

## Naomi Leremore

Location: **Nairobi, KENYA**

Mission: **Christian education**



### The Look-At-Me Tree

Not long ago, Kiambu Road was a leafy drive out of Nairobi city, through coffee farming countryside. Today, it's filled with manic drivers jostling to create their own lanes on and off the tarmac. The dust swirls everywhere and only the tree stumps remain as a testament to its former stately glory.

Then there's that one majestic huge stump, worthy of a double-take. It sits just next to our turn off and for a second I get to glance at it. Oh, what a shame it was brutally chopped down. But now I can see there's a tall new shoot growing out of the old base. This young sapling has branches and a cover of green leaves. I'd really love to get closer to it on foot – for a 360 degree mosey around this miracle of new life. The "Look-At-Me Tree" seems a befitting name for such an upstart!

This visual image is used in Isaiah's message of hope to God's people:

"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit...

In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious." Isaiah 11:1,10 (NIV)



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This is good news; Jesus – the Branch who bears much fruit, will produce this fruit from all the people groups on earth!

In Kenya, the team of Vacation Bible School (VBS) consultants are getting ready for the Advent season. Their task is to produce a series of five lessons based on the Christmas story, beginning with these words from Isaiah. The lessons are to be taught in Sunday School on the five Sundays leading up to and including Christmas day.

Over the long school holiday of two months, many children travel upcountry to their rural homes. They stay with grandparents, visit members of the extended family and have fun playing with their cousins. During this busy time of celebration across the world, may we stop to circle back to our roots in Jesus – the hope for all nations!

### Prayer Points

- Thank God for sending his Son Jesus into our world. He came as the new shoot from the stump of Jesse. He is the promised descendant of David. Jesus is the King who shall reign for ever and ever.
- Remember the group of VBS consultants who write teaching materials for Sunday School aged children. Especially pray for Patrick who has just joined the group.
- Pray for the Sunday School teachers as they teach the Advent lessons. Ask that the children hearing the story of Jesus' birth, will believe in him as their Saviour and be filled with new life, hope, peace and joy.