

Do Great Things for God

# Maria Fearing



*The Girl Who Dreamed of Distant Lands*

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Little Maria\* dreamed of another world.

She heard the grown-ups speak of a far-off land where there were many people like her—but she had never seen this place, nor did she know how to get there.

She only knew that it was an entire ocean away and that it was a continent called Africa. So far away!



AFRICA

\*Pronounced "Mar-EYE-ah"

Maria heard that Africa was a place of extraordinary people like kings and queens, and everyday people like hunters and gatherers, weavers and traders, and, of course, mommies and daddies.

The people of this faraway place did their best to protect their children.



But others had come and taken their children over the seas, and sold them in faraway places whose names were strange to their ears: places like Alabama, where Maria lived.



As years passed, the mommies and daddies thought often about their missing children.  
Would they ever see them again?



In their secret late-night forest church near her Alabama plantation, Maria and her friends heard about the God who created the heavens and the earth, the stars, the sun and the seas, and all that's on and in them. She heard stories about God's people of all colors, who adorned his world.



When this great, grand God called his special ones "Mine," she knew that she, too, was his special one, for he had captured her heart and filled it with hope.

One night, as the fireflies danced, little Maria wondered if God could take her to the far-off land called Africa. She knew that even though it was forbidden to leave the plantation where she was enslaved, nothing was too difficult for her God.

If he would make her free, she could see many far-off places with her own eyes.



Oh, how she longed to be free!



Years later, when Maria was a grown woman, a man galloped up the road on a fast and majestic horse.

The dust of freedom fairly flew from its hooves.

The horseman told Maria and all her people great news—she and all her people were no longer slaves!

