My name is Charité.
(My whole name is Dondedieu Kaysel Charité.)

Age: 11

Hometown: Moundou

I came to live here at Village Altonodji, a school for orphans, when I was 4 years old. My father had died. Shortly after I came here, I lost my mother to sickness as well.

There are about 130 students in the school who have lost one or both parents. Some live with relatives. Some, like me, live in dormitories at school. Four students live in each room. (MCC’s Global Family education program helps support the school.)

This year, I became chief, or leader, of my room for the first time. It feels good. My role is to make sure we all take turns cleaning the room. If my roommates don’t clean well, I ask them to do it again.

Each morning, I ask God to look after our school, our teachers and the women who cook food for us to eat. I pray for my fellow students and ask God to give me cleverness to succeed.

Our classes are from 7:30 a.m. until noon. I study French grammar and vocabulary, as well as subjects like English, math and Bible. Every Wednesday, we go to chapel and sing and pray together.

In the afternoons, I like to jump rope with my friends. After dinner, I read until I feel sleepy. Then I pray alone, or if my roommates are here, we pray together.

My favorite subject: Can’t pick (I like them all!)

What I want to be: nurse

How do you greet someone in French?

bonjour
(Say “bohn-zhoor”)

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