



**CHANGE AGENT NETWORK, INC.**

Breaking The Cycle Of Poverty Through Education

# Eric Wowoh's incredible story

Eric Willise Wowoh is a Christian Social Entrepreneur. He is an author, a humanitarian and philanthropist. He currently lives in Dallas, Texas USA. Eric lived with his parents in Liberia, Africa, as a young child. His life was peaceful and stable until a brutal war broke out in 1989.

When Eric was twelve, he was captured by rebel fighters. They beat and tortured him, but he was miraculously saved. He left his country and became an international refugee in exile. As a teenager, he lived in twelve different refugee camps in eleven different nations in West Africa and was separated from his entire family for about twenty years.

In 2002, when Eric was twenty-three, a Nigerian friend and Christian brother gave him a computer in the Oru Refugee Camp in Ogun State, Nigeria. He learned how to use the computer and began training other refugees from all over the continent of Africa, eventually impacting the lives of many across the world.

In 2006, he relocated to Lafayette, Louisiana USA through a refugee resettlement program administered by the US Government and the Catholic Diocese of Acadiana. He arrived in the U.S. with no luggage, no passport, no ID, no phone, no money, no home, and no friends. By the grace of God and with the help of many, he established Change Agent Network, an international nonprofit organization that is contributing to the world in big ways and transforming Liberia through education.

From the origins of that one single desktop computer, Eric and his organization have built 14 schools in 6 counties of Liberia, educating over 3,000 underserved and vulnerable children, 200 employees on payroll nationwide and graduated more than 2000 students, many of whom have become meaningful contributors to society. One such student is Jerolinmek Piah, the former Presidential Press Secretary to former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia.



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“My life was saved and transformed positively so that I can change the lives of others.”



Out of the 14 schools that have been built all around the country, only five of them are belonging to ON-LIB and are under the leadership and direct management of Mr. Eric Willise Wowoh and the Opportunity Network Liberia. The other 9 schools are owned and managed by some of our partner organizations and individuals in Liberia.

## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CAN & ON-LIB

Mr. Wowoh first established and registered CAN as a nonprofit organization in the Oru-Ijebu Refugee Camp in Ogun State, Nigeria in 2002. He brought CAN to Liberia in 2005 and registered it as a nonprofit organization with the Liberian Government. In 2007, Mr. Wowoh moved to the USA and once again registered CAN with the American Government as a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. Change Agent Network (CAN) is presently based in Dallas, Texas USA.

From 2006 through 2020, Change Agent Network USA has been working in Liberia through a partnership agreement with Change Agent Network-Liberia, Inc which is locally owned and managed by Liberians headed by Pastor. Kollie Jallah. However, in July of 2020, Mr. Eric Wowoh, the Founder and Executive Director of Change Agent Network USA, decided to extend his nonprofit organization (Change Agent Network



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USA) operations to Liberia to do business directly in the country with the Liberian people.

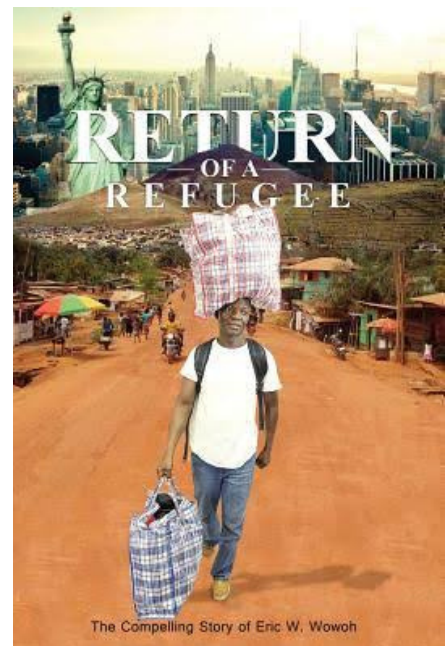
On July 29, 2020, the Liberia Business Registry (LBR) granted Change Agent Network USA, the authority to do business in Liberia as an International Nonprofit Organization using the name Opportunity Network Liberia, Inc. (ON-LIB) Mr. Momo V. Ware is the Country Representative of Opportunity Network Liberia, Inc. He is a Liberian citizen from Jundu Town, Grand Cape Mount County, Liberia. Mr. Ware is currently a resident of Jacob's Town Rehab Community, Lower Johnsonville, Montserrado County, Liberia.

“My life was saved and transformed positively so that I can change the lives of others. We are all called to live our lives for a cause greater than ourselves, serving others and making the world a more peaceful, stable and prosperous godly place for every human being,” states Eric Wowoh.

“We must leave the world better than we met it for the generation following. We can either choose to let tragedy and hardships to turn us into bitter, self-serving individuals or into humble servants who want no one else to experience what we have.”

## Grab your copy of Eric's book, Return of A Refugee

This book shows firsthand how trauma and rejection turns a young African boy into a man committed to sacrificing his everything to transform the lives of others in a hurting world. This is the author's emotional true-life story. It shows how he turned his tears, pains and struggles into a pathway of positive change, hope and opportunity in part for those who hurt and almost kill him. In spite of the fact that he had lived his entire life going through unimaginable atrocities at the hands of fellow human beings, he genuinely still believes in humanity, goodwill and God.



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## WHEN, HOW AND WHY ERIC BECAME A CHRISTIAN

Christmas was the best time of the year in the refugee camp, so we always looked forward to it. As refugees, we wish that every day was Christmas because it was during the month of December of every year that different religious denominations such as Catholic, Methodist, Baptists, Pentecostals etc. brought relief supplies to the refugees. During Christmas, we would get a lot of food, clothing, shoes, and lot of goodies. But unfortunately, these things only lasted for like two to three weeks. And then, suddenly, all these wonderful Christians would disappear into thin air after the festive period was over. We would not see them again till probably the following year's Christmas. And we would be like, what happened, where have all these people gone? Christ's birthday celebration was short-lived for us in the refugee camp. So, we had a joke about that, which is Christ has come during Christmas and everything is great and beautiful for the refugees.

We felt the real love of Christ only during Christmas through these Christians. And then, Christ suddenly vanished after the end of December and then, we are back to our normal everyday crisis of no food, no water, and no relief supplies. Jesus Christ visited the refugee camp, and everyone would be happy. Then, suddenly, Christ disappeared, and everyone would be sad because the crisis was back again and our struggles for our survival needs continued. Why is it that Jesus cannot just stay in the refugee camp with us so that we can just be happy together? We would joke among ourselves and laugh at our situation and the response we got from the rest of the world.

However, there was a law that no one should speak to the refugees about religion because religion was responsible for most of the conflicts around the world. Nevertheless, there were very few tenacious Christians I described as "radicals for Jesus." These radicals would not quit, no matter what the challenges, the obstacles, or the unfriendly reception they got from the refugees were. These die-hard Jesus lovers kept coming to the camp and they had a very good strategy. They would normally come to the refugee camp between 4:00 to 5:00AM everyday to preach the Good News of Christ. They would come into the camp with a megaphone or bullhorn in one hand and the Bible in another, walking and preaching for about three hours around the camp. There was no organized congregation, audience, or specific platform. The refugee camp was divided into alphabetical orders ranging from area A



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through area Z. So, these evangelists would take a specific area and focus on that place each morning as they preached the Gospel. This strategy was effective because the refugees were all in camp in the early hours of the day. They were not out in the jungle nor in the streets searching for food, water or simply busy trying to provide for themselves. Everyone had the opportunity to hear the Gospel. There was no public disturbance law that would have prevented them from preaching the Gospel using the bullhorn.

So, December 1992 was a very difficult year for us as refugees. We were told by the various aid agencies including the government of our host nation that there were not enough ration/food supplies to give the refugees for the month of December that year. The donor nations did not send sufficient food donation to our refugee camp. Therefore, the little food that was in store was going to be distributed among the most vulnerable refugees such as children, the sick, and the elderly. So, able-bodied people like me and others were left out. We were mad and frustrated about this situation. This was the worst Christmas I ever had as a refugee. Around the end of December 1992, a certain Pastor/Evangelist came to the refugee camp to preach as usual. It was around 4:00AM, I was lying down on the dirty floor in my tent in the refugee camp halfway asleep and hungry of course when I heard a man preaching in English got stuck around my tent area. Guinea Republic where we were as refugees is a French speaking nation. Initially, I was not paying attention to what the preacher was saying, but later, he got my attention when he started asking some real tough questions that I couldn't answer.

First, he said, "God loves you so much that He saved your life from the war and carnage in your country Liberia and brought you out into exile. Jesus died on the cross of Calvary so that you might live. He proceeded to say that if you don't believe what I am saying, I have few questions to ask you. What did you do or say to save your own life during the war? How fast, how strong, how swift were you able to run for your life? You have been running for so long, when are you going to stop running? What are you running from and what are you running to? If you know exactly what you are doing, when are you going to return home to see your family again? Where are all the people that you believe and trusted; the Liberian Government, the United Nations, the US Government, the African Union, your parents, and family etc? Whatever the society, and your parents taught you, how is it working out for you? God saved your life for a reason." the preacher said.





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He continued, “Jesus is patiently waiting for you to make a U-turn. He wants to come into your life and give you rest and peace. He saved your life and brought you out of Liberia into exile so that He can prepare you and send you back to Liberia to rebuild a destroyed nation, as change agents, to be the generational change makers, and change the culture by giving real hope and opportunity to a lost and forgotten people. God is going to do this for you as He did with the Prophet Nehemiah. God has big plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11” The preacher said, “If you are tired of running, fighting, and struggling, why don’t you give it up to Jesus?”

I couldn’t answer any of the questions mentioned above asked by the preacher. But I knew deep down in my heart that he was right. I was convinced and wanted to make a change in my heart because I couldn’t disprove, argue, or defend myself.

The preacher extended the invitation to me to give my life to Jesus that morning. He said, “If you are that boy, girl, man or woman who is exhausted, drained, wrecked, and hopeless under the sound of my voice and you want to give Jesus a chance, I want to pray for you wherever you are. You don’t need to come out here to me, just kneel and close your eyes, and I will pray for you.”

For the very first time in my life, I knelt and surrendered everything to Jesus. I never came out of my tent to see that man. I knew he was a man because of the sound of his voice. After praying, the preacher said “I don’t have food to give you, I don’t have any money, clothes, shoes, medications to give you. I don’t have a Bible to give, nor do I have any church to recommend to you. But I can assure you that Jesus has a way of taking care of His children and I believe that He will certainly take very good care of you and take you to places you never ever imagined possible.”

Jesus has never ever disappointed me since I made that decision to follow Him. He has been good and faithful over the years. Coming from a totally and completely broken background, I mean, here I am today living in the United States, running an international nonprofit that is changing the world in big ways. Honestly, no one can script this story no matter how hard they try. Yes indeed, it’s just God!

I believe that preacher must have gone home that day, probably feeling discouraged, disappointed that after three hours of early morning preaching in the refugee camp, no one got saved. I never met nor talked with him to let him know that I got saved. But



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here I am today sharing this great story of grace and redemption with you and the whole world about the sacrifice of that preacher man, God's love, grace, favor, and faithfulness. I HAVE NO REGRETS MAKING THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION TO FOLLOW JESUS!

Prior to the civil war in Liberia, I was misled by the people in our community that Christianity was a brainwashing tool designed in the West and aimed at turning African children against their parents' will, culture, identity, lifestyles, and tradition. They said that Jesus dying on the cross for the sins of the world was not real. They claimed the entire Bible was a made-up storybook with wonderful fictional stories to deceive people. Before I became born again, the thoughts that always ran through my mind then were, if Jesus is for real, and that He died on the cross to set me free as Christians want us to believe, why am I stuck in the refugee camp for years? I have no food and water, no hospital, proper dwelling place, opportunity, and no hope. I have lost my parents, been separated from home for many years. I left my community, loved ones, family members, and of course my parents in a war-raged country.

How do you explain to a minor or people living in exile who have lost everything that Jesus loves them? I did not want to have anything to do with Christianity because of these reasons. I felt like even if Jesus was for real, why would he allow all these terrible things to happen to us? I didn't think that Jesus cared about me or loved me at all. Nevertheless, after accepting Christ that night in my heart, six years of more hardships, struggles and pains of my refuge journey, I relocated to Ghana, West Africa where I finally got baptized in 1996 at the Buduburam Refugee Camp.