

A Mother's Plea for Her Daughter

Collected by the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative, August 2016

Tags: Nigeria, Chibok, Education, Children, Captivity, Acts 9:32-43

During the night of Monday, April 14, 2014, Boko Haram abducted 276 girls from the Government Secondary School in the town of Chibok in northeastern Nigeria. The student population was almost entirely Christian and the only crime committed by the students was their desire to pursue an education.



After waiting 700 days in hope that her daughter might be released, in April 2016, Esther Yakubu released a powerful letter of hope written to her daughter Dorcas.

Dorcas was so-named by her mother Esther to honor a New Testament leader “full of good works” with a well-regarded reputation for personally making and distributing clothes to widows and the poor (Acts 9:32-43). Perhaps Dorcas is living up to her name as she was selected by Boko Haram to be a spokesperson for a video they released in August 2016 to prove that many of the Chibok Government Secondary School girls remained in their captivity. The video shows a group of young women packed tightly together some sitting, some standing, some crying, some holding babies born from the rapes of forced “marriages.” Dorcas was standing in front of the others. Leaning forward and speaking softly into a small handheld lapel microphone, Dorcas uttered what must have seemed an anemic reflection on two years of captivity at the hands of one of the most violent terrorist organizations in the world: “There is no kind of suffering we haven’t seen.”

Esther’s, April 2016 video to Dorcas, is a powerful mother’s plea for her daughter. The video can be found on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nU9FzYOWNJE&feature=youtu.be>. Esther writes:

Dear Maida [Dorcas],

It has been a long time since I have heard from you. How are you and your friends, wherever you are? Hoping that you are doing better, or managing life, and I know that the angel of the Lord Almighty is with you, and he will continue to be with you wherever you are.

You don’t have any idea of the plans I have been planning for you all this while. Since from birth, I’ve been planning for you, your life, your education, your health, before you were kidnapped. I wanted you to go to university, because I’ve never been there. I planned that for you.

I bought a sewing machine for you, and a traveling bag, and some sets of clothes. But up till now, I’ve not seen or heard anything from you. But I believe that one day I will fulfill that my promise to you, and I will see you again, and my happiness, my joy, my life, will be complete with you.

I want you to ask the Lord Almighty to be with you, to guide you, and to protect you wherever you are. Your guardian angel is there with you, and the Lord is there with you and he will see you through. I know I miss you, but I have that heart and that hope that one day I will see you again.