

Nigeria: Her Name Is Mighty

Since 2009, Boko Haram has wreaked havoc across northeastern Nigeria. The statistics tell a story of devastation: more than 2 million people have been displaced, over 13,000 churches have been destroyed, and over 2,000 women and girls abducted.

The city of Yola quickly became a refuge for many of those fleeing the violence. One local school now serves children who have suffered immense personal loss—80% of its students have been orphaned by Boko Haram. Among them is a young woman named Mighty.

When asked to spell her name, she answered simply, “M-I-G-H-T-Y.” And true to her name, she carried a strength that belies her 16 years.

Mighty and her family fled to Yola to escape the advancing militants. Poor and displaced, they tried to survive with almost nothing. Eventually, her parents made the difficult decision to return to their rural home to restart their small farm, fearing the family might starve if they didn’t try. But the danger remained, and no schools in their region were operating so they left Mighty behind in Yola—with her three younger brothers.



Mighty cared for her brothers—ages 13, 9, and 7—entirely on her own. She got them ready for school, washed their clothes, prepared food, and managed every responsibility of a household under extreme hardship. Her parents sent food when they could, relying on neighbors traveling to Yola to deliver small supplies. When those ran out, it fell to Mighty to beg or work for food so her siblings could eat.

Despite everything, she held onto a dream: to become a doctor one day. Yet as she talked about her life, one word came up again and again: *sad*. Sad about being separated from her parents. Sad about the suffering in her community. Sad for what Boko Haram has done to so many.

Yet sadness did not define her. Faith does.

Every week, Mighty took her brothers to church. When asked why, she said:

“I go to church because I know that it is only Jesus that can save.”

Though she was a teenager at the time, Mighty led with a maturity and faith that challenged and inspired. She bore responsibility far beyond her years, served others in the face of fear and scarcity, and modeled courage that truly lived up to her name.

She was Mighty—in name, in faith, and spirit.