

Summarized Biographies of the children



James Martin: He was born on 5th August, 1995; both of his parents died of HIV/AIDS related diseases. After his parents died, he was staying with his uncle who could not afford good food for his health. When he was brought to me I was uncertain as to whether I should take him or not, because he was sick and severely malnourished, I was not sure if he was going to stay alive long. However, I took him in and by God's grace he recovered now grown and he is standard 6.



Samson Leleta: His father died after a long illness and his mother is still alive, although weak and has been sick for years. The mother is HIV/AIDS+. Currently she is on a treatment for HIV/AIDS infected individuals, which prolong their life for a while (ARV [antiretroviral therapy]). Samson was born on 27th July, 1995. He has been with us for 6½ years, and he is in standard 6.



Charles Kapanda: Born on 2nd June, 1995. Both parents died after a long illness, before he came to stay with us his grandmother was the one taking care of him. The grandmother was mentally challenged and later on died too. Charles has a hearing problem nevertheless, he is doing well in school and he is in standard 6.



Margaret Kapanda: She is a half sister to Charles, they have the same mother but different fathers. No one knows the whereabouts of Maggie's biological father. The mother died when she was 3 years old. Maggie was born on 14th May, 1998 and she is in standard 5, and she sings very well.



Elizabeth Rashid: She was born in a Muslim and polygamous family, her mother was the third wife and the youngest. Her father died when she was 5 years old, he had had 12 children from all his wives. Elizabeth's mother had 6 children, and Eliza was one of the youngest and her younger brother Quadri. After the father died Elizabeth and her siblings would go many days without food. She was 7 years old when she first came to stay with us, now she is 13 and in standard 8. She was born on 15th July, 1994.



Cadie (Quadri) Rashid: Born of Muslim family too, he is Elizabeth's younger brother born on 18th April, 1997. Both Cadie and Elizabeth came at the same time, Cadie 10 year old is now in standard 6.



Christopher Kasimba: His mother died of tuberculosis after a long illness. We took him in when he was 3 years old and at the time he was a sick and severely malnourished child. He was born on 20th September, 1999 and in standard 4, Christopher is the youngest among all the children.



James Zululu: Both parents are alive. When we first met them, the mother had abandoned the father together with three children. The father was struggling to take care of them, then the older son got sick and because of lack of food and proper care he died. This grieved our hearts to the core and we decided to do something to help. We did help with funeral costs but we thought helping save life was better and that was when we brought in James and 6 months later his sister Grace. James was born on 15th January, 1996.



Grace Zululu: She is James' sister, born on 5th July, 1999. Grace is in standard 5. We took her in to join her brother James. Grace has a beautiful voice, speaks good English and doing very well at school.



Irene Lemani: Born on 10th February, 1998. Before she came to stay with us, she was staying with her grandmother. When she could no longer take care of her, she brought her to us, since then the grandmother never came back but we have taken Irene to her back twice. Irene is in standard 6.



Tereza Banda: Both of her parents died when she was 3½ years old. She is a smart girl at school (an 'A' student). She is in standard 4. Tereza was born on 11th May, 1999.



Bestina Likovo: She is another A student, both parents died. When I brought her here, her mother was very sick and she asked me if I could take care of her. Shortly after that the mother died. Once a while her grandmother comes to visit her, but can not afford to take care of her. Bestina was born on 23rd August, 1995 and she is in standard 6.



Zainabu Phiri: Her parents were Muslims, and both died due to HIV/AIDS infections. After the death of her parents, her grandmother took the responsibility of taking care of her, then again after a short period of time, she died too. Zainabu was born on 19th November, 1999 and now she is in standard 3.



Upile (*pronounced uh-pee-lay*) Majawa: She is the last one we took in among all the children except Gideon. Both her parents died, her father when she was 4 years old and her mother died when she was 6. For a while Upile never had a home, she was a street kid. Because of her state of affairs, she was a victim of many abuses. Before she came here, she lived with different people, moving from one place to another. We took in Upile 3 years ago when a friend from Church brought her to us. She was born on 06th July, 1995 and she will be starting secondary school in January, 08. The joy of seeing Upile's transformed life is overwhelming.



Gideon Bezzai: Is Clara's brother's son and Clara is nee Bezzai. However, when his parents died he was living with his maternal uncle who also died in 2005. Then he went and stayed with our first born daughter, Rebecca who died this year on 5th June of kidney failure. Gideon's determination to go to school is strong otherwise he has had it tough in life. The death of Rebecca was a great shocker to our lives.