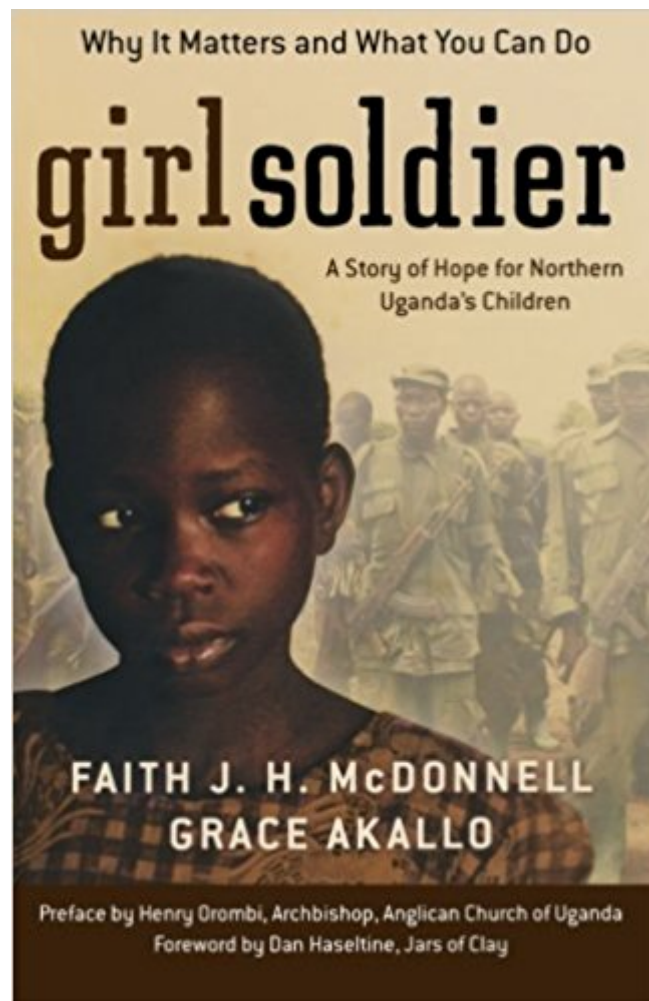




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Girl Soldier: A Story Of Hope For Northern Uganda's Children



Synopsis

For several decades a brutal army of rebels has been raiding villages in northern Uganda, kidnapping children and turning them into soldiers or wives of commanders. More than 30,000 children have been abducted over the last twenty years and forced to commit unspeakable crimes. Grace Akallo was one of these. Her story, which is the story of many Ugandan children, recounts her terrifying experience. This unforgettable book with historical background and insights from Faith McDonnell, one of the clearest voices in the church today calling for freedom and justice will inspire readers around the world to take notice, pray, and work to end this tragedy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In northern Uganda, thousands of children have been kidnapped by rebel armies and pressed into murderous service. Here, Akallo, who was herself kidnapped by the Lord's Resistance Army at age 15, offers a disturbing, deeply personal account of being forced to march with the rebel army, fight, and raid villages for food and water. Akallo is joined by co-author McDonnell, who works for the Institute on Religion and Democracy. In between Akallo's gripping autobiographical passages, McDonnell interweaves informative chapters recounting the history of strife in Uganda, and explaining the political-religious vision of Joseph Kony, head of the LRA. McDonnell includes snippets from a Human Rights Watch report about abducted children, who were forced, among other things, to kill other children. The authors believe that God is protecting the children of Uganda, sometimes working miraculous intervention to protect them; but they also spotlight activist groups, such as the Uganda Conflict Action Network, who are doing their part to make a difference

in the lives of child soldiers. Readers are urged to pray for the end of war in Uganda, to join protest rallies, and to design awareness-raising bulletin boards in their churches. The alternating narrative voices create a disjointed reading experience, but otherwise this is a moving, informative and brave book.

More than 30,000 children have been kidnapped in Uganda. Now one of them has a voice. When Grace Akallo was fifteen years old, rebels from the Lord's Resistance Army raided her school. Thus began her nightmarish existence as one of northern Uganda's thousands of child soldiers. Forced to endure savagery, starvation, abuse and other horrors with only her faith to sustain her, Grace eventually escaped to share her story with the world. Faith McDonnell is an American activist and writer with a special concern for the future of the vulnerable Acholi people of northern Uganda. In *Girl Soldier*, Grace's personal account and Faith's historical and spiritual insights are woven together to tell the story of Uganda's forgotten children. Be inspired by this heartfelt account and moved to do your part in making sure that these children will not be forgotten. "A precious gift from two women, both uniquely qualified to speak for the suffering children of Uganda, one an eloquent survivor and the other a fearless advocate. It is no coincidence that their names are Grace and Faith."--Michael Card, Bible teacher and musician "Girl Soldier is not fiction, yet that fact becomes harder to believe with every page we turn. This book is more than just a call to action. It is a challenge to our moral compass."--Adrian Bradbury, founder and director, GuluWalk "A much-needed reminder of the suffering and faith of the people of northern Uganda. Both have gone largely unnoticed for too long."--The Rt. Rev. Robert W. Duncan, bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh; moderator, Anglican Communion Network "A poignant reminder that the darkness of the soul and the cruel behaviors it leads to are more devastating than we could imagine. This is an incredible account that demands a hearing and invites a response."--Steven W. Haas, vice president, World Vision International

This is an amazing story but also a very troubling one. After I read it, I did some research and found that things have not changed very much in that part of the world. It is difficult to believe that a madman like Joseph Kony is allowed to continue to ravage the country and destroy thousands of lives for over 20 years...and continues to do so. NGOs and private citizens from other countries, like Faith McDonnell, as well as a few brave people like Grace Akallo, are the only ones trying to save the children. I did read that the US government does send in troops to hunt down Kony, but so far without success. This story must remain at the forefront of public consciousness, so that these

people are not forgotten, but are helped in every way possible and prayed for unceasingly. I highly recommend it to everyone but caution those with delicate constitutions...it is quite graphic in some places.

I have long felt that we need to know about what happened in the Holocaust to commemorate those who suffered, those who risked and many gave their lives to help the innocent, and to learn from how it was allowed to not repeat the past. So many do not realize that the United States and many other countries fired on ships of the few Jewish immigrants that were allowed to leave Germany in WWII, causing the ships to either go down with no survivors or to have to return to Germany. I think, "How could we have done that to the innocent, who just wanted to flee the horrors of a mad man?" Now, when I am finally learning what is going on in the several African nations that are kidnapping, raping, maiming bodies that some survive so disfigured, and killing hundreds of thousands, I am appalled at how this is not proclaimed internationally day and night until it is stopped! I find in my own small sphere of existence, that people often do not want to hear what they find merely inconvenient to know. We must know! The beginning of what to do is to be informed and to pray ... until it stops. The bright spots are the ones who care enough to be proclaiming and providing for those who are suffering. Like in Corrie Ten Boom's "Hiding Place," we can marvel that God's presence can do such a work of merciful healing and strength in the heart of Grace, one of the two authors, after she became one of the child captives forced to take part in this horror.

I suppose timing is everything right now, and I downloaded this book on Kindle when it was free quite a while ago, but did not start reading it until this week. With the viral explosion of Kony 2012 on YouTube, and the upcoming world-wide event that will try to bring to light the decades old atrocities that this man has perpetrated on the children (the invisible children) of Uganda, it is timely I would read this book. When a book is written by two authors (as this one is), it is oftentimes difficult for a story to "flow", and certainly such was the case with this book, however, I appreciated the historical details that made up at least three quarters of the book. Sprinkled in between the historical and political background of Uganda as a nation torn apart by civil, and tribal war and the rise of tyrannical bullies like Joseph Kony, is one young girl's story of being abducted and then indoctrinated into the child army of Kony. As a westerner reading the book, I cannot imagine the life the children of Uganda are experiencing nightly as countless thousands "commute" to cities to sleep because of their fear of being abducted from their families every night. We have no concept in the U.S. and Canada what it is like for all Ugandans at this time in their history. Books of this nature, are important

to bring the plight of a nation to our conscious awareness. Read the book and pray for those children daily. God is still in control, even in the midst of such hardship.

This was one of the most difficult books I have read. Not because the author didn't do an excellent job, but because of the content. My heart just bleeds for these children. It's hard to even read what some people go through to survive day to day. Makes me ashamed to complain about anything. I recommend this book, it's important that we know what's going on around us.

and this mirrors stories told to me. The real story of what this girl suffered and overcame are inspiring. It has parts that are too "preachy" but it also has a list of places and websites at the end if you want to help. Uganda is totally MISOGYNISTIC. I was at a clinic where a boy of 13 was deciding on his wife's pregnancy care, or lack thereof! A good year for a farmer brings in \$100 US dollars, and it cost \$5 to have a baby at the hospital, so even when a free clinic tells the mother that it will be a very difficult birth, few husbands will spend the money. One out of every eight women that gives birth there dies and Ugandan children survive BY CHANCE at birth, as UGANDA leads East Africa in infant mortality.

Helps you see what African children go through. Although the described problem may no longer be as bad in this particular part of Uganda, the mean slave masters have not cut down on their methods of turning innocent children in cruel killers from which brain washing they can hardly recover. The problem goes beyond national borders and continues. Pray for these kids, their families and the slave masters

Everyone should have a knowledge of what is going on in the world, though this is hard to read. It is very sad that young boys and girls are treated so badly and forced to do such atrocities. The back and forth writing of action and commentary is very different and a little hard to follow at times. I think we should all be aware of what is happening, so we can pray and help as we have opportunity.

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