

# FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE

In February, a young woman attracted the attention of the Woman in Action team on the streets of town in Lagos. Her poor physical appearance and downcast expression immediately moved them. When they approached her, she revealed that she was hungry and had not eaten in a while.

Touched by her predicament, the Woman in Action team provided her with a meal and invited her to attend services in the Universal Church.



However, they lost track of her until last month when they spotted her passing by the church gates. Delighted to see her again, they told her about an



event taking place on that Sunday which she attended. From then on, she started attending services in the church regularly.

They learnt that the young woman, named Favor, aged about 19 years old, had come to Lagos through a friend's promise of better opportunities in the big city. To her dismay, she discovered that the only job open to her would be prostitution. Refusing to engage in such activities, she suffered physical and emotional abuse from her friend and



was eventually thrown out onto the streets, where she slept on the stairs of a nearby bakery.

However, things changed when one of the church's assistants noticed job advertisements at the bakery where the young woman slept. They helped her apply for the job for which she was hired and started work. The bakery manager was touched by her story and promised to provide accommodation for her.

Interestingly, she had prior experience working in bakeries from her home village, which made it an ideal job for her. Before landing the bakery job, she survived by collecting plastic bottles on the streets to sell, but the income was insufficient for her basic needs.

Now, with a stable job and unexpected blessings, she plans to support herself and save money to visit her family back in her home village. The church members are delighted with the positive change in her life, considering she has only been attending church for a month.



Through further counselling and medical assessments, it was discovered that her family had been searching for her for over a year. Thanks to the efforts of a woman from her village, her family

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was finally located, and they were overjoyed to reunite with her.

The young woman's appearance and well-being have greatly improved, thanks to the church's support and God's grace. Her family, along with the church members, expressed their gratitude for the positive turn of events.

This touching story not only brought happiness to one soul but also opened doors for the church to start working with the UPF (Universal in Police Force) at police stations. They are grateful for the opportunity to reach out to more souls and make a positive impact in their lives.