

## Testimony

### Jelika Diarra Mali

My name is Jelika and I am 14 years old. The Rahab staff found me the first night I was prostituting myself. I had only been in Bamako a week. My parents had sent me from my village to look for work.

I spent a week wandering around looking for a job but couldn't find any work to support myself. I meet a few girls who told me they could get me a job where I'd earn \$20 dollars a night. All the previous jobs I'd tried to get before would have only given me \$20 a month. They didn't really explain what the job would be but I didn't care since the amount of money I would make was attractive to me. That is how I ended up on the street corner the night I came in contact with the staff from Rahab ministries. I was crying because I'd just finished with my first customer and I was shocked at what had happened to me. The staff took me home that night to the Rahab shelter and I'm living there now. I love to sing Christian songs and listen to stories from the Bible. I believe that God sent the Rahab staff to me. One day I hope to go back to my village and tell them about Jesus Christ and who He is to me.



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:



Praying together 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.



Giving out a certificat

# RAHAB MINISTRIES



## RAHAB CENTER

Welcome and Training Center for  
Women at Risk  
Rue 200/Porte 589 Faladiè Sokoro  
Tel: 79 24 88 24  
Bamako , Mali

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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 ministries rents a home called the Rahab Center that serves as a shelter for ex-prostitutes needing an alternative place to live after leaving the streets. Godly dorm parents provide a stable home environment and opportunities to nurture those who've come to Christ. It is also a drop-in place where women can come to talk, to pray or to watch a Christian movie.



**Family Seke, the dorm parents with the first born baby**

## Our Training Program:

We train the ladies to make 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.



**Making Dolls**

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**