



“I have nobody that cares for me. It’s like I’m not existing in this world.”

No life at all

Although she survived, an impoverished mother feels that she lost her life in a fire.

Neisha Hassan’s makeshift home in Guyana was recently consumed in a fire; the flames left nothing behind except rubble, anxiety and fear. “I have nowhere to go,” the distraught mother of five tearfully observed.

Luckily, no one was home during the blaze. While selling goods at market, Neisha was told to rush home after news of the disastrous fire spread. When she arrived, Neisha recalls incredulously viewing the site of her former home.

“All I could see was a spot [of rubble],” she said. “I can’t remember what I did next.” Overcome by the magnitude of the devastation, Neisha physically blacked-out after seeing nothing left but charred remains. The loss occurred on her 39th birthday.

All of Neisha’s children wept when they returned to the site, but Cindy — Neisha’s 10-year-old daughter — has taken the loss the hardest. Cindy fainted when she returned from school and saw the piles of soot and ash. The little girl now cries often, especially during prayer at church. Cindy’s little brother endures frightening

nightmares, and the entire family — scared and alone — still doesn’t know what caused the terrible accident.

Neisha, a single mother, not only lost her home in the fire, but all the goods that she would sell in trying to feed her children. While the displaced family is currently staying with a relative, they must leave by the end of the month.

Each passing day, Neisha scrambles to beg neighbors for food. Anxiety and the pressure of finding new shelter have worn down her spirit.

Poverty-stricken mothers throughout Guyana use the phrase “born to punish” to describe the hopelessness they experience every day. The phrase conveys a sense of the bleak resignation that lifelong poverty breeds — the feeling that one was born only to suffer. For a mother like Neisha who was already struggling to feed her children, the tragic loss of a home can inflict a devastating blow to the spirit. “It’s like I have no life at all,” Neisha explained. “I have nobody that cares for me. It’s like I’m not existing in this world,” she said as she began to weep.

“But I am afflicted and in pain; let Your saving help protect me, God...” (Psalm 69:30)

Despite her desperate situation, Neisha still trusts that God will see her through these difficult times. “I believe there is a living God to make me back and give me strong life. He will lead us out... yes, He will.” Neisha’s enduring faith is borne out in prayer as well. “God, please show me the way,” she fervently petitions.

For destitute families like Neisha’s, few resources are available to help them recover from such a disaster. There is no government infrastructure to help with rebuilding, and there are no insurance plans to offer assistance. These poverty-stricken families can only rely on the support of compassionate people like you.

A sturdy new Food For The Poor home would truly offer families like Neisha’s a fresh start in life. “If I could get back in a house, I could get back on my feet again,” Neisha says. She hopes and prays that her young ones will soon find relief from their suffering. “Please, I’m begging on behalf of my children... anything you could do to assist. Please give us a life again.”

“For God will hide me in His shelter in time of trouble...” (Psalm 27:5a)

Realizing that she has no means to rebuild her home, Neisha prays that God will touch the hearts of those who might bring comfort and aid to her family. With hope in her heart, Neisha feels that God may have already begun to answer her family’s prayers. When one of our staff asked her to explain further, Neisha responded simply, “He sent you to me.”

Please, do whatever you can to help Food For The Poor bring relief to suffering families in desperate need. May God bless you for your compassion and generosity. ❖

