

RUNNING THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US!



July 2021

WORLD REACH

News from the Whitmores

"For what we preach is not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."

The media holds up the stars of the sports world and entertainment industry with great acclamations; making much of their great accomplishments and super star status. Younger generations marvel at these "role models" and aspire to become like them. However, the reality is that many of these icons of greatness live lives that are centered around self and consumption and are marred by moral failure. The Bible presents a higher standard in recognizing role models. The Apostle Paul said, "Be imitators of me as I am of Christ Jesus."

I would like to share with you about a lady who epitomized the Apostle Paul's admonition. Her name is Charlotte Thompson, a godly woman who spent much of her life being an ambassador of Christ, taking the aroma of Christ all over the world. I had the privilege of being with Charlotte in Kenya 18 months ago. She was celebrating the completion of a new facility for a small church in the very small village of Wondue. As a result of her ministry, many young Kenyans will hear the Gospel and be disciples. She also spent time investing in the lives of the children at our World Reach orphanage in Meru. I remember her telling the orphans, *"I'm coming back in two years when I will be 90 years old."*



It was also during this trip that Charlotte proposed the idea of World Reach holding a benefit golf tournament at her son's golf course in Auburn, Alabama to raise funds for mission projects around the world. Her son was co-owner of the Auburn University Club. However, in God's sovereign providence, Charlotte will not be able to return to Kenya. Shortly after we returned from Kenya last year, Charlotte contracted COVID 19 and died, but not before setting in motion the golf tournament that she spoke of.

On May 18, 2021, 74 golfers showed up to play golf and raise funds for the Cause of Christ. In honor and recognition of a life worthy of someone imitating, World Reach created the Charlotte Thompson Global Missions Award, which will highlight a different mission project each year. We presented this award to Charlotte's son, which he will display in the clubhouse. Well done Charlotte, good and faithful servant of Christ.



Speaking of Kenya, I'll be heading back there this fall to teach at our Bible Institute. The subject will be marriage and family. Another one of our objectives is to equip and develop these Kenyan pastors and aspiring pastors so that they will be able to be teachers themselves at future Kenyan Bible institutes. In fact, our goal is for the next institute that will begin in late 2022, to be almost, if not totally, taught by Kenyan teachers.

Thank you so much for your continued prayer and financial support of the ministry of World Reach. You are helping make a difference in the lives of people around the world.

Paul

