Hands of Honor is a CAMA outreach that provides literacy, health, and life skills training to young women.

by an Alliance Worker in West Africa

It all began in 2013 when we decided to start a ministry in our local women’s prison. The first day we walked in, we were surprised to see a group of teenage girls! We found out later most of them had been domestic workers who had gotten into trouble. After seeing all these young girls in prison and hearing their stories, we knew we had to do something. Hands of Honor was established as a SAFE place for domestic workers and other girls who fall into the category of being at-risk.

Bintu recently gave birth. All the signs are there, except the newborn baby. I can only assume she did the unthinkable. Bintu is not the only one. In Mali infanticide or attempted infanticide has become the most common crime after theft and assault for the women in prison.

I only wish we’d met Bintu before she made that life-altering choice.

Hands of Honor exists to invest in the lives and future of at-risk girls, ages 12 – 19, living in rural communities in Mali. Our girls aren’t from our community, but rather neighboring communities and villages in the region. They are young girls living in a stranger’s home. Their families are far away, they don’t have any way to communicate with them, and they are truly at the mercy of their employer.

Being a domestic worker is a common job for girls. Manual labor is still very much a part of daily life in Mali. You cook over a fire, wash your clothes by hand, walk daily to the market to purchase your food stuffs for the meals of the day. If people can afford it, they will hire a domestic worker to do these chores for them.

I know there are some Bintu’s in our town that need to walk through our doors. We want to be advocates for our girls and their rights in the community. There are no social services, no protection for these girls, no laws that protect them being over-worked and in abusive situations. The battle has been getting employers to allow their girls to be a part of our program. Will you pray these girls find us and that permission is granted from their employers to let them participate?

I wish you could see our girls when we sing together, the joy on their faces, the glimmer of hope in their eyes.

“I ka na..Yesu ma, I ka na..Yesu ma,” (“Come to Jesus, come to Jesus”)

“A be jurumu yafa I ma” (“He will forgive your sins”)

Jesus equals HOPE, that’s what we teach our girls. In Him, there is salvation for their souls and hope for a bright future orchestrated by a loving Father that has a plan and purpose for each and every one of them. There is much interest by the Mali Alliance Woman to grow Hands of Honor in other communities in Mali. It’s been encouraging to see how they want to reach this overlooked population in their own neighborhoods. I’m really praying about how the funds Great Commission Women raise for us will help us expand our work to reach more girls in other parts of Mali.

Please consider this project for your Kingdom investment and partner with Great Commission Women. Your tax-deductible donation can be made by check to: The Christian and Missionary Alliance, Attn: Donor Services, 8595 Explorer Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920. Please write “GCW Project” in the memo portion of your check.