



# Julie's Heart Cry

*Bringing Hope to Women Globally*

February 2023  
Newsletter

## Helping disadvantaged females find their worth

Dear Friends & Partners,

I want to take a moment to thank you for your love, prayers and friendship over the past few weeks. It has been a rollercoaster ride ever since Cyrus and I returned from the Central African Republic in early January.

As I reflect on Julie's Heart Cry ministry, it's evident that God is at work, and that He is inviting me – and ultimately inviting you – to join Him in what He is doing in the lives of people worldwide.

### Reaching rebellious youth

Other than the pastors' wives in the sewing classes, every woman and child who is accepted into Julie's Heart Cry program is truly from the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder. The amount of baggage and trauma these precious souls carry is overwhelming. However, these hard-working people are willing to give it their all.

I have shared on social media some photos of the teenagers currently in the Youth at Risk Home. Despite being disobedient, rebellious, angry, and traumatized from seeing things during war that no child should ever see, these sweet-looking kids are in need of a Savior.

In fact, they remind me so much of myself

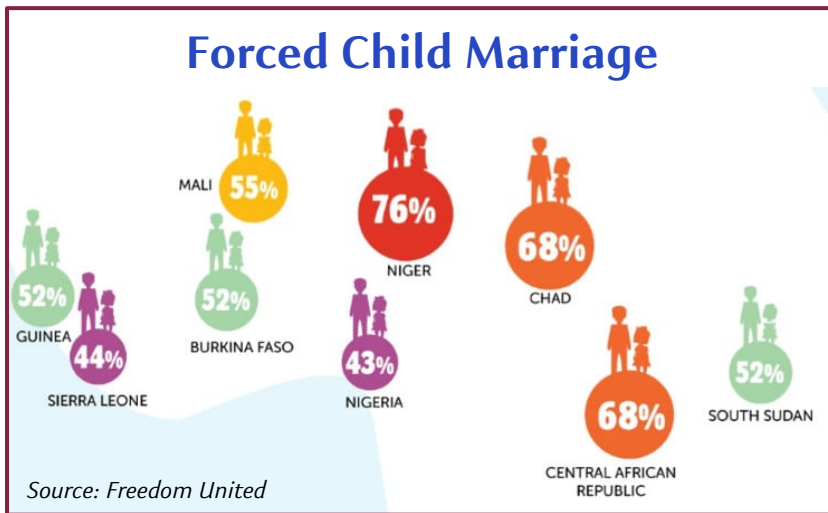


*Brigitte is an example of how your gifts are being used to help meet physical and spiritual needs.*

when I was growing up. (Side note: Some of us might do well to remember who we were before we met Jesus!)

But I believe with every fiber of my being that the Word of God is sufficient and more than capable of transforming the lives of these young people. If we do not point them to the Word of God while showing them the love of Christ, who will? If we don't care enough to listen and listen again, who will?

*(over)*



gling with seizures? JHC is positioned to give these girls in the Youth at Risk program a fighting chance spiritually, emotionally, medically and academically.

The reality is that girls like Brigitte are up against tremendous social pressure without external intervention.

- Relatives usually give up easily on girls while efforts

are made to care better for sons.

- An illness without medical care forces a girl to drop out of school. In the case of Brigitte, thanks to your prayers and support, we were able to seek and find medical care together.
- Girls are married off at a very young age for the proceeds collected from the dowry. That is why many of these girls experience so much anxiety and trauma. Approximately 68 percent of girls in C.A.R. are married before the age of 18; 29 percent are married before the age of 15.

I have personally witnessed a 16-year-old girl forced to marry a 40-year-old man, which is not seen as a human rights violation in this country. It is our commitment to these girls that we will give them the opportunity to thrive as we share about the One who loves them and sees their value.

As I prepare to leave for Africa in the coming days, and as challenging as these circumstances may be for these young ladies, I am thankful for each of you who give sacrificially and pray faithfully.

*Julie Mad-Bondo*

### God is making a way

I feel honored and privileged to do what God has called me to do. However, if you'd told me a few years ago that I would be leading this ministry, I would have said you were crazy! But for the sake of the Gospel – and ultra-poor women and children – I will speak up, stand up and make a fool of myself while extending hope and opportunities to those who are willing.

Many of you prayed for me, texted, emailed, and followed me on social media as I shared the news about Brigitte, one of the girls at the Youth at Risk Home. She started out with chest pain that led to multiple daily seizures. By God's grace, we have found a medication that has stabilized her with fewer seizures; however, she still has chest pains that lead to these episodes, so she's not out of the woods yet.

Through God's connections, we have been referred to a Children's Hospital in Kenya, where we will take her soon.

Why the fuss over Brigitte?

As a mother who has experienced the loss of a 10-year-old child, how could I sit back and be concerned only about her academic and spiritual well-being while her physical body was strug-