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## Chosen for a Purpose

Jesus delights in using unexpected people. Our Lord did not peruse the population of Israel for the "most likely to succeed" when selecting His disciples. Instead, He chose fishermen, a tax collector, a demon-possessed harlot (redeemed!), and several were likely political extremists. The Savior-King still delights in transforming and using **unexpected people** today.

## **Changed for a Lifetime**

In West Africa, the physically or mentally handicapped are often considered a curse or not able to contribute to the family. When Community Health Evangelism (CHE) penetrates the visibly handicapped community, it causes shock waves. That is why we eagerly encourage the start of a Disabilities CHE ministry in Cote d'Ivoire. Those exposed have already changed how they do ministry, but none, to our knowledge, have started a dedicated effort. Here is a story from a neighboring African country of a disabled CHE worker, one of those "unexpected people," that the Lord uses to bless a whole community.

"Mary is a woman with a disability – marginalized and ostracized by her community – definitely not the "go-to" person for help or advice. But recently, Mary had the opportunity to participate in a 4-month wholistic discipleship program called Transformation Training. A couple of days after one of the training classes, Mary was awakened in the middle of the night by the sound of wailing from her neighbor's house. She knew her neighbor's young son had been sick, so she ran next door to see what had happened. She found the child unconscious from severe dehydration. Only a couple of days earlier, Mary had completed a lesson on treatment for diarrhea and dehydration. She knew what the child needed. Without wasting time, Mary mixed up oral rehydration solution as she had been taught, and began to spoon it into the boy's mouth. She sat with the boy all night, spooning the solution into his mouth. By morning, the boy had regained consciousness, and the family was amazed. They regained hope for his life, rather than resignation for his death. He was taken to the clinic for treatment and made a full recovery! Without Mary's quick, decisive, and well-informed action, the boy would have died!

Mary didn't stop there. When she received training on the prevention of COVID-19, she quickly



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took that knowledge back to her village as well. Now many in her village know what to do to prevent the spread of viral illness. And Mary, formerly thought of as nothing, is a hero in her village! She has gained respect and has skills and gifts to use for the flourishing of her whole community" (Story of Kim Kargbo, MK and RN, President and CEO of Accessible Hope International, shared by the Global CHE Network via email on April 21, 2020).

## **Prayer & Praise:**

- Pray for ministries underway through CHE to the physically handicapped. Ask the Lord to multiply these effective outreaches all over the world.
- Cote d'Ivoire's COVID-19 cases have just surpassed 1,200. Due to the increase, the government extends the people's joint efforts to limit close physical contact through the middle of May.
- Living in rural Tennessee is a blessing these days. Restaurants and stores reopen here with some limitations. We hope all reading can soon enjoy a loosening of COVID-19 social restrictions as well.

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin and Debbie Anderson

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