



STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION

Story

(Title)	Discipline of love
MinistryS type	Through the valley of the shadow of death : Marie's story
Objectives	Demonstrating God's to people in need
Outcomes	Socio-economic reintegration
Area of impact	Spiritual, social and physical
Country	DR CONGO
Date	November 2010
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Marie gets ready to sew a dress at the NEST Church facility in Kinshasa.

Scriptures say, *Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil. For thou art with me...* **Psalm 23:4**. In a busy tailoring school run by NEST Church in Kinshasa, DR Congo, Marie, a shy looking young lady goes about her daily activities sewing, cutting and knitting fabrics ready for sale.

She is surprisingly full of energy, working very hard to make fashionable garments that has made her and the other women present in this facility earn their daily bread. She sometimes affords

an effortless distant smile, perhaps the irony of the real reason she found herself in this centre. Her story is nerve wrecking. "You don't know what war is about." She says "A girl away from her parents and without freedom, has no right over her own body in the battlefield."

She can't forget the nightmare of one gloomy morning in 2002, when she was a young teenager at only 17 years of age. As she walked to school, a militia group operating in Eastern Congo waylaid and abducted her to be kept as a sex slave for one of the militia gang members. From then on, the journey through the thickets was tough; she walked for about 2500 miles with the fighters, ending up in Kinshasa on the Western part of the country three years later.

The journey with the fighters literally became the 'valley of death'. The lurking danger of wild animals, threats of attacks by government troops and other rebel forces were ever present. During the day, she cooked and carried luggage. Many times she contemplated escaping, but with no success. At night when the sounds of the jungle

seemed to roar even louder, as the voices of the fighters went mute, she was raped and raped so many times that it all bundled up into one big traumatic reality.

“It is an unforgattable experience for me,” she says. “ I think that today, we don’t have the same significance of the word RAPE.”

In 2005, she landed in Kinshasa on the back of a truck carrying merchandise, heavily pregnant. Soon after, she gave birth to a handsome baby boy who unfortunately passed on a few days later. A few years ago she had left home a child herself, but now she had returned a mother but not of her own volition.

In Kinshasa, She is grateful to God for the different plans he had for her. She met Pastor Martin Mulumba of NEST Church who demonstrated God’s love for her. He gave her a place to stay and offered her a sewing machine to learn some skills to earn a livelihood. She trained at a local vocational centre and the church paid the full expense.



Marie and a friend do thier usual thing as Pastor Buingo (centre) looks on.

Today, she is a qualified tailor and a member of the Church’s Ministry reaching out to fellow women and girls who have been through similar situations. She plans to open a tailoring school and shop targeting single mothers and victims of rape as a gesture in appreciation of God’s love shown to her by the NEST Church. NEST church is passionate about ministering to people like Marie, who at the brink of death were transformed to life through the light of the true gospel of Jesus Christ - offering hope forgiveness and love to those doomed for destruction. NEST is a ministry of Samaritan Strategy , a key partner of CMS Africa.