



VICTORIE IS VICTORIOUS

Her husband and children were unhappy with her situation and abandoned her, leaving her to care for her youngest son, four-year-old Hignin, alone.



1988 was the year 63-year-old Victorie Adandadjan noticed a lump on the left side of her neck. At first she tried to ignore it, but after three years it became considerably larger. A doctor at a nearby hospital told her that an operation would be too difficult and too dangerous to attempt.

Desperate and bewildered, she turned to a traditional healer for help. A concoction of liquids was prescribed and the cutting of skin began. Victorie found herself continually shouting day and night and struggling to sleep. Eventually she went blind, probably as a result of the potions she was drinking. And the tumour continued to grow.

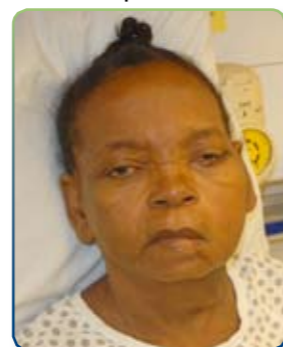
Soon a different set of problems arose. Her husband and children were unhappy with her situation and abandoned her, leaving her to care for her youngest son, four-year-old Hignin, alone. Unable to support herself and her son, she returned to her father's house.

In 1995 she went to a local hospital. This time a doctor agreed to operate, but the surgery was not successful. Only a part of the tumour was removed, and the remaining part grew more rapidly than before. Feeling utterly hopeless, Victorie considered buying a bottle of rat poison to end her life and her suffering.

One day she sat in church. After the sermon, the weekly notices were given. An organisation called Mercy Ships was mentioned. In a few weeks, a ship would be docking in the port of Cotonou, Benin, to offer free medical care. Victorie's heart leapt.

She attended the screening day with hundreds of other people. It had taken a turbulent twenty one years to get to this point. Now she stood in the queue, patiently waiting, wondering whether her prayers would finally be answered.

And her prayers were answered. As she sat in a hospital bed onboard the *Africa Mercy* after the tumour was successfully removed, she declared, "I am fine now. I don't feel pain. I pray that God will continue to use the surgeons and give them wisdom."



Victorie following her surgery

His injuries were so severe that the scarring was pulling down at his eyes, making it very difficult for him to blink.

SEKOU



Sekou Tallywally was eleven-years-old when his life was turned upside down. While filling the generator at his home with petrol, somebody accidentally walked into the room with a naked flame. From then on nothing would ever be quite the same again.

Sekou was lucky to survive the explosion but with third degree burns to most of his chest, face and arms it was touch and go for many weeks. Sekou spent three months in hospital having a series of skin grafts and despite making a good recovery the trauma of the experience is still clear to see.

Once the scars started to heal, contractures and keloid scarring set in. The contractures to his neck not only meant that he could not lift or

horizontally rotate his head; he could not raise his arm higher than ninety degrees. His injuries were so severe that the scarring was pulling down at his eyes, making it very difficult for him to blink.

Sekou came to the Mercy Ship for corrective surgery. His operation was a great success and within a few days Sekou was sitting up in bed and within a few weeks he was playing football with his friends in the corridor. It was wonderful to see his rapid progress.



He is now able to move both his arms and legs more freely. Most importantly his eyes now smile, he is happy and he is looking forward to going back to school.

Give Before End of Financial Year

Your tax-deductible gift can achieve so much in the developing world. By sending your gift before June 30 you can claim your gift against your tax bill and change someone's life forever!

With your donation and support we can secure the future work of Mercy Ships

SEND YOUR GIFT TODAY!

- **\$25** can support a patient for one day onboard the *Africa Mercy*.
- **\$50** can provide dental repair for one person.
- **\$100** can deliver an eye operation giving sight to the blind.
- **\$400** can cover a Life-Changing Surgery for one desperate person.



Two year old Elijah's life was transformed when he had surgery to remove a large mass from his chest wall



Ward "D" was into the face painting in a serious way and the little kids looked so cute. It is so great to have time and freedom here,

RESOURCEFUL NURSING CREW

Nurses onboard the *Africa Mercy* must be among the most resourceful of people when it comes to keeping patients occupied as they recover from surgery.

Katie, a midwife from Cape Town, South Africa, is working as a nurse on the surgical ward of the *Africa Mercy*. From her blog come these pictures and accompanying text...

especially on weekends, to really spend time and do fun things with the patients.



The nurses from "A" Ward set up a bowling lane. So all the ortho patients were hobbling along doing their thing.