

SPRING
2019

Memory Books



For Children



A NEW LEVEL ADVENTURE

by Comfort Akpajeshi

Teaching children the truth that God has a loving plan and purpose for their lives

Though a Memory Book is simply paper and plastic, we have trusted God to do miracles of healing in broken hearts of children as they use the Memory Book and attend Memory Books Clubs to help them tell their stories.

Since 2011, thousands of Memory Books have been distributed throughout Nigeria. Only God knows the reach Memory Books has had across Nigeria—until now. We are pleased to share Comfort Akpajeshi's story with you, from her letter dated February 20, 2019:

"I have suffered loss and grief. My story is that I lost my dad three months before I was born and afterwards I grew up with my maternal uncle and his wife. Because I was not showed love, I followed bad friends who made me feel as though no one cared for me. So I took to ways that led me to sin; when God himself found me, He made me know that He cares for me. My passion for children started in 1999 when God began to impress on my heart to identify

Pictured left: Comfort Akpajeshi

with the children's ministry in my local church. After some few months of reluctance, I finally surrendered to the heavenly vision in the year 2000 when I trained with the Children Evangelism Ministry (CEM); In 2011 I trained with the Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) as a children's evangelist. In 2014, I attended a training with the sports movement ReadySetGo—a mission strategy using sports and play to evangelize to children. All this was as a result for my passion to see children growing up early in Christ.

I got to know about Memory Books in July 2016 at a retreat for teachers of children at Bida, Niger State, Nigeria. After hearing about Memory Books, I knew that was just it: EVERYONE MATTERS TO GOD.

*My first correspondence to Memory Books for Children was in October 2016; I did not receive a reply to my inquiry, but I kept praying. In September 2018 I received an email of apology for the delay in responding. In October 2018 I received through my postal mail a Memory Book, a year planner, a training manual, a book titled **I Am Somebody**, and also a (continued on back)*

...gifting vulnerable children worldwide through Memory Books...

Building Hope

Second Support Building Dedication Ceremony

Tanzania, Africa

In 2014, I (Tamara) traveled to Kenya to use a research-based approach to discover if a Memory Book can promote resiliency in a child experiencing grief and loss. During that trip, I met Rev. David Musumba, who has since visited us in the United States. Recently, Rev. Musumba completed a difficult journey into Tanzania to a refugee camp to represent the Memory Book Team at the dedication ceremony for support buildings and restrooms funded by Memory Books. Over 1,200 children and dozens adult volunteers participate in Memory Book Club at the camp. Thank you, Pastor Musumba for your heart for the children of Africa!

Rev. David Musumba (center) with Memory Books volunteers

Since 2006, Innocent Abwe has graciously and sacrificially coordinated Memory Book Club for Congolese refugees in Tanzania, some of whom have lived their entire lives away from their homeland. He coordinated the building of two support buildings and twenty restrooms.

Recently, the civil war in Burundi forced citizens to flee their country. Thousands ended up in the same refugee camp in Tanzania. Innocent has now organized training of adult volunteers for Memory Book Club for Burundi children and has begun construction of another support building. —Ron and Tamara Faris



...helping children preserve and tell their stories...



Memory Book Time

Partnering with Lahash International

Rwanda, Africa



In Spring 2018, seventy-five children attending a feeding program sponsored by Lahash International* at the Hope Vocational Training Center (HVTC) outside Kigali, Rwanda, were introduced to the use of Memory Books to help them tell their own unique stories.

During the weekly Saturday program in a safe environment, children write and/or draw inside a personal Memory Book, share with others using a talking stick and hear a lesson designed to promote self-identity and worth in the midst of traumatic crisis.



Less than a year later (January 2019), the benefit to children of participating in a Memory Book Club is clear, according to Claudine, HVTC staff and Lahash facilitator: "You can easily see the impact of Memory Book Club based on testimonies by children. Some of them are no longer feeling alone and they are really interested when it is a Memory Book time. Some of the children were easily angered or annoyed before Memory Book Club began due to their background and wellness. Thanks to Memory Book Club lessons, children became more expressive, eager to learn and good storytellers." Claudine recommends placing Memory Book Clubs in secondary schools to promote self-expression of students' unique stories.



*Lahash International (lahash.org), an Oregon based not-for-profit organization, partners with African churches to holistically care for vulnerable children. Lahash means 'whispered prayer' and reminds us that God is answering the prayers of many lonely and forgotten children through the compassionate care of a global community.

Lahash Servant Team members
(left to right): Yvette G., Eryn E.,
Mandee C., Valeria C. & Nicole V.



...leading children to know grace through Jesus Christ...

(continued from cover)

lovely card. This literature further highlighted my interest in exploring the boundless opportunities to reaching out to and reaching children for Christ. After that I requested a thousand Memory Books that were received in October/November 2018.



I cast the vision for Memory Book Clubs in November 2018 with fifteen volunteers from various communities. On February 2, 2019, twenty volunteers

were trained. So far we have reached out to 980 children. We have about twenty-six Memory Book Clubs being handled by thirty-five volunteers in various communities in Niger state.

The level of awesomeness to the Memory Book for children has been very overwhelming in Bida and part of Minna and Kotongora and other communities in Niger state. The Memory Book experience, coupled with my background training as a children's evangelist, has opened a new chapter in my passion for children. This has been a new level experience with a big potential of making children's evangelism a new adventure.

I must say this without missing words: my involvement with the Memory Book Clubs have made me realize how I am important to God and also that I matter to Him. God is touching lives and healing is taking place. I AM UNIQUE, WONDERFULLY AND

FEARFULLY MADE BY GOD. That is what the Memory Book is all about. Grateful to be part of Memory Book Clubs!" —Comfort

In early 2019, Memory Books received a request from Comfort for an additional 2,000 Memory Books for children of surrounding communities where she continues to train and equip others. In addition, Memory Books has just received the single largest request ever for 10,000 Memory Books for children in Nigeria.

As these requests for additional Memory Books are filled, we will have gifted Memory Books to over 55,000 children throughout the world.

As you can see, the need is great. A Memory Book can be placed in the hands of a child for just \$10 (this includes purchase of the book itself and includes shipping). Please accept our sincere gratitude for helping us meet these requests.

Donations gladly accepted online at memorybooks4children.com or mail to Memory Books, P.O. Box 1372, Gresham, Oregon 97030.



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For updates from the field be sure to visit and LIKE us on Facebook

100% of all donations to Love Joy Peace/Memory Books are used to ship and gift a child with a Memory Book. No monies contributed to Memory Books for Children (Love Joy Peace 501c3) are used for purposes other than to place a Memory Book in the hands of a child. No donation monies contribute to the stories mentioned in this newsletter or for any other gift beyond a Memory Book. All administrative costs, newsletters, website, fundraising, travel, and training are fully funded separately through donations of Ron & Tamara Faris and volunteers.

...teaching children the truth that "I am somebody!"...