

together | everywhere

Together with all those everywhere who
call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
1 Corinthians 1:2

Someday, When You Are a Man

by Phyllis Sortor, Nigeria

Baruwa, a Fulani student at Hope Academy, and I spent a Sunday afternoon together at the grazing reserve. In the car on the way back to school, I asked, “What is the best thing about school, Baruwa, and what has been hardest for you?”

“In everything there is advantage and disadvantage,” Baruwa said. “The disadvantage has been some bad friends who try to give me poor advice. But I don’t listen to them. My faith in God is helping me not to follow bad advice.

“The advantage in school is learning about the world around me; it’s like coming out of darkness into the light. I didn’t know anything before – only our little village and following cows. Now the whole world has been made clear to me. I have learned so much, and I know where I’m going. What I want to do in my life.”

“What is that, Baruwa? What do you want to do in your life?”

“I want to go on to university, become a teacher like the teachers I have known here in this school. But also, I have had dreams,” he went on. “In the night I have dreamed that I’m standing at a pulpit, preaching. In other dreams, a shining white light comes into my room and someone talks to me about a future of serving Him.”

“I think that was Jesus, Baruwa.”

“Yes. I believe it was. I believe in Jesus, you know, but I’m terribly afraid that my family will find out. If they find out, they will pull me out of school and do worse things to me.”

“Baruwa, Jesus understands that. You can trust Jesus in your heart. Pray to Him privately, and He will watch over you, keep you safe. Someday when you’re a man, you can freely choose to openly follow Jesus and follow Him into the life of service He is preparing for you.”

“I know. I will do that. I am praying and leaving everything to God. It’s good to know God’s Word and follow it. That’s what gives me hope in my life. Knowing that God loves me and is caring for me. Knowing that He will give me the best future possible. I will still help my parents in any way I can, but I will follow God.”

Back at Hope Academy, I pulled the car up to the boarding house. Baruwa and I sat on the veranda and played awhile with the children who were happily munching on a snack and cuddling close for some affection. Baruwa is a favorite with the smallest children and will be a wonderful father someday.

And, I believe, a powerful preacher and follower of Jesus.

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