



BEYOND *the* VILLAGE™

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A Passion for Education

Three young teachers cross Africa—and fall in love with their new country.

Last year, three COTN graduates from Malawi—Promise, Sarah, and Rebecca—traveled across Africa to teach at COTN's school in Banta, Sierra Leone. Just the fact that they are Malawian women with university degrees makes them exceptional. But it's their courage and their hearts for service that make them truly remarkable.

(continued inside)



CHILDREN
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A Passion for Education continued . . .

“For me to be where I am today,” says Promise, “it took someone to impart knowledge in me. So why should I fail to do the same thing to others who are in great need?”

Traveling from Malawi to Sierra Leone means not only a big change in geography but also in culture. Food, weather, even classroom structures, are all different in Sierra Leone.

But the teachers worked hard to overcome cultural barriers and connect with students. “One of my accomplishments,” says Promise, “is that I have managed to know my students by name and behavior, because at first it was very difficult for me and I knew that was not good. As a teacher I need to know my students.”

This work paid off. Alice, one of their ninth-grade students, praises their abilities: “They know how to teach. I [understood] them quickly when they taught me. They are good teachers. They help you when you don't understand.”

“We are in love with Sierra Leone now, especially the kids.”

The young women worked hard outside of the classroom as well. They helped with team sports, a Bible study group, extra lessons after school, and much more. They could relate to the students in ways no one else could because they, too, were COTN children.

Above: Rebecca, Promise, COTN staffer Isata, and Sarah. Below: Sarah teaches. She, Promise, and Rebecca are excited to return to Sierra Leone for the 2017-18 school year.

Wendy Brown, COTN's International Education Director, says, “Because of their willingness to serve and go where needed, Promise, Rebecca, and Sarah have had a transformational impact on their students, coworkers, and school. We are grateful for their sacrifice.”

What's more: they all agreed to return to Sierra Leone this year!

Rebecca explains, “Seeing students change had motivated me to see what God is going to do in the next coming year. Change is gradual, and so students need to maintain teachers and develop teacher–student relationships.”

“We are in love with Sierra Leone now,” adds Sarah, “especially the kids.”

You can sponsor a university student and create more leaders like Promise, Sarah, and Rebecca at cotni.org/children.



One Church, One Village

New initiative gives your church's missions a more meaningful impact

“We feel that God placed Los Robles in our view, and it's a path we're all very willing to follow,” says Pat Minnesang, COTN partner and member of Presbyterian Church of the Master (PCOM).

Years ago, PCOM made the decision to develop a deep relationship with COTN, and in particular, the community of Los Robles in the Dominican Republic. Today, these COTN children and families have become part of this Southern California church.

“Everyone has a connection with COTN in some way,” Pat explains. She serves on PCOM's missions committee as COTN liaison, which means she shares COTN updates with the church and organizes all COTN events, including Venture trips, SmilePack drives, sponsorship drives, and meal-packaging events.

“It's more than a partnership; it's come down to a personal relationship,” Pat adds. “I think it's brought us all closer together.”

PCOM members Neil and Cinda Slate sponsor four children and say meeting those children is “no question, hands down” the most meaningful moment of their whole experience. “It's like meeting a second family you know you had but you'd never seen before,” says Neil. “We took our sponsorship very seriously. We went into it planning to be in it for the long haul, whether it was a couple years or a decade.”

Neil and Cinda have helped the families of Los Robles in many ways, from hosting a fiesta to



The close relationship between Presbyterian Church of the Master and the village of Los Robles has created a sense of family between the church members and the children they're helping.

building latrines. They say the time and energy they've spent there is more than worth it.

Although not everyone at PCOM is able to travel, Pat brings the Dominican Republic to them. She regularly shares pictures, videos, stories, and updates.

“We are constantly trying keep COTN in view,” Pat explains. She says these updates and personal testimonies from members who have served in the Dominican Republic are powerful: “We can see what's happening with the money we donate.”

“It's more than a partnership; it's come down to a personal relationship,” Pat adds. “I think it's brought us all closer together.”

Get your church involved by contacting Cheryl Cuthbertson today at 360-698-7227 or cherylcuthbertson@cotni.org.

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"For me to be where I am today,
it took someone to impart
knowledge in me. So why should
I fail to do the same thing to
others who are in great need?"

— *Promise Kanyangala, teacher
COTN graduate, class of 2015*

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COTN® Mission
To provide holistic, Christ-centered care for orphaned and destitute children,
enabling them to create positive and lasting change in their nations.

Children of the Nations is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your donation is tax-deductible and you will receive a gift receipt in the mail.

Children of the Nations (COTN) seeks to be the best possible steward of our partners' finances. In cases where financial gifts exceed program/project budgets, or where local conditions prevent program/project implementation, COTN will redirect funds to activities that are identified as most needed or will have the biggest impact on the children and families we serve.

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