

Project Rescue

Hope Rising 2024 – Africa

These are great days for Project Rescue. Far from the days of small beginnings in Southern Asia, we are now ministering in 16 countries and 39 cities.

How does that happen? It's the power of partnership.

- We partner with men and women who are committed to seeing victims of human sexual slavery live in freedom. They do the difficult work!
- We partner with local churches, who provide volunteers, resources, prayer and a spiritual covering.
- We partner with Assemblies of God world missionaries, and with national churches.
- We partner with people like you – who passionately believe in the mission.

We all come together for one cause: **to rescue and restore victims of sexual exploitation through the love and power of God.**

The sixteenth country is the location we are introducing tonight, our first site in Western Africa!

Our Project Rescue leader in the Western Africa is Bintou Bossou Coulibaly – which is why everyone calls her “BBC”. She’s an amazing and anointed woman of God.

In August, our Executive Director Jennifer Barret and our Foundation Director, Jonathan went to Western Africa to meet her. They were thrilled and inspired to see everything that was happening and the amazing team BBC has around her. It’s an awesome ministry!

VIDEO (download on site!)

In 2002, BBC, a high school counselor and teacher started noticing that her high school students were becoming prostitutes. It’s difficult to comprehend, but in the villages, there are elementary schools, but no middle school or high schools. These village kids, once they’re done with elementary, get taken to the city for middle school and high school. All of a sudden, it’s a completely different style of life. Village compared to city life in Abidjan, there’s a major economic difference.

Girls who are in middle school and high school want to be able to fit in with the crowd – but they have very little. Pedophiles and traffickers entice them with new clothes so they can fit in with the crowd, and then they get caught in prostitution. Instead of finishing school, they are forced to work in the red light district.

When BBC noticed what was happening, it broke her heart. So, for the last 20 years, she's been trying to figure out ways to help them.

Started on her own - **Awareness programs at the high school – so girls know the real motives of their benefactors.**

Now BBC partners with a local Assembly of God church – pastored by a Muslim background believer. He opened up his church for BBC to set up offices and start a program. She currently has over 25 girls that she is ministering to. BBC feeds them, and then talks to them about the love of Jesus and the restoration that comes through Him.

If the girls are able to leave prostitution, they have nothing to be able to engage with society because they have no skills and no work experience.

BBC has received a grant from the German government, where they're giving sewing machines and embroidering machines and she has ladies coming in to teach trade skills so the ladies can begin sewing and embroidering and be able to have a way to sustain themselves when they leave the red-light district.

The big dream is a home – a safe place – for women to be rescued, cared for and taught a new way of life.

Project Rescue has always been and will always be about individuals who are being rescued. We are not an advocacy organization. It's important to raise awareness, but that's not our mission. We are actively involved with women and children – in their rescue and in their lives. I want to tell you about one girl in Western Africa. Her name is Blessing.

Blessing is from Nigeria. She was working as a domestic worker, when a woman met her and promised her a better job with more money in Western Africa.

When she got to Western Africa, it quickly became apparent the job was a lie. Blessing was trafficked. She ran away twice, but was recaptured each time. Blessing was told the only way she could leave was to pay 1.5 million francs – more money than she had seen in her lifetime – an impossible sum. Blessing was told that if she ran away again, she would be killed.

One night in prayer, the Lord gave one of our volunteers – Fanta, a lady in the local church - a picture of a young girl standing in the dark street of Marcory Zone 4 – one of the Red light districts. The Lord told Fanta to go and find her. She said, “I was scared, but I knew this was from the Lord.”

When prayer ended at 10 p.m., Fanta asked two male volunteers to go with her to find the girl. They got in her little Toyota and headed out to find a girl whose name and location

they didn't know. It sounds crazy – but she knew she was being obedient.

As they drove along, they met a few girls and gave them gospel literature – but none of them were the girl the Lord had spoken about. Then, Fanta saw a young girl from Nigeria. The Holy Spirit said, “That’s her”.

Blessing approached the car, thinking it was a client, but then got afraid when she saw three people. Fanta said, “Don’t be afraid. I have been praying and the Lord Jesus put you on my heart. He loves you and He sent me to find you.”

Blessing began to weep. She had desperate, crying out in her heart for someone to help her. She didn't even know who she was praying to! Blessing said, “If Jesus cared enough to send you to meet me, then I want to know Him. She accepted Jesus right there on the street.

Through a series of divine events, Fanta introduced Blessing to BBC, who was able to secure her release. Blessing was ministered to and helped through the process of healing. She now has a good job and is a volunteer with Western Africa Project Rescue. Blessing is filled with joy and committed to helping other women and girls find the freedom that she found!

Blessing is why we exist – one woman, one girl, one child at a time finding freedom, hope, purpose, joy and Jesus.

Women like Blessing is why I give my money and time. I'm not paid by Project Rescue and I cover my own expenses – because she and others like her matter.

Our initial goal is to purchase and renovate a home for a cost of \$732,000. We are also going to provide ongoing support to operate the home until we are able to build a sustainable model.

The home is \$732,000. If God lays it on your heart to make that commitment, be obedient!

- Cost to provide housing, food, medical care, counseling and ministry for one woman is \$5 a day.
- \$155 a month
- \$1825 a year.

PRAY FOR BBC