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Lessons of love: Liberty student tutors Godparent Home girls

February 01, 2009 | Carmen Fleischauer

When Sandra Kouaho came to the United States in 2004, she could not have imagined the course her life would take. Originally from Abidjan, a town in Ivory Coast, West Africa, Kouaho moved to the United States in 2004 to attend Northern Virginia Community College. It was not until she was visiting family friends in Boston that she learned of Dr. Jerry Falwell and Liberty University.

“I was so excited because I really liked what he [Dr. Falwell] preached about and I thought, ‘Oh, he has a school,’” Kouaho said. Now a senior business major at Liberty, Kouaho spends part of her time doing something she loves — tutoring at the Liberty Godparent Home, a residential maternity home for girls that offers an alternative to abortion. Her work there fulfills Liberty’s Christian Service requirement.

From the very first time Kouaho tutored, she was able to engage one of the girls who has a tendency to be quite shy. By making homework fun with simple things like a high five for correct answers, Kouaho made a lasting impression and built an important relationship. Now this particular girl will only let Kouaho be her tutor.

Kouaho has also been impacted by her volunteer work and will take the lessons with her as she prepares for her life’s work. She hopes to one day go back to her country and work to reduce poverty and assist the developing country. Education will be a large part of that effort.

“Education is a big thing. You can help out people and give them money. But if they don’t have an education to help themselves, you will always be giving and giving and they always get, and wait for you to give some more,” Kouaho said.

Kouaho has trusted the Lord with her life and has seen and experienced His faithfulness. To other international students considering Liberty, she gives a charge of hope.

“If we trust God, He will make a way for everything,” Kouaho said. “He’s with us wherever we go. God will provide. You’ve got to trust God every single day and He will go along the way with you.”

After graduation, Kouaho plans to pursue a master’s degree and work with an organization in Washington, D.C., such as the World Bank, to gain experience in providing assistance to poverty-stricken countries.