

You are much stronger than you think you are.  
Trust me.

- Superman



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# Soft Whispers

The voice in my head  
That says, "I can do it"  
Is the only voice of reason, so I listen to it.



Speaking to me in that gentle tone  
Reassuring my confidence  
That my fears do not amount to much  
Reassuring me that the abstract can be touched



# Soft Whispers

I have a dream.

Though others may not see my vision

I must carry it through

So others may witness,

That the road to heaven is not paved with good intentions



The voice I hear, is as calm as the breeze  
Soothing as the crested waves at the end of the sea  
Light as the clouds  
And real as this heart beating within me  
Soft Whispers.



-Xavier Mason



# Home-Grown Hero

This month's issue of VisualAid is proud to showcase the work, effort, innovation, and the inspirational story of **social entrepreneur** Tendekayi Katsiga. If you are lucky you might see him walking around in his home country, Botswana.



**Social-Entrepreneur** – People who take leadership in solving the greatest problems that we face today. Instead of pursuing a lot of money, they try to make social change that benefits the people that they love. They look for opportunities to serve their mission, while continuously adapting and learning.



# Crisis

When written in Chinese,  
the word 'crisis'  
is composed of two characters.  
One represents danger  
and the other represents opportunity.

- President John F. Kennedy

What does this mean?

危  
機

When there is a problem, there is  
always a solution. Always look for the  
blessing that is disguised as a problem.



# Solar Ear

Tendekayi Katsiga pg. 1

Obstacles plus innovation equals opportunity.

Tendekayi Katsiga had an obstacle - over 600 million people in the world have hearing problems. He used his creativity to use the power of the sun to charge the batteries that run the hearing aids that allow people to hear.



By using this obstacle as a step on his personal ladder, Tendekayi has founded Deaftronics, and makes solar powered hearing aids. Deaftronics has now sent over 3,000 children to school with solar powered hearing aids.



# Realizing the Problem

Tendekayi Katsiga pg. 2

Over 600 million people around the world live with hearing problems and over 60 percent of those people live in Africa.



Tendekayi recognized the problem; people need hearing aids that are affordable, and rechargeable batteries that last a long time. He saw the **obstacles** that laid before him, and he *chose* to climb past them.

Obstacle – Something that *tries* to prevent progress.



# Never Give Up

IF YOU CAN  
FIND A PATH  
WITH NO OBSTACLES,  
IT PROBABLY DOES NOT  
LEAD ANYWHERE.



# Finding the Solution

Tendekayi Katsiga pg. 3

Tendekayi not only recognized the obstacles that were in front of him, but he also recognized the **resources** that he could use. By using his resources, he has become the solution to his problem, by founding Deaftronics and partnering with Solar Ear so that his invention can help even more people.



Resources - Something, place, person, anything that can be used to complete a goal.



# Deaftronics

Tendekayi Katsiga pg. 4



Tendekayi is now a part of a team of deaf people at his company, Deaftronics, which makes low cost solar powered hearing aids. The batteries from these hearing aids recharge using energy from the sun, and they can last for 2-3 years!



# A Leap of Faith

Sometimes  
your only available transportation  
is a leap of faith.

- Margaret Shepherd



# Tendekayi's Leap

Tendekayi Katsiga pg. 5

Tendekayi took a leap of faith to reach his goal of providing hearing aids to the people that needed them the most. His leap of faith not only benefitted himself, but the entire world.

The **accomplishments** of Deaftronics are many, but its biggest accomplishment is that it has given people the opportunity to better their lives. Many of their World Class Assemblers have become World Class Instructors that empower other deaf individuals in countries all around the world.

Accomplish – The completion of a goal

HandMade



# Overcoming More Obstacles

Tendekayi Katsiga pg. 6

Even now, after success, Tendekayi faces obstacles. The companies biggest obstacle right now is finding grants to expand their company to countries in West and East Africa.



Recognizing these obstacles and the resources he could use to overcome them, the founders of Solar Ear will continue to take leaps of faith until their goals are met. Solar Ear plans to release the hearing aid in Ghana, Kenya, China, and Singapore within the next few years.



# The Outcome

Tendekayi Katsiga pg. 7



Tendekayi and his social company Deaftronics, have helped send over 3,000 children to school with solar powered hearing aids.

By being able to hear, these children now have the opportunity to listen, understand what they are listening to, and then act upon what they have heard.





You say it is impossible,  
But, I do not know what that word means.  
I've looked five times,  
But I could not find the word in my dictionary

People say it is impossible  
But it is possible, to me.  
They say man was not meant to fly,  
Then explain to me, why do I have wings?

- Xavier Mason





# Frederick Douglass

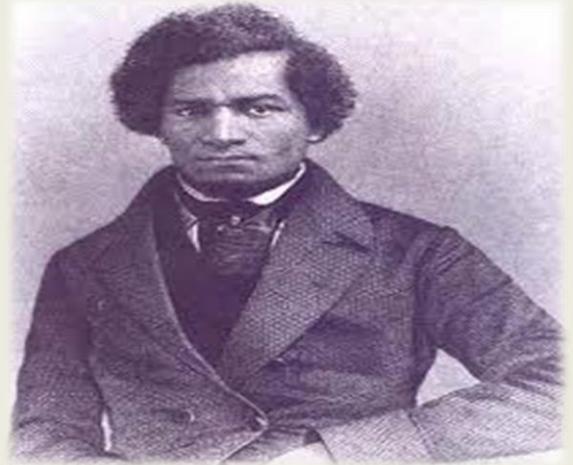
Frederick Douglass, was born into a world of American slavery. But he died as a revolutionist with the influence of a King.



# Growing Up

It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.

– Frederick Douglass



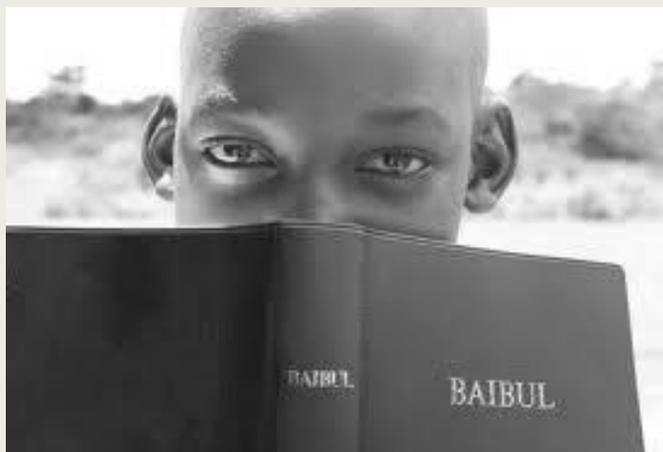
The date of Frederick Douglass' birth is not known, for he never knew the day he was born. Separated from his mother at a young age, he was never able to recall what she looked like. Life began to take a positive turn when his new master's wife, Sophia Hugh, started to teach him the alphabet when he was 12 years old.



# Learning How to Read

It was a big deal for Sophia Hugh to teach Frederick the alphabet because at the time in the United States it was illegal to teach slaves how to read.

After her husband had found out, he made Sophia stop teaching Frederick how to read. Because if a slave would learn how to read, he would become dissatisfied with his condition and desire freedom.



# *Still* Learning How To Read

Frederick

Douglass was

**determined** to

learn how to read.

After his mistress

had stopped

teaching him, he

taught himself, by

watching other

people read and

write.



His ability to

read and write

led to his

eventual

freedom

because

education and

slavery cannot

work together.

Determined – to come to a strong decision in your mind.



# The Great Escape



On September 3, 1838, Frederick escaped slavery by boarding a train to the state of Maryland, by riding a steamboat to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and then going to a safe house in New York. The entire escape took him less than 24 hours.



Everything negative – pressure,  
challenges – is all an opportunity  
for me to rise.

- Kobe Bryant

After he was freed from slavery,  
Frederick said, “A new world  
had opened upon me... I lived  
more in one day than in a year  
of my slave life.”

After Frederick had tasted  
freedom, his hunger would not be  
satisfied until all of humanity was  
free. He used his obstacle of being  
a slave as a stepping stone to  
awareness all over the world.



Frederick became active in several organizations when he arrived in New York, some of them were abolitionist groups.

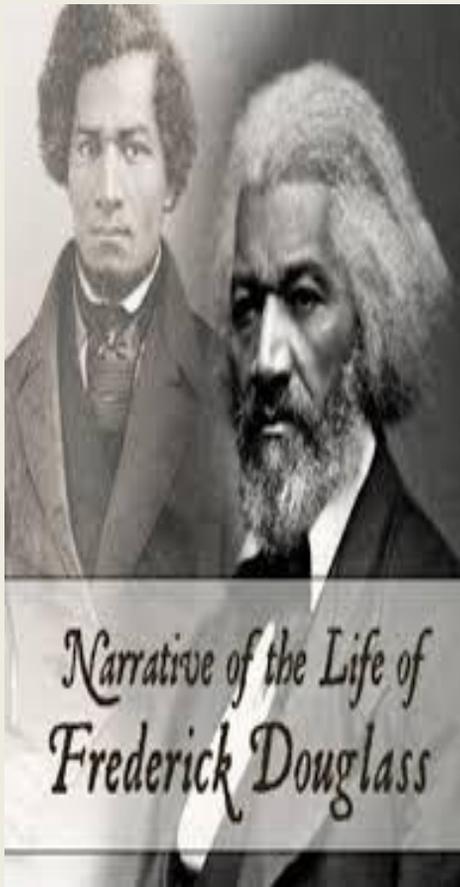
At first, Frederick just went to the meetings, but then one day he was asked to speak about his life as a slave.

At the age of 23, he conquered his nervousness and gave what would be the first of thousands of speeches on the injustices he had been a victim of.



# Frederick the Author

The first of his three **autobiographies**, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, was first published in 1845.



Frederick had learned to write and to form his opinions so well, that most of the people that read it, were surprised that it was possible that a former slave could write that good. Even more impressive is that his book was a bestseller, at a time in American history, its author was not supposed to know how to write.

Autobiography – A history of a person’s life written or told by that person.



# Frederick the Activist

A man's rights rest in three boxes. The ballot box, jury box and the cartridge box. Let no man be kept from the ballot box because of his color. Let no woman be kept from the ballot box because of her sex.

- Frederick Douglas



Frederick Douglass did not only fight for the rights of African-Americans, but also for the rights of all people, races, religions, genders, and cultures.



# The Power of Speech

The pen is mightier than the sword,  
but the tongue  
is mightier than them both put together.  
- Marcus Garvey

## What does this mean?

Written Communication such as petitions, and writing letters to the people in charge is more effective than violence. Even more powerful than writing, is speaking up and getting involved in the issues that you are concerned about, like our Hometown Hero Tendekayi Katsiga and Frederick Douglass.



# Homework from VolumeTwo

Write your own autobiography about your life story and what great things you want to do. Send your autobiographies to whoever is in charge, so they can send them to VisualAid, so the world can see.

We will put five autobiographies in the next issue of VisualAid. Write down your goals, and what you want to achieve, but most importantly do those things!



# Special Thanks

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Thank you for helping me to believe in myself.

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Believe in yourself. Because I do.

Ubuntu,

Xavier Mason

