



PRAYERS OF HOPE

Marguerite is approximately 17 years old. Two of her siblings left home to find work and two other siblings are at home with her. She has no documentation. Her family has been struggling since she was born. She doesn't remember the last time she smiled. She was three when her mother got sick. Her father had mental health problems, and does not live with them. Her family is labeled the "foolish people" and they are discriminated against. She is called "mad girl." She often wondered why God let her live in this suffering and thought it might be better to take her life than to live. When she was 7, she started helping people push their loaded bikes up the hill. They pay a child about a fifth of what they would pay an adult to do this. She also helps people on a farm, but is only paid half of what an adult would get as people take advantage of her as a vulnerable child. The amount she can make in a day is not enough to adequately provide even one full meal a day. Her dream is to own a cow as she believes this will have prestige.



Marguerite

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
- Jeremiah 29:11*

Please fill out and return now or to the church office
ATTN: Peggy Caverly, Missions or send to serve@st.lukes.org.

Name _____

Email _____

- I agree to regularly pray for **Marguerite**.
- I would like to be on the ZOE/St. Luke's email list to receive updates about this ministry and St. Luke's working group.
- I am interested in assisting the ZOE Ministry with a few special events a year.
- I would like to serve on the ZOE Core Group (meets monthly).
- I would like to know more about contributing to St. Luke's ZOE Working Group or giving in other ways to support this ministry.

ZOE is a distinctive, three-year empowerment program that works with orphans and vulnerable children in Rwanda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Liberia, Malawi, India and Guatemala. ZOE goes into communities where teens and children (like the one on this prayer card) are already living. ZOE's in-country staff helps the children make an extended family by combining sibling groups into a Working Group of 60-100 children to create a new family that works together. They help them articulate dreams for their lives and then ZOE provides training and minimal strategic resources that they need to transform their lives in just three years. ZOE leads to sustainability rather than long-term dependency. The children, who often have felt invisible even to God, are able to see and hear the gospel in beautiful and tangible ways that are empowering.

St. Luke's UMC began its journey by meeting the challenge of funding a ZOE working group during the Advent season of 2015. Since then, more working groups have been funded by St. Luke's families. During a visit by a St. Luke's team visit to Rwanda in February 2016, we were able to capture some of the children's stories. Every child's story is different and yet the same. They are stories of suffering, pain and isolation. Now that they are part of a ZOE working group, there is new hope. Through this prayer card, we are asking you to make a commitment to regularly pray for this particular child and her siblings. She is just one of many so please pray for those for whom we do not yet know by name.

There are many things you might consider praying for (hope, health, food security, good crops, safety, knowing that God is with them) as this child helps her family rise out of extreme poverty. Your prayers are a way to walk alongside this child and this working group and cheer them on in spirit.

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