



Sierra Leone West Africa

Savior of the World

Family

With Love and Prayers

My dearest Family,
We greet you in the Name of the Father, the Son and the holy Spirit. We are here today with a heart full of joy and celebration because our Lord and Savior conquer death and HE IS ALIVE!!! This is a thing worth celebrating and history worth telling. We at Savior of the World think this is the reason why we are still alive if not death would

have taken a toll on us. We thank and appreciate our Lord and Savior for giving us this great opportunity.

This year our Lent and Easter celebration was a bit different from the other years though there were no big celebration at home on Easter day but yet we have the opportunity to attend all the church activities throughout and we think this is the most important of all. We love the stations of the Cross, the Palm Sunday activities and on Resurrection Sunday. Its was Bishop Kaka of Ghana that gives the Homily and he made it clear to us that if Jesus Christ had not conquer death we would not have called ourselves Christians. After Church we return home and en-

joy our Easter as one big Family. The children enjoyed a fine dinner that they all helped prepare.

We want to take this opportunity to thank and appreciate you all for your love and kindness that you have extended to us in this most crucial times. The children pray everyday in the morning and evening. They always pray for you and are grateful to God for the life you give them. May the love you showed us continue to be a light to your path. This and many other prayers we ask through our Mother Mary Amen.

*Yours in Christ
Louisa and
children*



Sarah, one of the home's workers, making laundry soap.



Christiana, preparing dinner

Aristogen, the Brave Moslem Boy

*Dear Louisa, children,
and all the sponsors, donors,
and benefactors of
the Savior of the World
Family,*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, may the Peace of Jesus Christ be with you now and always!

During the Easter season, we hear a series of Gospels where Jesus speak about gifts that God has given us, the gifts of baptism and the Eucharist (Holy Communion), gifts that give us new life, identify us as children in God's family and assure us of loving unity with Jesus. Jesus also may shock us a little bit by giving us the sure implication that if we do not receive these gifts, we cannot enter heaven.

This is what Jesus says to Nicodemus about baptism: "In all truth I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above... In all truth I tell you, no one can enter the king-

dom of God without being born through water and the Spirit... Do not be surprised when I say: you must be born from above" (see Jn. 3:3-8).

About the Eucharist, Jesus says: "In all truth I tell you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you."

A Moslem child, Aristogen, was about ten years old and would visit my house every day. It was obvious that he was learning the truth about Jesus. It was also obvious that he wanted to be baptized, but he knew his parents would not give him permission. He had a little brother and sister; and so because he was the elder brother, he knew he had some responsibility for his younger brother and sister.

What did this ten-year-old child do? He baptized his younger

brother and sister. He used the right words for baptism. With his sister, he said: "Drita, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." He made sure that while he was saying those words he was pouring water over the head of his little sister. He did the same for his brother, Fatmire. He then told both of them correctly that they could be happy now because they were Christian.

Aristogen knew that Jesus has given us the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; and it is during the Mass that Jesus becomes really present under the appearances of bread and wine. When I asked a large group of children one day, "When do the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ?" Aristogen gave me the correct answer: When the bishop or the

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Aristogen, the Brave Moslem Boy

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priest says the words, "Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my Body given up for you," the bread becomes the Body of Christ. When the bishop or the priest says the words, "Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me," the wine becomes the Blood of Christ.

Aristogen gave this answer in front of all the children. He was stammering and stuttering because he has a speech defect. When all the children listened to him, they started laughing. He laughed with them. He was not ashamed of his defect: he knew that was his personal weakness.

When we receive the gifts that God wants to give us, we know what is important in life. We are not trying to please our friends. If we are girls, we are not trying to get any kind of boyfriend. If we are boys, we are not just trying to get any kind of girlfriend. We are hoping to find friends that resemble the Moslem boy Aristogen. These are friends who want always to do what is right before God. Our closest friend is God. This means that we always want to be with Jesus with the full knowledge that Jesus wants us to be with him in heaven. We pray always.

Even though Aristogen's parents were Moslem, they gave him the permission to be baptized and receive his First Communion. The Moslem father of sixteen children then asked me to give him baptism and

First Communion. He also asked me for the Sacrament of Confirmation. What does that sacrament do?

In Acts 1:8, Jesus says to his apostles on the Day of the Ascension, "You will receive the power of the Holy Spirit which will come on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to earth's remotest end." The Greek word for "witness" is martyr. Indeed when you read John's Gospel in the Greek language that John wrote, you notice that the word "martyr" comes up 44 times, 14 times in reference to John the Baptist.

The Easter season ends with the day of Pentecost, the day when the power of the Holy Spirit came upon Mary and the Apostles and the other disciples who were with them. It was

It was the day when they became martyrs for Jesus, ready to live for Jesus without fear, and die for Jesus without fear.

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If you notice, the area around the well (it's in the back of the compound) has been paved. No more dirt and stones.

Aristogen, the Brave Moslem Boy

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the day when they became martyrs for Jesus, ready to live for Jesus without fear, and die for Jesus without fear. This is the sacrament of confirmation. It is the sacrament that takes away all our fear because it gives us the ability to live the Beatitudes that Jesus preached at the beginning of his ministry. In the Spirit of the Beatitudes, we wish to be always trusting Jesus, resisting all forms of anger and pride, ready to put aside all false forms of consolation

including false friends, ready to do anything to bring justice into our families and neighborhoods – a justice that is always merciful and compassionate to the weak, to those with defects, to the helpless, discouraged and disappointed. We are always ready to put aside any false desire we have to use other people for our bodily pleasure. We want to be true peacemakers with everyone. We want to change false friends into true

friends. Only then will life's sufferings and the moment of death bring us joyfully into heaven, where Jesus says for all eternity, "May my joy be in you, and may your joy be complete."

*Father Umuhozanimana,
East Africa*

