

Little Boy Lost

The Story of Kouassi bi Jean Marc



It had been a long, difficult year for John Marc. His father died in 2003 and now his mother was seriously ill. He and his older sister had been caring for her and trying to keep a little rice in the house.

Village life in Ivory Coast, Africa is hard enough when everyone is well. Caring for someone who is ill is a nightmare. With heat, insects, and starvation draining both body and soul, what hope is there for an illness that requires money for doctors and medicine? For John Marc's family, there was no money. *There was no hope.*

Christmas came, but it held no meaning for John Marc. There were no presents, no tree, and no treats. Only another day spent begging for food. Walking the village trails looking for a piece of plastic, a tin can, or empty glass jar that could be cleaned and sold in the Market for a few cents.

If all else failed, he would try to steal a handful of rice or piece of bread. Something to give his mother a little strength. But, once again, death was victor over his small family. Three days after Christmas John Marc's mother died.

John Marc's sister was frantic. She knew that with no one to protect them, John Marc's future was bleak. With no possibility of education, **he would be left to run in the streets at the mercy of what or whoever came his way.** There had to be something better for her brother!

A devoted Christian, John Marc's sister began to pray, "*God make a place for John Marc. Send him someone to love him.*"

A few days later, she heard about **Canaan Center Orphanage** and its director, Madame Jeanne Zonde.

She heard about how clean and bright it was. How the children actually ate three times a day! They were educated, medical needs were met – and most importantly they were loved!

This was everything she had prayed for her little brother.

She wasted no time. She took John Marc by the hand and marched up to the front gates of **Canaan Center**. She had to see this wonderful place for herself. She was not disappointed – it was all she'd hoped for, and more.

She and John Marc were greeted with love and respect. The other children quickly made John Marc feel at ease. She knew God had answered her prayer. John Marc was home.

Leaving her brother there with the promise of many visits, she knew his struggle for survival was over. This little boy was lost no more.

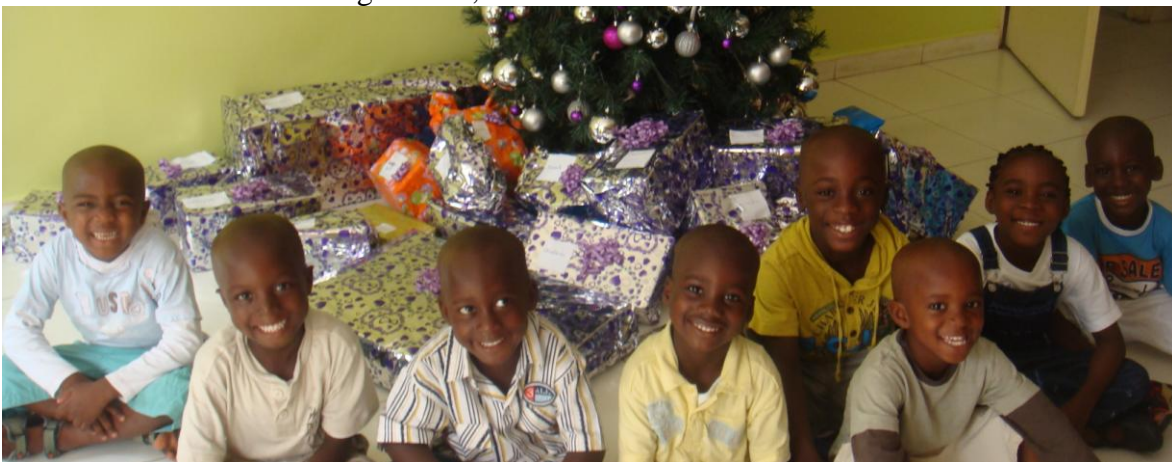
Yours is the love this little boy found.

Your gifts to Life Link provide the clean home, soft bed, and good food.

Your donations provide the education, medical needs and vocation training that John Marc – and **over 250 other "lost" children who have found a home at Life Link children's homes** – desperately need.

And, because of your love and generosity, you are loved in return.

For the children ... with love and gratitude, Connie



I am planning a trip to the orphanages in Ivory Coast and Benin in late March. At this time I do not have the funds necessary to purchase the plane tickets or pay for in country expenses. If you would like to help I need to raise about \$4000. Please mark your donation – Africa Trip.

Here are some of the younger children at the Oasis Orphanage in Ivory Coast. You can see they had a good Christmas! Thank you!

Life Link is a non-profit international human service corporation committed to improving the quality of life for children everywhere. All donations are tax deductible.

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