Mr. Christopher A. Armstrong  
Mr. Scott Ball  
Mr. Ed Barrow  
Mr. Clellan Becker  
Mr. Clellan Becker  
Mr. Clellan Becker  
Mr. Donny Boone  
Mr. David O'Neal Brooks  
The Rev. Donald E. Castle  
Mr. Michael Celico  
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The Rev. Eduardo Monzon  
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Ms. Louisa Ann Reynolds  
Sweet Baby Sawyer  
Mr. Ewing and Mrs. Gracie Smith  
Mr. Jim Tompkins  
Ms. Ruth Vogel  
Mr. Jack Welsh  
The Very Rev. George L. W. Werner  
Mr. Harvey Wichman  
The Queen (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor)  
Ms. Sophia Wojnowski

## **IN HONOR OF:**

Rev Donné and Family  
Dr. Anita Dohn  
Brenda, Scotty and Royzal Gladstone Hanitra  
Mrs. Beverly Langston  
Mrs. Alana and Mr. Joshua Latham  
Ms. Stephanie and Mr. Bryan LeClerc  
Ms. Jacqueline A. Lowe  
Ms. Jacqueline A. Lowe  
Ms. Jacqueline A. Lowe  
Ms. Stephanie Martinez  
The Right Rev. Todd & The Rev. Patsy McGregor  
The Right Rev. Todd & The Rev. Patsy McGregor  
Mr. Jack Melvin  
Mr. Richard Ranger (an API alum whom we're so proud of)  
Ms. Rhonda Robertson  
Archdeacon Faye Somers  
St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Boca Raton  
Rev Victor and St. Luke's - Ankilifaly  
Mr. Ben and Mrs. Cherie Weber  
The Weber Family

## Roxana's Story

*continued from page 1*

I share all of this so that you can know how important these moments have been. Those of you who have sponsored my scholarship and who have prayed for me over the past eight years are an example to me, an example of loving your neighbor. You helped me even when you hardly knew me, without knowing if I would be responsible with my scholarship or not. I give thanks to God each day, for all that my church family has given me (and you are a part of that family!), and for all those who have made all of this possible.

I continue to pray that future generations will also be able to receive scholarships and make the most of the opportunity. I also pray for you, who are great examples of sharing God's love with others. I hope that one day I will be able to be a light for someone as you have been for me. Now the college graduate, the children's Sunday School teacher, the one who works part time for the church, but most of all Roxana, who now knows that God loves her, would hug the 14-year-old Roxana who could hardly breathe to let her know that her future was not dark and hopeless.



# Christ's Love in Suffering

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