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CHILDREN OF THE NATIONS®

NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2021

Why Education Matters

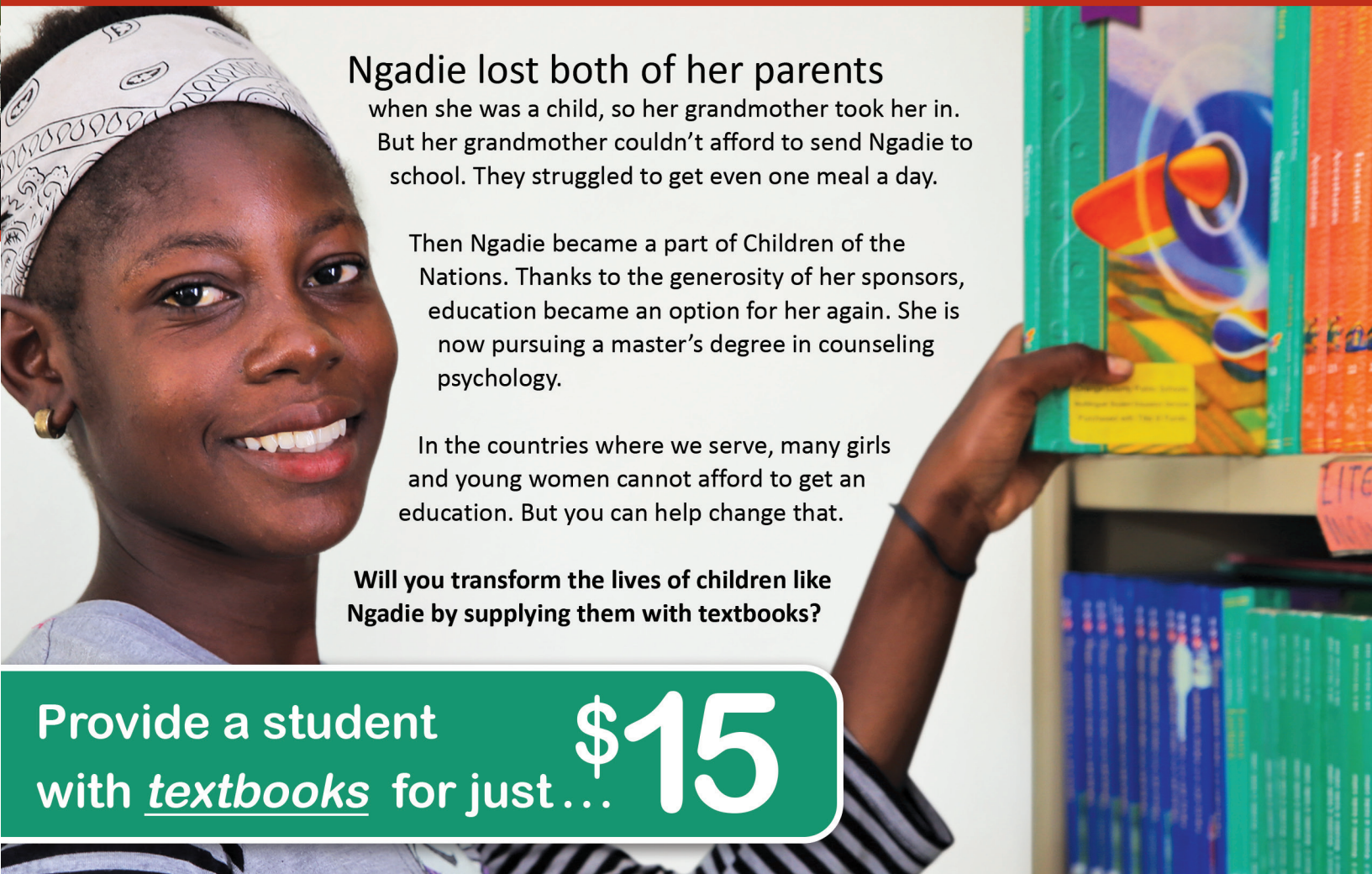
A new year brings a sense of hope and opportunity. We have a chance to become the best version of ourselves.

This is the same hope a child feels when you help them get an education. Children that once felt no hope for their future are now doing things they never dreamed possible.

When Janet first joined Children of the Nations, she struggled to read and write. Now, she is a teacher! Lucia grew up in a country where girls face pressure to marry early. But Lucia prioritized her education, got her degree in economics, and then got married.

Thank you for helping these young women become role models for other girls!

For the Children,
Chris & Debbie Clark
Chris and Debbie Clark
Founders



Ngadie lost both of her parents when she was a child, so her grandmother took her in. But her grandmother couldn't afford to send Ngadie to school. They struggled to get even one meal a day.

Then Ngadie became a part of Children of the Nations. Thanks to the generosity of her sponsors, education became an option for her again. She is now pursuing a master's degree in counseling psychology.

In the countries where we serve, many girls and young women cannot afford to get an education. But you can help change that.

Will you transform the lives of children like Ngadie by supplying them with textbooks?

Provide a student with textbooks for just... \$15



Children of the Nations is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your donation is tax-deductible and you will receive a gift receipt in the mail.

Children of the Nations (COTN) seeks to be the best possible steward of our partners' finances. In cases where financial gifts exceed program/project budgets, or where local conditions prevent program/project implementation, COTN will redirect funds to activities that are identified as most needed or will have the biggest impact on the children and families we serve.

☒ **YES, I want to give textbooks to help children like Ngadie get a quality education!**

I've enclosed my best gift of:

- ☐ **\$15** for textbooks for one student
- ☐ **\$30** for textbooks for two students
- ☐ **\$60** for textbooks for four students
- ☐ **\$120** for textbooks for eight students



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If you want to change the world, educate a girl.

In Malawi, 46% of girls get married before the age of 18. But Lucia's story is different.



In 2020, Lucia graduated from Pentecostal Life University with a degree in economics. Many girls in Malawi aren't able to get their degree before they get married.

Beating the Odds

How Education Protects Girls from Child Marriage

Lucia is 28 years old and lives in Malawi. She recently graduated from Pentecostal Life University with a degree in economics. Then she got married. That's why Lucia's story is so extraordinary.

In Malawi, 46% percent of girls are married before the age of 18, and 9% of girls are married before the age of 15.* Lucia's life could have turned out very differently.

Lucia is the oldest of the five children in her family, and her mother died when she was very young. After their mother died, Lucia's siblings went to live with their uncle and Lucia stayed with her grandmother. Lucia says, "... the challenges were so many, we encountered lack of food, clothes, bedding, soap, access to good health facilities, and school uniforms. After two years my grandmother passed away."

But Lucia's life changed when she came to Children of the Nations in 2004 and began living in one of the children's homes in Malawi. She says, "The most exciting thing about it was meeting new family members and being sent into good schools. Children of the Nations took care



of all my needs from primary school to university..."

One of the main causes of child marriage is poverty. Another is lack of education or job opportunities. Girls or their families may see marriage as the only way out of poverty.

But when children like Lucia are given the opportunity to get an education, they can escape the pitfalls of poverty, including child marriage.

In Malawi, 46% of girls are married before the age of 18, and 9% are married before the age of 15.

Lucia says, "The most important thing was getting a degree, this is a great role that Children of the Nations played, paying tuition fees, upkeep, and all the support during

my school. It is not easy sending a child to school here in Malawi, simply because most parents earn a little amount of money, but Children of the Nations did it all for me."

Lucia's story shows that education matters. It changes lives. It changes communities. It changes nations. And it all starts with helping just one girl get an education. If you want to change the world, educate a girl. ■

*UNICEF, *Child Marriage Factsheet*, (2018)

Lucia in 2004 when she first came to Children of the Nations.



For years, Janet dreamed about becoming a primary school teacher. Now, she is teaching at our primary school in Uganda!

Achieving a Lifelong Dream

She struggled to read and write. Now she's a teacher.

Janet stands at the front of the classroom, looking out at the bright faces of the students in her class. Pride wells up inside of her. For most of her life, Janet has known this is where she wants to be, teaching. But the journey hasn't been easy.

Janet's father was killed during the 2004 Barlonyo massacre in Uganda. Then her mother disappeared, and Janet and her siblings ended up in a refugee camp.

Her mother eventually remarried and brought Janet and her siblings back to live with them. But the family's problems didn't stop there.

"He would drink a lot of alcohol, and so he would disturb my mother," says Janet. "And you know if your mother is not OK, you kids will also not be OK." Her stepfather also didn't have enough money to pay for their school fees. "...many times we were chased from school because he didn't have enough money."

When Janet graduated, she became our first student from Uganda to graduate with a teaching certificate.



Janet's mother left her new husband and took the children back to her village. But after a year, their mother left them to go back to her husband.

Things changed for Janet when she and her sister joined Children of the Nations. At first, adjusting to this new life was difficult for Janet. She even tried to run away.

But as time passed, Janet began to feel at home.

She learned about God and how He had a plan for her life, and she was finally able to go to school regularly at the age of twelve. "I didn't know how to read, write, anything," says Janet. "But some of the staff started working with us, and I started picking it up."

Despite her late start to education, Janet knew she wanted to be a primary school teacher or a school administrator.

As the years passed, Janet never forgot that dream, and she decided to attend St. Mary's Primary Teacher's College. When Janet graduated, she became our first student from Uganda to graduate with a teaching certificate. She is now teaching at our primary school in Uganda.

Life threw many obstacles at Janet. But God had a plan for her life. Because of her determination and the support of her sponsors, Janet is right where she is meant to be. ■



Emmanuel Graduated!

Remember Emmanuel from our Fall 2020 Newsletter? He graduated in December after studying public health in Malawi!

Before graduating, Emmanuel said, "When I finish university, I want to impact my family, community, and tell everyone that people with albinism have rights and they can do anything in their life."

Emmanuel already has several job interviews lined up for positions in the field of public health. We can't wait to see what he does next!

Remember Emmanuel from the last newsletter?

