

PROGRESSION OF SLAVERY IN AFRICA

February 2014, Issue 4

“Beyond Abeeda, Surviving Ten Years of Slavery in Sudan”

One night, Abuk Bak’s master went too far and stabbed her, and that was when Abuk decided she needed to escape from slavery. In the early 1900’s, Abuk Bak was abducted from her village and taken to be a slave near a town called Daien in Sudan. While Abuk was a slave, she was fed nothing but leftover scraps, forced to sleep on a patch of dirt, had to take care of the house and animals, and suffered many beatings. Sleeping was the only time that she felt safe, but as Abuk grew into a woman, her master would show up beside her and try to use her for his pleasure. After Abuk escaped, she came across a man who spoke the same language as her who was named Majak. Majak arranged for his brother to marry Abuk so she could get the necessary permits to travel, and within time she was reconnected with her family. After being called Abeeda for ten years, which meant black slave, she was finally Abuk again.

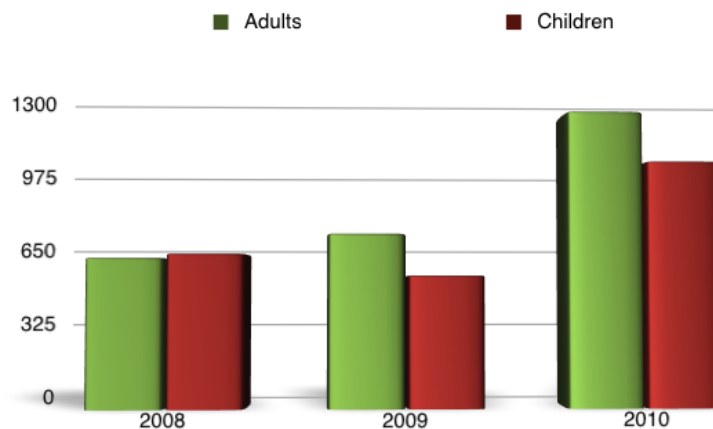
“WHILE ABUK WAS A SLAVE, SHE WAS FED NOTHING BUT LEFTOVER SCRAPS, FORCED TO SLEEP ON A PATCH OF DIRT, HAD TO TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE AND ANIMALS, AND SUFFERED MANY BEATINGS.”

Tessa Weisenberger



The country Sudan in Africa was where Abuk was enslaved at.

Total Victims Detected in Nigeria, 2008-2010



*estimated amount of adult and children victims in 2010

The amount of women and children victims that were detected in Nigeria from 2008-2010.

Statistics of Slavery in Nigeria

Barack Obama once said, "I'm talking about the injustice, the outrage, of human trafficking, which must be called by its true name—modern slavery." There are approximately 30 million slaves throughout the world today. In just the Middle East and Africa, 6,300 victims of trafficking were detected from 2007-2010, and about 2/3 of the victims were children. Also, about 49% of victims are involved in forced labour, 36% involved in sexual exploitation, 14% involved in other types of exploitation, such as child soldiers and trafficking for rituals, and .8% of victims are forced into organ removal. Nigeria is just one of the many countries in Africa throughout the world that is involved with human trafficking.

Jamie Mosher

Inside Ancient Africa

Ancient African Society

In Ancient Africa, family was the basic unit of society and everyone worked together. These families belonged to a clan, a group with a common ancestor. All boys and girls born in the same year were in one age grade, and each age grade contained particular privileges. The Neolithic Revolution led to permanent agricultural settlements. The community built strong relationships through the common task of farming. Everybody helped one another to clear the land, plant crops and harvest them. In smaller African societies, power was divided among a number of people rather than a centralized single leader. Villages made decisions with consensus or a common agreement. In larger African societies, villages were grouped into districts and governed by officials chosen by a king. A king was chosen by a group of electors, similar to how the president of the United States is chosen. Taxes were collected in the form of goods or cowrie shells which was a common African currency. Africa had no standing army or permanent army of paid soldiers, so their government would need to call upon men if they were to go to war. Throughout history, the society in Medieval Africa has changed and prospered.

Brooke Holcomb



African Americans also used drums to relay important messages because not all oral literature was spoken.

Ancient African Traditions

Ancient African society also developed around religion, art and storytellers. Africans worshipped many gods and goddesses. Ceremonies and rituals took place, so that way, one could influence these forces they believed to be gods. Many Africans believed that a single god was the creator of the universe. By A.D. 1000, Christianity and Islam spread to many regions of Africa. African artists used gold, ivory, wood, and bronze to create bowls, jugs or jewelry. Artists typically had an important message they wanted to share. Gold and blue objects of art showed symbols of power. Cowrie shells, a common replacement of money was used in arts and crafts making. History was preserved through works of written and oral literature. On these written records of Ancient Africa, there is evidence of law and religion.

Oral literature was told by storytellers in West Africa, known as griots. Griots told stories meant to entertain the community by using songs, poems or dances so that way the storytellers can still keep the audience's attention and relay the message behind it. Folk tales taught important moral lessons. Literature, art, and religion all created a sense of community in medieval African societies.

Tom Colley



Slavery occurred in Africa in the 1700's to the 1800's and still exists today.

An African bracelet made out of cowrie shells.



Short stories from the African Slave Trade

Capture and Enslavement of Equiano

Olaudah Equiano was an 11 year old boy from southeastern Nigeria. Enslaved in the 1750s, Olaudah and his sister were kidnapped while one day when they were left home alone. Both were separated and sold to different masters. Grieving for days, Olaudah would not eat unless forced. Some of the families Olaudah was sold to treated him well and made him forget he was a slave, while others did not. Once, however; Olaudah was reunited with his sister for a short period of time, which made him very happy until they were separated again. Olaudah never saw her again. Once again, Olaudah was traded for 172 white shells which was their currency and taken to Tinmah. Olaudah one morning, still feeling lost without his family ran away. Seven months after being kidnapped, Olaudah finally arrived at the Sea Coast, and 35 years later, he wrote his story to be published in 1789.



Olaudah Equiano after he found liberty.

Tom Colley



Job was taken from his home country, Gambia to Maryland where he was a slave. Then, he was taken to England to meet the Royal family and soon after sent back to Gambia to become a free man.

Ayuba's Capture and Return to Africa

An educated Muslim by the name of Ayuba Suleiman Diallo, was captured by militiamen while selling negroes at the Gambia River in February of 1730. Also known as Job, he was shipped off to Maryland where he became a slave. Job liked to wander, and he was found and sent to prison, where he was recognized for his intelligence. Job was taken back to his master and was treated much better than before. A man named James Oglethorpe found a letter Job sent to his father, and arranged for Job to have his freedom in writing. On February 14, 1735 Job was sent back to Gambia where he sent a messenger up to acquaint his friends of his arrival.

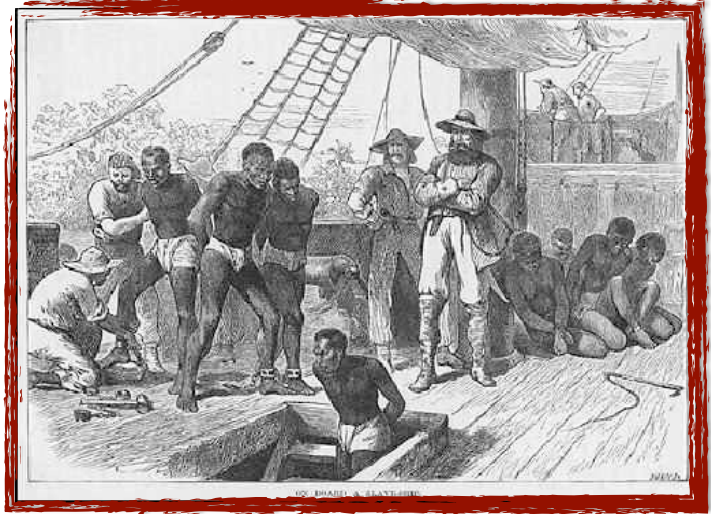
Tessa Weisenberger

Short stories from the African Slave Trade

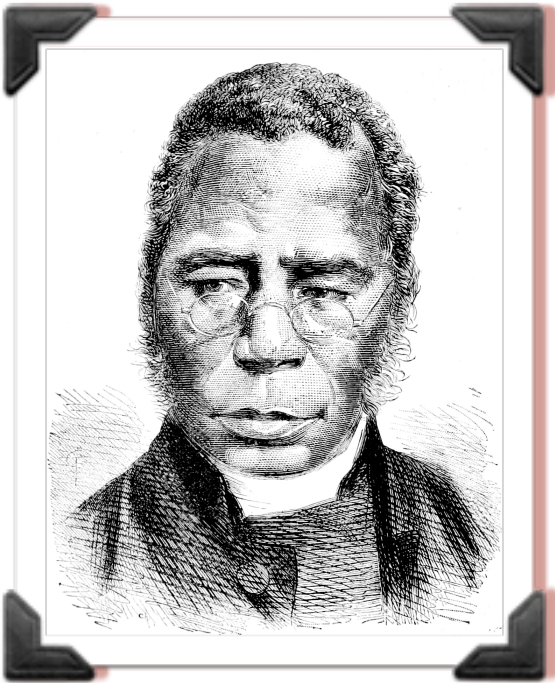
John Newton: From Slave Trader to Abolitionist

John Newton knew human trafficking in 1788 from two perspectives; he was a slave for the African slave trade, but was also the master's mate of one, and master of two trans-atlantic slaving expeditions. Newton experienced the weather, inadequate shelter, food, fatigueness, and diseases that affected the seamen and slaves, the catastrophes that occurred on the ship, the unmerciful whippings sentenced to slaves, along with the deaths that happened frequently throughout the African slave trade. Newton was also an abolitionist because he wanted to put an end to slavery.

Jamie Mosher



African slaves on a ship in the late 1780's getting chained up and punished by their master.



The former slave, Samuel Ajayi Crowther, who later became a bishop.

Enslavement and Liberation of Samuel Ajayi Crowther

Samuel Ajayi Crowther was thirteen years old when he was captured and enslaved during war in Nigeria, with the enemy, the Oyo Mohamedans in the March of 1820. Ajayi was separated from his family and sold to many different masters during his enslavement. Many times he was brought to the market town with chains around his ankles and sold for tobacco and rum. Ajayi suffered so badly, the thought of suicide lingered inside him. The ships kept all the men and boys cramped into one room and when fighting broke out, everyone was brutally punished. Finally in 1822, Ajayi along with 5 other boys were taken aboard the *Myrmidon*, a British anti-slave ship and soon found his freedom.

Brooke Holcomb