



Yahweh *Lives*

Christian Publication

Rooted for a Reason

Rilandi needs your help

A Faithful Mother's testimony

Faith in the Storm

NOVEMBER 2025
ISSUE NO.01



Table of Contents

3	Founder's Note	Rooted for a Reason
4	Giving your life to Jesus	The sinners prayer
5	Salvation	The Next Step
6	Testimony	Faith in the Storm
8	Community Outreach	Rilandi needs a specialised Wheelchair
10	Rilandi & Lissencephaly	A mother's Testimony
15	Sunday Services	Calvary Sanctuary - Alberton North
16	Demographics	Who is our audience?
17	Reach out	Our contact email address

"The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?"

~Psalm 27:1~

יהוה

Rooted for a REASON

My dearest brother and sister in Christ,

Welcome to the very first edition of Yahweh Lives—a magazine founded in the name of Jesus Christ and dedicated to His glory. It is my prayer that you will not only enjoy the journey with me but also be uplifted, encouraged, and rooted more deeply in Him.

My whole life, as I sat quietly to introspect, and most recently I have been sitting before the Lord in His presence where I find peace and refuge, He has shown me that I have to share my testimonies with the world - maybe, just maybe there is someone that needs to hear what I have to say, everything I have been locking up inside of me.

The theme for this month is “Rooted for a Reason.”

The world has forgotten who God is. People have forgotten who they are - who they are in Christ and what He does in their lives daily.

It is time for people to move closer to God so that they might experience the Joy of the Lord.

At times, we all feel stuck—like life has paused, or that we’ve hit a wall we can’t move past. But have you ever considered that perhaps you are rooted in that place for a divine purpose - He has rooted you in that place for a reason, wherever that place might be for you right now in your life.

Jesus Christ, the Almighty, has planted you exactly where you need to be - beyond what you can see? God also reminds us that

God reminds us of His plan in *Jeremiah 29:11*:

“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.”

In this edition, you’ll find inspiration through shared testimonies and how God keeps us Rooted for a Reason through life’s challenges.

Share your testimony or prayer request at info@yahwehlives.co.za — we’d love to hear from you.

With many Blessings,

Founder



Giving your life to JESUS

What is the Sinner's Prayer?

The Sinner's Prayer is a powerful Christian declaration for salvation that encompasses a heartfelt confession of sin, an unwavering belief in Jesus Christ as God's Son and our Saviour, and an earnest invitation for Christ to reign in our lives. It serves as a profound act of faith and repentance, recognising that we are all sinners in need of redemption and that God graciously offers forgiveness and eternal life through the sacrifice of Jesus.

Key Elements of the Sinner's Prayer:

- 1. Confession of Sin:** Acknowledging our sinful nature and earnestly seeking God's forgiveness.
- 2. Belief in Jesus Christ:** Declaring our faith in Jesus, the Son of God, who gave Himself on the cross for our sins and triumphed over death.
- 3. Repentance:** Committing to turn away from our sins and wholeheartedly follow Christ.
- 4. Invitation to Christ:** Inviting Jesus into our hearts as our personal Savior and Lord, desiring a deep and transformative relationship with Him that guides our lives according to His will.

Are you ready to give your life to Jesus today? You can receive salvation right now by praying the prayer below:

A Sinner's Prayer (from Billy Graham):

"Dear Lord Jesus, I acknowledge that I am a sinner, and I earnestly seek Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins and rose from the dead, conquering sin and death. I turn away from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I desire to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. In Your Name, Amen."

Purpose of the Sinner's Prayer:

This prayer serves as a powerful means for individuals to express their faith and commitment to God, often marking the start of a transformative personal relationship with Jesus and providing the assurance of eternal life. It encapsulates the incredible hope and love that God offers to all who seek Him.

**"If you said this prayer and accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour,
welcome to the family of God.**

Email us at info@yahwehlives.co.za — we'd love to help you start your journey."

The Next Step in your **SALVATION**

You must live a life that will inspire and encourage another to live a pure and Christian-like life. Refer to: **Ephesians 5:8** “for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light”

7 Signs of a Spirit-Filled Christian

Seven simple ways to live a Spirit-filled life and stay close to God every day:

1. Surrender by Prayer Daily : Start each morning by giving your day to God. Let Him guide your steps and decisions. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart... in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.” — **Proverbs 3:5–6**

2. Scripture Saturation - Stay in the Word : Read your Bible often. Become obsessed with the Word of God. The more you know God’s Word, the stronger your faith becomes. “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” — **Psalms 119:105**

3. Walk in Radical Obedience : Follow God’s commands. If you make a mistake, repent and get back on track. Remember, grace isn’t a free pass to keep sinning “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” — **John 14:15**

4. Consistent Worship : Make worship part of your lifestyle—not just on Sundays. Praise opens your heart to God’s presence. “I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.” — **Psalms 34:1**

5. Fast and Pray : Fasting helps you focus on God and hear His voice more clearly. Always fast with prayer and wisdom. “When you fast... your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” — **Matthew 6:17–18**

6. Fellowship with Others : Spend time with other believers. Encourage each other and share the good news of Jesus. “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.” — **1 Thessalonians 5:11**

7. Sacrificial Giving : Be giving—of your time, love, and resources. A giving heart reflects the love of Christ. “God loves a cheerful giver.” — **2 Corinthians 9:7**

Closing Prayer : Lord Jesus, fill me with Your Spirit daily. Teach me to live in surrender, obedience, and love. Help me walk closely with You, worship from the heart, and live a life that honours Your name. Amen.

Testimony: FAITH IN THE STORM



“If you can?” said Jesus.

“Everything is possible for one who believes.” Mark 9:23~

I sought the Lord , and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.

~Psalm 34:4~

It was in 2014 in Bela-Bela, Limpopo - A lot has already happened in my life, but at this time, I had already snorted Khat for seven years, occasionally mixed with cocaine and crystal meth. I would go for four days without sleeping or eating.

My mouth was raw on the inside as I continuously bit it, due to days of snorting narcotics. At some point during my addiction, my throat would go black and bruised on the inside. It looked like someone punched me in my throat. It was so raw and painful - I would cry when I eventually ate.

During this time in my life, I was consumed by darkness. I lived in complete darkness, married a woman legally, and did everything in my life that I was strongly against. I was deeply involved with the occult, tarot cards, divination tools, and much more. I was a lost cause. I had lost so much in my young life, and being an addict simply added to the list, but even through it all, I always knew this wasn't how it would end.

It was a Saturday afternoon. My then-partner and I had probably been using drugs nonstop for three or four days. I was so high that I would sit in the same spot for two days without moving, brushing my teeth, or even going to the bathroom.

After two days, I eventually got up from the couch to go to the bathroom. My partner was busy talking to me as I suddenly started fading. I lost my sight and hearing completely - yes, deaf and blind. I was on the verge of collapsing. I quickly leaned on a nearby chest of drawers. I just hung there, leaning against it. I was busy overdosing, and my body was shutting down.

Even though my brain was supposed to shut down as well, it didn't. On the contrary, I was completely aware, and what happened next happened in slow motion. It was literally happening at 0.75 speed.

In that blackout during my overdose, it felt like another person was inside me, sitting on a chair within my body.

Suddenly, it felt like He stood up and moved the chair away.

He was The Holy Spirit. He commanded me to leave—to end the same-sex marriage, leave behind people in my life who used drugs, and return to my daughter in Johannesburg. I understood the revelation made it clear: I had to change my life.

Even though I was in the pits of hell, even when I rejected Him, God was there for me every step of the way. He lived inside of me during everything, when I was the worst version of myself. I didn't know Him, but He knew me from the inside out. I suffered the Holy Spirit, betrayed Him and hurt Him, yet He protected me and saved my life over and over again.....

To be continued in the next edition...

Q & A:

- 1.What have you lost?
- 2.Did God Restore What You have Lost?
- 3.Did it happen immediately or did you have to wait and learn to trust God's timing?

Send your testimony to me at info@yahwehlives.co.za - You may remain anonymous if that is your wish.

Rilandi needs your **HELP URGENTLY**



Dear Friends in Christ,

We humbly ask for your help in blessing a very special young lady, Rilandi, with a specialised wheelchair that will greatly improve her quality of life.

Even though both her parents work full time, the cost of this chair is far beyond what they can afford. Their medical aid only contributes R14,000 per year toward specialised equipment, an amount that has already been used on other vital necessities. The full cost of the wheelchair is **R118,473**.

Here is Kathleen, her mother's story:

"Our little red rose, Rilandi, turned 18 this January. When she was just 9 months old, we received the devastating diagnosis of Lissencephaly (smooth brain), a rare condition. Though she cannot sit, walk, or talk, Rilandi captures hearts everywhere she goes with her radiant spirit and joyful emotions. She is truly our sunshine.

In 2016, Rilandi faced a life-threatening condition called Super Refractory Status Epilepticus. After weeks of induced and natural comas, time on and off a ventilator, and multiple critical interventions, she miraculously made a full recovery—by the grace of God.

Sadly, Rilandi now faces severe scoliosis, which threatens her lungs, heart, and other organs. She desperately needs a specialised wheelchair to support her posture, keep her safe during her daily seizures, and allow her to experience the joy of outings again—like trips to the zoo and time in nature, which she loves so much. The seat is custom-designed to prevent further scoliosis, the neck support will keep her safe and comfortable, and the chair folds to fit into a standard car, making family outings possible again.

While medical aid will cover her back brace, it will not cover the wheelchair. We are trusting God to make a way.

We thank the Lord daily for entrusting this family with such a precious soul. If you feel led to give, your kindness will not only bless Rilandi but also her family, who continue to walk faithfully in love and trust.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me.” – Matthew 25:40

DONATE

To make a donation see info
below:

Official quote, contact details
and account details as well as
the

BackaBuddy®

links, please click or scan on
the images below:



SCAN HERE



Official Documents below

Lissencephaly Awareness
8th September



A Mother's Testimony: Our Red Rose with lissencephaly

"I'm taking your daughter from you today; she will never marry, have children, go to school, or be like other kids. She will always be a baby." Devastating news given of a beautiful seven-month-old baby girl, to a me by a medical professional. Words that even now, 18 years later, cause immense pain that I can hardly hold back the tears. And these words were only the beginning of our journey, so complex, painful, and emotional. Yet I would never change my life; I cannot imagine my life without my little rosebud!

Rilandi was born on 23 January 2007, by an emergency C-section. Two weeks early due to complications with the umbilical cord. Weighing only 2.626 kg, the first thing that went through my mind when holding her was, "How am I ever going to get her big?" Her tiny face was identical to her older sister, Klarien, who was 12 years old at the time. I remember the paediatrician mentioning shortly after the birth that she was amazed that Rilandi's hand palms had only a few minor lines, even though her Apgar count was normal. This is usually a sign of some sort of infirmity.

During a routine check the next morning, the paediatrician mentioned that I should take good care of Rilandi since "redheads" tend to get bugs and illnesses very easily. I immediately asked God to cancel the negative words spoken over my precious newborn. Rilandi was so perfect as she lay in the crib, as if she already knew what a cute little girl she was going to be.

At four months, Rilandi was admitted to the hospital with Rotavirus. I slept next to her bed on a plastic pre-school chair for a week. At last, we went home, only to come back very unexpectedly the next day for the RS virus. Another eight days admitted and two hourly nebulized for the first three days. Again, we went home for a short stay. We came back to the hospital the next day with Bronchiolitis. Rilandi was really suffering this time around. She had to be tube-fed. It broke my heart to see my little rose so sick and helpless. Back home again after a terrifying 10 days - we were so relieved to be home. A few days later, Klarien and I noticed Rilandi making strange eye movements, as if she wanted to sneeze. At first, I thought something was irritating her nose. I recorded the scene on my cell phone just to check with the doctor if this reaction was okay.

Rilandi got a middle ear infection a few weeks later. We took her to the paediatrician due to our concern for the extremely high fever. I also showed the video clip to the paediatrician, and she was a bit concerned and said she would arrange for an EEG while she is in the hospital for the 'grommet' operation. She mentioned that it did not seem to be a normal reaction. I was devastated by her words. But I prayed to God to not let anything be wrong with our little girl. The EEG doctor did not make any eye contact with me during the EEG procedure, and afterwards, I tried to get more information from him, but he did not want to discuss his findings with me. He only mentioned that the EEG showed abnormal brain activity.

Rilandi was scheduled for an MMR. By this time, I felt like I was going to have a breakdown. I simply could not believe what was happening! The brain scan confirmed West Syndrome, and Rilandi was in Hypsarrhythmia with Infantile Spasms. We had no idea what this was. The paediatrician was waiting for us to return from the MMR procedure. When we entered her room, she had the encyclopaedias, and a few medical books open in front of her on the desk. She welcomed us with a hug and said she was sorry to bring us the bad news, and said: “This day was the funeral of our baby daughter.” I was shattered by her words. I cried like never before. My heart broke into pieces. She also mentioned that there are ‘homes’ for kids like this, and we might consider putting Rilandi in a home where she will be happy. She might even be able one day to weave the most beautiful baskets!

Devastating diagnosis

I had no idea what all these medical terms meant. To me, these were words without any meaning, hard words explained in the harshest manner anyone can imagine! The next day, we had an appointment with the Paediatric Neurologist. I had no tears left. The doctor explained that Rilandi has an extremely rare brain condition named “Lissencephaly”. She comforted us by saying Rilandi’s brain stem is normal, the corpus callosum, and that Rilandi had some ‘curves’ on her brain unlike most of these cases who had a totally smooth brain. Rilandi was on cortisone injections for the next ten days. I went home for the first time since Rilandi was admitted. I was exhausted. I had no tears left. When I looked at Rilandi, I could not imagine all the things the doctor said about her.”

Through it all, my faith stayed intact. I started praying day and night against all the negative words spoken about my little rose. I pleaded with God to cancel all negative thoughts and words spoken against her. Klarien came to me and asked me to promise that we will not treat Rilandi any differently from any other child. She asked me that we treat her little sister as a normal child with special needs. We were both committed to giving the best to our little rose. We immediately started with baby massaging and never stopped interactions, challenges treating her as one of us.

Medical procedures

Several months after the diagnosis, Rilandi was sent to the hospital again to ensure that the food ends up where it’s supposed to and not in the lungs, which doctors said could have been the reason for her bad chest and lack of weight gain.

Rilandi’s God-given daddy, Kobus Brits, immediately “adopted” Rilandi as his own and started caring for her with the same commitment and compassion as a biological father would. She also gained a new sister Shaqeila. Kobus was by Rilandi’s side, holding and comforting her, when the feeding tube was inserted through her tiny nose into her stomach.

The seizures stopped for more than two years after Rilandi was treated with cortisone and anti-epileptic medication. Doctors were not optimistic about any progress. We were advised not to 'waste' money on treatments and therapies and to just accept Rilandi's diagnosis. We did accept it but were not prepared to give up. I believe our prayers, therapies, and commitment to her care have led to Rilandi now having fairly good neck control and eye contact. She even rolls over, something doctors said would never happen. As she must wear glasses, her new daddy and hero took her to choose a frame for her glasses, normally a Barbie frame or a pink frame.

Unfortunately, the seizures returned in December 2010. Through intervention and several medical procedures, they were brought under control. However, a setback on the 31st of May 2016 saw Rilandi being rushed to the hospital in a large ICU ambulance when she started having fits at 18:50 and was only stabilized three-and-a-half hours later. We went to the hospital every day, from morning until late at night, just to be with her. A few days after being admitted, we received an early morning call from the neurologist saying Rilandi was put on life support and in a cooling suit to reduce brain swelling due to the severe seizures. We rushed to the hospital, and the doctors were waiting to explain Rilandi's current condition. The cooling suit procedure had to be done three times for 72 hours each time. After the third cooling suit treatment, we were told that Rilandi's family could come as they wished to say their goodbyes, and the pastor could also come and spend time with her. Our entire world was shaken, but Kobus took my and Rilandi's hands and asked God not to take Rilandi and if it was His will to do so, then we would accept that she would be happy being with our Lord and Savior.

The next day, we received an early morning call again, and it felt like my heart stopped beating. I was expecting the worst news. The neurologist said that something amazing had happened during the night. Rilandi's stats had improved. We couldn't wait to get to the hospital, where all her doctors were waiting at her bedside for us. We thanked them for what they had done to help our rose, but all of them said it was not their own doing. This was the Hand of God. They had no more answers or "tricks" to help her respond positively to the treatment. Rilandi remained in the ICU at Waterfall Hospital for several weeks after this setback.

Part of her treatment then was to go on the Ketogenic diet to try to eliminate the seizures. Due to most of the food being non-palatable, a 'Mickey-button' had to be fitted in her stomach to feed her and ensure all medicines are absorbed properly. During this procedure, the medical team realized that Rilandi's stomach was still behind her rib cage. Her stomach was secured just below the rib cage, and the Mickey could be safely inserted. It was found that Rilandi had silent 'aspiration', which caused various chest infections due to the secretions ending up in her lungs; this caused her to get Bronchiectasis.

A Nissen fundoplication procedure was done, whereby the upper curve of the stomach (the fundus) is wrapped around the oesophagus and sewn into place so that the lower portion of the oesophagus passes through a small tunnel of stomach muscle. Rilandi had to be tested three times daily to check that her ketone levels are on par.

In September 2017, a vagus nerve stimulator (VNS) was implanted. The stimulator is the size of a R5 coin that is implanted on the left side of her chest. It is programmed with her heart rate prior to insertion. Whenever this monitor senses a heart rate faster than the one programmed with, an impulse is sent to the brain to prepare for a seizure that might be on its way. The VNS does not stop seizures, but it helps shorten the duration and ease the aftereffects of the seizure.

Rilandi has now been diagnosed with colonized *Pseudomonas*. It is a superbug that she contracted in a theatre during one of the many procedures. We had to suction Rilandi several times a day, and she is also nebulized twice a day with a schedule 5 antibiotic. Rilandi has been placed on a modified Atkins diet, which has less oil, and she does not have to be in ketosis anymore, and we do not have to check the ketones anymore. It was such a relief for a Trypanophobia needles and blood-scary mother. We have appointed a full-time nanny for Rilandi who exercises and plays with Rilandi all day long. They are a great team and understand each other.

Rilandi still had to be admitted at least once a year for chest infections, and we ran out of ideas about the cause. I recalled that Klarien was born with enlarged adenoids and mentioned it to Kobus. He asked the doctors about her tonsils and adenoids being removed. They were very reluctant and weren't sure if it could be the cause of the infections. After several pleas, it was agreed to look and see if it was necessary while in theatre for another procedure. The doctor came out of theatre saying her tonsils were extremely bad and should have been removed long ago. Rilandi hasn't had any chest infections since they were removed. Glory to God for giving us a daddy and husband who is adamant about listening when God puts a word in his heart.

During a neurologist appointment, the doctor noticed that the battery life of the VNS had come to an end and needed to be replaced. Rilandi was admitted having this relatively small procedure done. Waiting outside the theatre as always, I became concerned when they didn't bring Rilandi out to go back to the ward. After requesting several times to be let in to try and wake her, the medical personnel agreed that they had tried everything and were now quite concerned about the situation. I sat next to Rilandi's bed, took her hands, and talked to her, hoping my voice would wake her, but it didn't make a difference to her consciousness. I again begged Jesus to help me and guide me to wake her up. I heard Him say to breathe, be calm, and sing Rilandi's 'Stap Soldaatjie' song to her. It was so quiet in the recovery room, but I obeyed the instruction. I sang to Rilandi, and after the first line of the song, her little blond eyelashes moved, and she opened her eyes. God, amazing as always, used me, with my motherly voice, to sing that song to everyone in recovery, without me knowing!

Rilandi has made progress, and all the glory goes to God, says Kathleen. She is now doing biokinetics and lung therapy weekly. She used to enjoy horse riding bi-weekly, which helped strengthen her muscle tone. Unfortunately, she can no longer ride horses due to her dislocated hip, a common issue for children with CP where the muscles grow faster than the bones, causing them to pull on the bones and lead to dislocation.

I would like to encourage parents in my position to ensure they know the reason for a cerebral palsy prognosis. We should not just accept when your child has been diagnosed with a brain condition. Find out the reason behind the prognosis. Work with your child, love him/her unconditionally. Communicate regularly, repeat, repeat, repeat everything you do or say to your child might take 100 times longer for your child to understand. But he/she will eventually, in their own special way, know what is going on around them. Rilandi turned 18 in January, and what a blessing every day has been, whether we were crying at her bed or laughing in the swimming pool.

God chose us; I did not want to be chosen for this big task, but God wanted to choose me. I did not want to be a special mom... but God wanted me to be one. Everything about an 'any-encephalic' child is special. But the facial features all seem to be like that of a red-haired angel.



COME JOIN US



Calvary Sanctuary



Calvary Sanctuary

SUNDAYS OF WORSHIP

EVERY SUNDAY

8:30AM

**54 FIFTH AVENUE,
ALBERTON NORTH**




Yahweh *Lives*

Audience Profile & Demographics

Faith-driven. Family-focused. Community-minded.

Yahweh Lives reaches a diverse Christian audience passionate about faith, family, and purposeful living. Our readers are men and women who seek inspiration, encouragement, and real stories that strengthen their walk with God.

Audience Overview

- Age Range: 16 – 65+
 - Audience Mix: Men and women, families, young adults, and church leaders
 - Primary Location: Alberton and surrounding areas in Gauteng
 - Faith Orientation: Active church members, believers, and those seeking spiritual growth
 - Lifestyle & Interests: Family, faith, personal growth, small business, community involvement, and wholesome living
- 



Yahweh *Lives*

Reach out at info@yahwehlives.co.za

