

CHILD PROTECTION CENTER UPDATE

by Mike DiLeo

Over the past twelve months, the progress of our Child Protection Center has been remarkable to see, despite the unprecedented times of the pandemic.

Over the last year, Princess Promise has accomplished a 10-foot protection wall surrounding the entire property. In addition, the Interim Care Center building is nearing completion, the sports field and first Family Home on the property are progressing quickly, as well as our gazebo. All of these projects were made possible by one-time gifts that you have entrusted with us!

We are planning for the girls to move to Jeoma in December. For this to happen, our priority, in addition to the homes, is a security post. Located at the entry gate, the property will be monitored by armed security, and all guests will be required to show credentials before entering the property.

Along with the security post, we need to pave the driveway within the Center for the safety of our vehicles and girls. We have big dreams for our Child Protection Center and know that this property will create sustainability for our ministry in Sierra Leone for generations to come.

We could not do it without you, and your love for these vulnerable children is evident in the growth and development of our property. THANK YOU!



*From top:
Aerial view of our Child Protection Center;
Girls home, family home, and the foundation of the gazebo*

 PRINCESS PROMISE

BRINGING FREEDOM, HOPE, & HEALING

so girls can live abundant lives in Christ in Sierra Leone, Africa

SUMMER 2021

Sierra Leone through the eyes of Tessa Redel

There's a beautiful picture in Revelation where every tribe, tongue, and nation surround the heavenly throne in worship. The vision is described as a great multitude that no one could number from every nation, robed in white. It didn't take long for my imagination of eternity's shore to expand after meeting my sisters in Sierra Leone. The family of God is far richer than what our finite imaginations allow.

This trip was a small glimpse into the global family of Jesus Christ. John Stott says, "We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God." He surely is God of the nations. Jesus is already in Africa; He is working, restoring hope, transforming lives, and breaking cycles. By His grace, He invites us into this work so that we might know his heart more deeply. Oh, to count the many ways the heart of our Father was on display in Sierra Leone.

When we first arrived at the property and met the girls from Princess Promise, the joy was palpable with friendly greetings followed by sweet embraces of laughter, singing, and dancing. Behind each smile was a story. Stories of pain and loss, but now, in the hands of the Author, stories of stunning redemption.

Over the next few days, these amazing girls would go from new friends to forever family.

Each day was filled with crafts, songs, and games; all centered around the theme of Creation. From learning new instruments

to performing skits to opening God's word and studying together, it was wonderful to see each girl's unique gifting at work. You could see these gifts in Baidu as she played her new instrument with ease or in Saffuel as she patiently worked in the details of her night sky illustration. You could see them in Seibatu as she gregariously portrayed the voice of God in the creation skit, or Isata as she pulled one of the younger girls close to help with her lines. Each girl, designed with an exceptional purpose and a plan.

As we read the story of Creation in the opening chapters of Genesis, I was reminded that these precious ones bear the image of their Creator, the Imago Dei. His craftsmanship shining through each face.

It was a humbling experience to be invited into these girls' lives and be woven into the beautiful story that He is writing in and through Princess Promise. I can't wait to see what the Lord continues to do through these remarkable girls and this incredible ministry.



In Christ,
Tessa Redel



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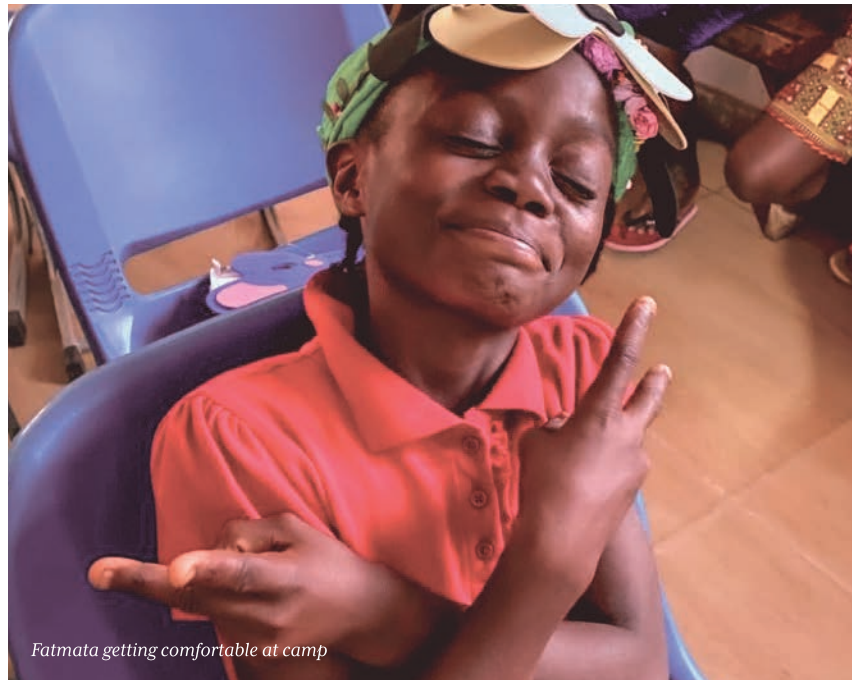
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Fatmata getting comfortable at camp



Fatmata feeling loved by Ellie and Emmanuella



Anna Grace and Ellie lead the green team at camp



Hawa with her new Bible



From left: Margret, Seibatu, Fatu, Emmanuella, and Saffie making flower crowns



June 2021 camp photo

WHY WE DO, WHAT WE DO! FATMATA'S JOURNEY

by Grace Hodo

After both her parents passed away, young Fatmata had no family left to care for her. With no other option, she went to live with one of her neighbors. Shortly after, the neighbor pulled Fatmata out of school and forced her to work. The people she trusted to care for her had quickly become neglectful and abusive of the young orphan they were called on to protect.

Eventually, Fatmata's situation at her home became so unbearable that after years of selling goods on the streets, at 10 years old, she made the grueling decision that it would be safer for her to run away and fend for herself on the streets than stay under the dangerous hand of her caretaker.

Fatmata was alone in the streets in Bo Town for a few weeks, desperate for food and shelter. Meanwhile, on the other side of Bo

Town, the Princess Promise team was on their second day of camp, taking immediate cover from a heavy monsoon-like they've never experienced before.

The day after this monsoon, the police found and rescued Fatmata and referred her to the care of Princess Promise and Love One Another.

In God's perfect timing, one day Fatmata is on the streets after fleeing from her abusive caretaker, wondering where her next meal will come from and how she would survive the monsoon. The next day, she's surrounded by 30 girls her age singing songs, eating nourishing food, and learning about this new man named Jesus. Fatmata was apprehensive and timid when she first joined our camp, but she quickly understood she was in a loving environment.

She had a blast playing games and meeting all of her new Princess Promise sisters. Fatmata is Muslim and learned all about God's Creation and His Love for His children. She was finally safe.

Fatmata is now with us, receiving 24-hour care from the home matrons and starting counseling. She is enrolled back in school for the first time since first grade. She is cared for and loved for the first time since her parents' passing. We are in the process of investigating adequate next-of-kin care for Fatmata, but until then, she will be in our care.

We are so grateful for the sovereignty of the Lord and His perfect timing to bring Fatmata to Princess Promise in the middle of our camp. He has great plans for her life, and we are thankful to be a part of it.

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

John 14:18

ARTS & DRAMA GIRLS CAMP 2021

by Anna Grace DiLeo

This year's Princess Promise Girls Camp was one of my favorite camps we've hosted thus far. This camp was unique in many ways. The week was music and art-based, centered around the Creation Story, and hosted on our Jeoma property for the first time.

After previously only hosting sports camps, it was sweet to watch girls who are more musically inclined shine in the art setting. We broke off into four groups, and I led the green team alongside Ellie, who traveled from Missouri to be with our team.

Tessa taught recorders; we sang songs, colored, made flower crowns, and worked on our creation skit to perform at the end of the week. Everything the Princess Promise girls do, they do it with all their hearts and want to do it the best they can. They're competitive and love to win but are always quick to encourage and support their peers.

One of my favorite things about camp this year was the slower pace that allowed intentional conversations. There's something special about hearing our girls' hearts as we color and listen to worship music. Time like that is rare, refreshing, and life-giving.

Through these conversations, I learned more about each girl and saw how much they'd grown the past three years that I've known them. They've each matured so much in their confidence, faith, and education.

I've seen firsthand how much the Lord is working in their lives and the substantial impact donors like you make in their personal development and freedom from their past. I'm immensely proud of each of these young women and can't wait to see how the Lord continues to move and grow their hearts for Him.