

Traveling light

by [Suzanne Underwood Rhodes](#) in the [November 18, 2020](#) issue

I caught the gleam of her silver bracelet  
as she stroked her son's back in church  
that Sunday the missionary came.

The gesture invited a burst of sunlight  
that poured through the stained glass  
and over our shoulders, down the aisles,  
swam through our ribs to reach the world's night side.

Imagine the miracle. Loving her son that instant  
changes the plight of the ninth child  
in the *kibanda matope*, the one the missionary  
said was born blind and given the most meager  
share of meal in preference to others  
who needed more to live, but he comes to see  
after all because someone was sent,  
and the light is always looking.

(*Kibanda matope* is Swahili for mud hut.)