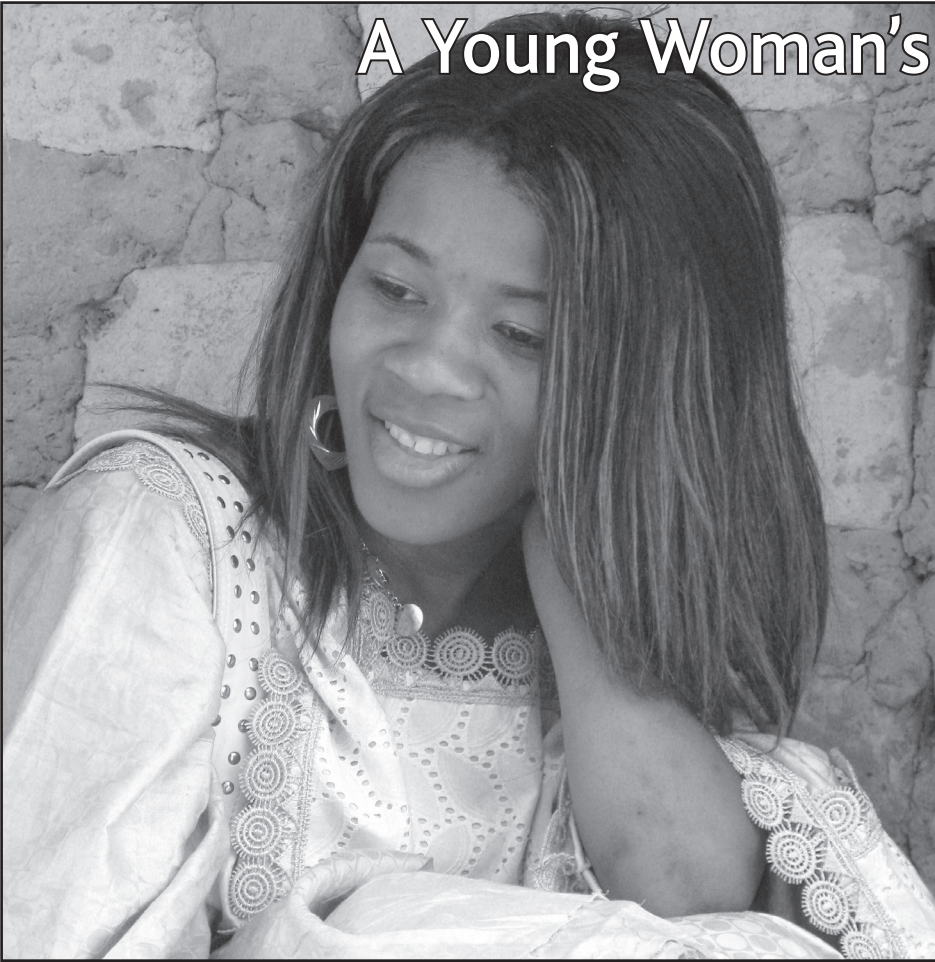


A Young Woman's Story of Courage



Mariatu Kamara is coming to Christ Church Deer Park Sunday, November 2 at 9:15 am

Mariatu Kamara is 22 years old. She lost her hands in a brutal machete attack when she was 12 years old in Sierra Leone. Now she's at George Brown College in Toronto in a program that teaches counseling and advocacy for women and children who have experienced violence. Her story is told in "The Bite of the Mango," a book published by Toronto's Annick

Press ready for release this fall. Mariatu tells her story of having her hands amputated when she was 12; of being raped by a village man just before that, and of having the son resulting from that assault; of spending years wracked with guilt after the infant died at 10 months, convinced she'd killed him by not loving him enough.

Hers is not an easy story to read. But "The Bite of the Mango" brings a new perspective among recent accounts of kids caught in Africa's civil wars – that of a girl child. "Coming from a place of war where you had nothing, now you're in a country where everywhere you turn there's opportunity that will make your life better and help other people around the world..." says Mariatu

As for the child soldiers who maimed her? "I just think it's time to let go, you know? Forgive them. They are also our brothers. They suffered too", Mariatu says.

Today, her focus is forward – finish school, get a job and then help make concrete changes in Sierra Leone.

"The Bite of the Mango" is co-written by award-winning Canadian magazine journalist Susan McClelland. The book's title is a nod to her spirit, referring to a mango offered by a man she encountered on the night of her attack. He held the fruit to her mouth, but she insisted on taking it, holding it in the clotting stumps of her amputated hands.

The rebels' signature was mutilation and during the decade-long conflict, an estimated 20,000 civilians had arms, legs, lips and ears amputated with machetes and axes. "Go see the president," the child soldier told Mariatu. "Tell him to give you new hands."

Susan and Mariatu will be guest speakers at the 9:15 am worship service on Sunday, November 2 at Christ Church Deer Park.

Christ Church Deer Park

is located at 1570 Yonge Street on the north west corner at Heath just two blocks north of St. Clair

Getting Here By TTC

Take the St. Clair streetcar to Yonge or the Yonge Subway to the St Clair stop and walk five minutes north.

Free Parking

Take advantage of our free Sunday parking for worshippers, available up to 1:30 pm at the Toronto Parking Authority. Enter from Heath or Delisle.

Telephone 416.920.5211
www.TheresLifeHere.org

There's
Life
Here!



**CHRIST
CHURCH
DEER PARK**
ANGLICAN