

K4K

HOPE

comes to Kroo Bay

By Alan Doerksen



Children living in a slum in Sierra Leone.

Hi, my name is Benjamin, and I live in a village called Kroo Bay, in Sierra Leone. I want to tell you about some exciting things that have been happening here lately.

Do you know where Sierra Leone is? It's in West Africa. I haven't been to any other countries, but I would love to travel some day. But my family is poor. We live in a slum. I have never left my village since I was born.

I live with my mother, father and sister in a small hut here in Kroo Bay. We just have one room, where all of us sleep and eat. We don't have any water in our home. If we need water for washing, we have to walk to a creek that runs through our town. The water there is very dirty—but it's the only water we have. We have to drink it and use it for washing. You can see in this picture how dirty the water is.

“There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be open-handed toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.”

Deuteronomy 15:10-12 NIV

I am now eight years old. I like to play with my friends outside each day. Until lately, I never went to school. I didn't even know what school was.

But then change came to our village. A few months ago, some men came to Kroo Bay from another place. They looked around our village and stopped to see my parents. I heard them ask a lot of questions. Later on, I asked my parents, “Who were those men?”

“They are missionaries,” explained my father.

“They want to help us out.”

“What are missionaries?”

“They are people who tell us about their religion—what they believe in.”

“How are they going to help us out?” I asked.

“They say they are going to build a school, and bring us some food and clothes,” explained my father.

“Oh, that's good news,” I exclaimed.

But he smiled and said quietly, “I hope it is. But I'll believe it when I see it.”

“When will those men come back, daddy?”

“Maybe they will, maybe they won't,” he said, with a sad smile.

My family is very poor, and we have never had help from anyone. My parents work hard trying to support our family, but there never seems to be enough food for us all.

Finally, a few weeks later, the missionaries returned. They brought with them food and clothes for many people in our village, including my family. Then they invited me and the other kids to go to a Christmas program.

That was exciting. I hadn't heard of Christmas before, but I found out what it means. It's about God coming to earth as a tiny baby. He came to earth as a poor child—just like me. The missionaries were very kind to us and gave us food and presents to take home.

Now that spring is here, the missionaries are building a school, where they say I and all the other children here can study. I am looking forward to that. I want to learn more about the world and about God, who they say created it. I want to know God more.

NOTE: This story is fictionalized, but the details mentioned in this story are very common, and New Creation Ministries does exist and is a partner agency with Intercede. NCM helps the poor people of Kroo Bay, and is currently building a school for local children. Please share this and other K4K stories with children in your family or church. You can obtain more such stories and material for younger children to introduce them to missions through our Kids-4-Kids (K4K) program. Contact our office for details.