

## **Cinderella - It's No Fairy Tale**

### **By Dennis W. Ford**

Her first given name is Cinderella, her second given name is Rebecca, and she comes from the neighboring country of Uganda. Cinderella Rebecca has a remarkable story, so she was invited by the TWR Kenya office to come and share how God had touched and changed her life, and how God was using her to help advance His Kingdom. Cinderella is very poor, uneducated, and untrained, yet God is working in and through her life.

The date is March 9, 2000 and the time is 0800. Cinderella Rebecca is introduced to share her testimony. A rather large middle-aged woman, wearing an old and dingy white dress, begins by reading in her own language a passage from 1 Peter 2:11-12. Her words are translated into English. Her report to all of us is powerful, yet unpretentious. You see, Cinderella had called the TWR Kenya office a few weeks previous and requested 18 Bibles. When asked about why she needed 18 Bibles, she told the following story which was being told to all of us for the first time.

*"In 1989, I began listening to "Neno" (Swahili), translated, 'The Word' (Thru the Bible Program) and God touched my heart and life and I became a follower of Jesus Christ. I am born-again, clean inside and out. I have a husband and two children and they are also believers because of "Neno." The program made me a Bible reader, so what I heard, I checked it out. Like a cow, I was chewing the cud. I would read ahead so that I knew what was coming. I soon wanted to encourage others to hear what I had been listening to and now there are 29 people who meet in my home every day to listen to Neno from TWR. Recently 18 of these have received Jesus Christ as their Savior, but they have no Bible, so that is why I called and asked for Bibles. Thank you so much for your broadcasts and Bibles. There are many more like me in my country."*

She speaks with controlled emotions, yet clearly and convincingly. Cinderella continues. *"I wanted to do something more for my Lord, so I started visiting the prison near my home in Uganda. This prison holds more than 700 men, 55 women and six children. These are hardened criminals and they trust no one. So I began to love them and build relationships with them, with the purpose to share with them the message of Jesus Christ that I listened to each day from TWR. I would listen to the broadcast, take notes, then go to the prison to share God's truth. I am now the prison chaplain and during the past 10 years, more than 100 of these criminals have been born again. Thank you for your broadcast of the love of Jesus. Thank you for faithful sharing God's Word. Thank you dear Christians in North America for your prayers and financial support."*

When Cinderella had finished, we knew that we were in the presence of one of God's choice servants, yet unknown by the world. This is the power of missionary radio.

PS: I received a follow-up note from Cinderella. It read: "I thought you would be interested to learn that I have been appointed Chaplain of five (5) more prisons. This gives me many more opportunities to share my Jesus."