

## Syntiche



Typical African bush village.

**Life is hard in an African village.  
Each day is a struggle.**

Going to the well for water. Walking to the market for food. Gathering sticks to make a fire to cook a little rice for a meal.

Now, imagine doing all of that while pregnant – as so many young girls in Africa must.

No prenatal care, no vitamins. Just a midwife. A woman whose only credentials for delivering a baby is that she has managed to live through her own child birthing experience, and perhaps has assisted another.

Going through hours of labor in 110-degree heat, the only comfort these girls receive is the wet rag rubbed over their brow at infrequent intervals. If they're lucky, the village witch doctor is not there, shouting and dancing. He waits to see if she lives or dies. If she dies, her baby will be sacrificed on an ant hill, or smothered, or drowned.

A common scenario repeated everyday in West African villages.

**Syntiche's birth was much the same – with one horrifying twist!**

Syntiche and her sister entered this world together, as twins – the ultimate curse.

Two tiny baby girls. Too tiny to even cry. No one wants to touch them.

Attention is momentarily turned back to the mother. Her previous “female circumcision” has caused extensive damage during the delivery. She's bleeding profusely, and no one knows what to do.

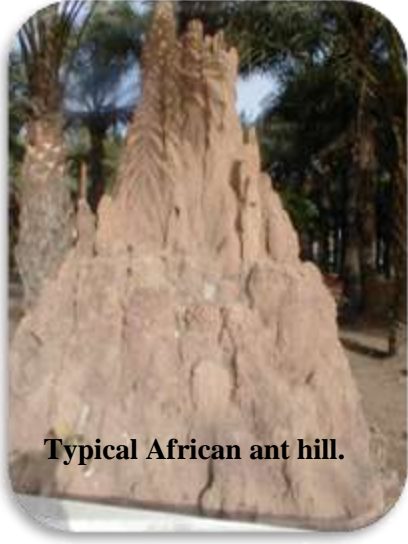
The father, however, is more concerned about the disaster the twin girls represent to the village.

**“Get rid of the curse!” he yells.**

Neighbors, who have heard the terrible news, all murmur in agreement.



Village well.



Typical African ant hill.

"Yes, get rid of them. Our entire village will be cursed if the twins are allowed to remain!" they shout.

A young girl from a neighboring village steps forward and grabs the twins.

"I will do it. I am not afraid."

**Running from the hut, she races down the dirt path. She leaves the village with the babies, never to be seen again.**

The girl is a friend of Canaan Center, a Life Link orphanage in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. But Abidjan is impossibly far away – a four hour trip by car, six by bus. And the babies need immediate care.

*Thanks to Jeanne Zonde, director of Canaan Center who has a heart for the bush villages of Ivory Coast, a small children's home has been opened nearby in Saïoua. The girl heads there with the*

twins.

When the babies arrive, they are immediately welcomed and cared for. Jeanne soon arrives from Abidjan to see what needs to be done to help the little ones.

It's decided that Syntiche, the most fragile of the twins, needs immediate medical care. She is taken to Canaan Center in Abidjan. There she's given the medicine and special formula necessary to sustain her life.

Her sister remains at the orphanage in Saïoua. The larger of the twins, she continues to thrive under the care of the Christian women who love and protect the 18 children housed there.

Syntiche is doing well at Canaan Center. Like her sister in Saïoua, she is now a robust two month old who has charmed everyone.

Debate has begun about who will get to keep the twins when they are reunited! Everyone wants them! They are too precious for words!

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Thanks to you and your gifts to Life Link – Syntiche and her twin sister are alive, and have the prospect of a full life.

Because of your gifts, they will be educated.

Because of your generosity, they will have medical care.

Because of your support, they will have the opportunity to hear about Jesus, and learn that God loves them.

Syntiche's story is one of so many that highlights the need for more children's homes near the bush villages that are far from the cities.

**That is why Saioua is so important. It is truly a "life link" for the children who are so far from help of any kind.**

When funds become available, the small home in Saioua will be expanded to become another Life Link orphanage. Right now, it's only a place where children are fed and clothed.

Once we are able to bring it under Life Link's umbrella, educational and medical needs will be met there also. And, eventually, it will provide vocational training for the local village girls – giving them an alternative to forced marriage or prostitution.



Before we can include Saioua as a Life Link orphanage, we need to be certain that it is established and being well-run, given the resources they have available.

To do that, of course, I need to go to Africa to see the home and to meet the women who operate it. In order to make that trip, which will also include visits to other Life Link facilities, I need your help.

**Expenses for the trip including my air fare to Africa, visas, taxis, lodging and in country meals will run about \$4000.00. Anything you can do to help, over and above your regular donation, would be tremendously appreciated.**

You'll be helping so many more children who, like little Syntiche, would not survive without a place like Saioua near their villages.

We can't thank you enough for all you continue to do to help the children of West Africa. **You are truly making a difference in the world – one child at a time!**

Together with your generous gifts, please pray for the children and the staff who care for them. I know they remember you with thankful hearts in their prayers every day.

God bless you!  
Connie

My March trip to the orphanages in Ivory Coast was postponed due to civil unrest. At this time I have \$1200.00, toward trip expenses. Please mark your donation – Africa Trip.

Connie in Africa in 2007.

Loving Babies and seeing the results of all our work!

Thanks guys!



Life Link is a non-profit international human service corporation committed to improving the quality of life for children everywhere. All donations are tax deductible.

Life Link  
PO Box 1808  
Claremore, OK 74019  
918-379-0055  
lifelinkrc@juno.com  
[www.lifelinkrc.org](http://www.lifelinkrc.org)