Seeing it for Themselves
How an eye-opening trip to Africa changed a California couple

Inside: From Living on the Street to a Loving Family: Benny’s Story
Nothing Like Seeing it for Yourself

One couple's eye-opening trip to Africa

“You can go to the banquets and you can receive the letters and you can hear all about the organization, but having gone there and seen it in action, that just cemented it,” says COTN partner Rob Culp. Rob and his wife Julie saw COTN's ministry firsthand on an emotional trip to Malawi in February.

The Southern California couple first learned about Children of the Nations (COTN) through their friend Eric Nachtrieb, COTN's vice president of operations. Rob heard stories about COTN's need in Malawi firsthand with another nonprofit. "You can go to the banquets and you can receive the letters and you can hear all about the organization, but having gone there and seen it in action, that just cemented it," says COTN partner Rob Culp. Rob and Julie visited their village in February. They noticed a group of children on the side of the road, playing what looked like an odd sort of game. A COTN translator explained that the children were catching flying ants to eat them. "That reinforced how the need is so great," Rob says.

The next day, hours before the Culps had to fly home, the COTN-Malawi staff surprised Rob and Julie with a visit from the two girls they had just sponsored. They gave them a bread roll and a cup of tea. But Rob just stood there, waiting.

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“The kids have to have skin in the game,” Julie says. “I can’t wait to see them again! I’ll say it for myself: you have to go to know.”

From Living on the Street to a Loving Family: Benny’s Story

On his first morning at COTN’s home in Sierra Leone, Benny woke up and went to the kitchen. Aunty Mary handed him a bread roll and a cup of tea. But Benny just stood there, waiting.

Like most of our children, Benny’s life was full of pain and injustice before we met him. His father died of Ebola. Then his mother got a new husband, who kicked him out. As a small boy, Benny was sent to live on the streets.

This little boy survived by doing odd jobs in return for food. He came home and slept on the porch at night.

And that’s why Benny just stood there when Aunty Mary handed him breakfast. Benny is now part of a loving family. His stepfather didn’t let him inside. Thanks to you, he’s in school. He has a clean bed to sleep on, and he has a family and a hope for the future.

Benny’s heartbreaking past will always be part of his story. But it won’t define his future. Now, thanks to generous partners like you, he has food every day. He’s in school. He has a clean bed to sleep on, in a house. And best of all, Benny now understands that he has a family and a hope for the future.

Do you have a heart for children who need this kind of love? Through our Double Your Donation challenge, your generous gift will be instantly doubled—up to $300,000—to provide more for children like Benny; children who are still waiting to be told, “Yes, this is for you.”

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For specific concert information, contact COTN’s Marketing Manager, Rachel Wilson, at 360-633-1630 or rachelwilson@cotni.org.

Hear our interview with George at cotni.org/podcast.
Here’s what you’ve made possible in 2017!

Already this year, you’ve made amazing things possible through your partnership with COTN. Here are some highlights:

• A new well in the Dominican Republic is providing clean water for hundreds of children.

• In Haiti, the I Love Soccer initiative is giving children a chance to play and learn about Jesus.

• In Malawi, you helped build a new dining hall and provided food during the hunger season.

• In Sierra Leone, you’re helping to build a new school (photo below).

• Our children in Uganda received small business training that will empower them toward sustainable futures.

Thank you for all you continue to do on behalf of the children!

During the Double Your Donation Challenge, your generous gift will be instantly doubled—up to $300,000—to provide more attention to nutrition, medical care, education, discipleship, and more for children in need.

If you’ve already given, thank you!
And if you haven’t, there’s still time to double your gift. But only if you give by August 15!

Check out the Beyond the Village podcast!
Stories about your children, and how you’re changing their lives.
Listen at cotni.org/podcast OR

SoundCloud
iTunes

Children of the Nations (COTN) seeks to be the best possible steward of our partners’ finances. In cases where financial gifts exceed program/project budgets, or where local conditions prevent program/project implementation, COTN will redirect funds to activities that are identified as most needed or will have the biggest impact on the children and families we serve.

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Vision
Raising Children Who Transform Nations®

COTN Mission
To provide holistic, Christ-centered care for orphaned and destitute children, enabling them to create positive and lasting change in their nations.

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