

Testimonies

Fatimata Mariko (Mali)



I started working as a prostitute about 5 years ago because I had difficulties feeding my 3 year old girl and was possessed by bad spirits. Well that was the time that the problems really started. One year later I had another daughter and I do not even know who the father is. Then, in 2006, I met Tantie Aya who told me about the Rahab Center and I thought I would swing by there. I was touched by their love and affection for me and I kept on visiting the welcome center. I got involved in their training program and decided to quit prostitution. Through their teaching, God delivered me from the bad spirits. Since that moment, I have seen God at work in my life.



Fatimata Souleymané (Togo)

The year 2004 brought me to Mali and I thought there was some business work in Bamako. Well, I found out pretty fast that the only business that works for a non-Malian was prostitution, and I found myself on the street. More and more I

hated myself and my body, but I could not just stop. At the end of 2006, a friend told me about the Rahab Centre and I decided to visit. I told the white lady right away that I was a prostitute and that I did not like it. They accepted me the way I was and told the story about Rahab the prostitute. I wanted to hear more and came back the next afternoon. That was the beginning of a change. I was accepted into their training program in March 2007, but it still took me another 4 months to be totally free from prostitution. Ever since then I have followed Jesus and hope to be baptized in December 2007.

Your financial gifts for Rahab Ministries are welcome at:
C&MA P.O. box 35000
Colorado Springs CO 80935
For C&MA MALI - SAARLOOS Work special account

Rahab Ministries' Objectives:



Friendship with the women at the Rahab Center

- To share the love of JESUS CHRIST through Friendship Evangelism and Social Concern.
- To provide Practical Help and Emotional Support to women working in prostitution.
- To provide opportunities for Education, Vocational Training and Alternative Employment.

Rahab Ministries' objectives are met through: bar visitation and friendship evangelism, counseling and teaching in the drop-in-house and serving women by providing them with skills in a caring environment in which they will learn about the love of Christ at our training center.



Carina and some team members

RAHAB MINISTRIES



RAHAB CENTER

Welcome and Training Center for
Women at Risk
in Bamako , Mali
Humanitarian Aid
Spiritual Aid

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The story behind Rahab Center !



Bible study with the ladies

They come from all over West Africa, each with a dream, drawn to the glamour and promises of success in the capital city. Many lived and worked out of cramped 8 x 10-foot windowless rooms behind the crowded Sogoniko bus station before they were destroyed by the government. After that, the girls scattered all over Mali. In Bamako, they are on the streets at night, or wait for customers in small bars. Most of their dreams have long been forgotten, replaced by the simple need to survive.

Drugs are often used to fend off the craving to sleep because nighttime is when the workload is most profitable. Nutrition and food intake is not a high priority and one's health is rarely considered.

This description fits the professional prostitutes in Bamako, Mali. Many of the young girls are simply looking for quick cash since their families are not able to help them.

At the other end of the spectrum are the widows, completely abandoned by their extended family, yet responsible for raising a number of children.

With nearly 70 % of Malians living below the poverty line, desperation plays a major role in prostitution. Unfortunately ALL are exposing themselves to the AIDS virus, an epidemic throughout Africa which has significantly increased the risk of their profession.

It is believed that 35-40 % of prostitutes in Mali have the AIDS virus.

Rahab Ministries is looking for ways to help those seeking freedom from the bond of prostitution to start a new life (spiritually, socially and economically).

Many of these women's stories of bondage are heart-wrenching. Even when they do break free, their former life-style often returns to haunt them.

Together, with a small team of godly women, Carina Saarloos started to visit the ladies at their workplaces and started sharing God's unconditional love for them. But meeting with them, was not enough! These ladies see prostitution as a business, an income, so we needed to come up with a truly helpful business program. That is why we opened the Rahab Center.

Rahab Center is primarily a drop-in-place, a welcome center for the ladies. It is a place where they can come by to talk, to pray or to watch a Christian movie. We want to separate the sheep from the goats and find out which ladies are serious about leaving prostitution.

At the center we also have an interview with them and after we get to know them a little bit we offer them our training program.



Precious, a former lady of Rahab Center who now has her own second-hand clothes store.

Our Training Program:

We train the ladies to make two kinds of Malian soap and tie dye (painting material). We also teach them how to crochet the bamu-fini (wrap-around to carry the baby on the back). All kinds of handicrafts like Christmas angels and dolls are made from material, bracelets from beads and we do embroidery on curtains and sheets.

Friday is a special day at our training center. The women are taught from God's Word and special speakers are invited to share important topics. A doctor, for example, will come to explain issues relating to AIDS.



Coura, making soap

By offering the ladies this training, we are providing jobs for them at the present, while teaching them skills that they can use for the future. The ladies receive weekly transport money and at the end of each month they receive a small salary.

By purchasing locally made products, or through financial gifts donated through the C&MA in the US, you support the Rahab Ministry and are able to continue the work. We also need you to be our prayer partners and pray for this ministry!

By empowering these women to become active, resourceful and viable members of society, they can return to impact their community and live life without having to destroy their "dignity". When the training is completed, the women can stay and become part of the team, or we will start a small business, and provide them with employment.



The result of tie- dye