



PRAYER NEWSLETTER: February 2012

“That they may have life, and have it to the full, and many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.” John 10 v 10; Psalm 40 v 3

Our Vision is to See African Street Children who are Restored and Empowered for Full independent living

This Tuesday 7th February 2012 we ask that you join us in praying for ASYM and thanking God for...

- The four children in our home:
 - Morelight, a boy aged 16 years
 - Kudzi, a boy aged 15 years
 - Junior, a girl aged 14 years
 - Tino, a boy aged 10 years
- The staff and volunteers who need constant wisdom on how to take care of the children, who are from very different backgrounds, and the grace to love these children more
- The support – both financial and technical – that we are receiving from several Zimbabwean government departments
- More financial support to run the project - we need a consistent source of funds. We could provide a home to more children who want to stop living on the streets but at the moment we can't open another house because of lack of resources to cater for them.
- We are planning an ASYM launch soon - pray for wisdom as we plan for this big event in our Ministry

As always, please also remember in your prayers the many street children in Zimbabwe, their plight and desperate situation, and that God will continue to stir people's hearts to help ASYM and others change these children's lives for the better.

Every Blessing

On behalf of the ASYM Zimbabwe & ASYM UK Trustees

ASYM is a values based & purpose driven Christian charity that aims to work in close strategic partnerships with all street children servicing organisations in Zimbabwe & Africa, government agencies, voluntary groups, churches & individuals. Our primary aim is to meet the immediate needs of street children by providing them with accommodation, education & training, employment creation & supporting their families & communities. Thus our purpose is to invest in young people through rescuing, restoring & re-integrating street children into the society, physically, socially, emotionally & spiritually.

Some of more of the latest ASYM news...

During January, our first child – Tino (see November 2011 newsletter for his story) – was joined by three more wonderful children. They have all been found places at school and our staff are working hard to build trust and love with each child.

Unfortunately, one boy - Morelight - ran away from the home in the last week of January. Staff have not heard from him since. We are obviously worried for his welfare but each child joins and stays with ASYM out of their own free choice. Their family backgrounds and complex circumstances make adjusting to life in a home a challenge. Please remember Morelight in your prayers.

Each month we'll share some stories from our children and staff. This month we've prepared the stories of the three children to join us. We hope as you read them they will help you understand the importance of ASYM providing a loving, stable home to these young people.

Junior's Story

"Hello There...! I am Junior and I am a girl aged 14 and I have my little brother whom I miss a lot. The difficult circumstances in our family forced us to be raised in different family set ups. My mother and father died. My father's young brother took care of me after the death of my parents. It's very painful to remember how I was denied chance to attend a better school that was near our home. My aunt (Uncle's wife) openly declared that she would make sure her own children get the better education than me. She accused me of wasting her husband's money for nothing.



In 2011, when I was in grade 7, the emotional abuse and ill treatment from my aunt was unbearable. Her own children would bully me when it is time to eat. I had no friends at home, so after school I would close myself in a room and my Aunt would tell me that she was not the one who killed my parents. One day I thought I should free myself from this prison and I moved out to join other children in the streets. I was tired of the abuse at home, I needed a break; I needed time to dry my tears.

There, I was in the streets of Harare. Street life is hell. Street life hurts. I need several pages to describe how I survived the Police night raids and the bullying by other street children. My life started to change when I got in contact with Street Ahead people who tried to take me back to my uncle but my aunt refused to take me back. I was placed in Transit Care Centre while they tried to find a home where I could be committed.

In January 2012, God answered my prayers. ASYM offered me accommodation in Mutare. Today as I narrate my story, I am at ASYM Home where I was warmly received by caring hands. The ASYM staff facilitated my school placement and provided all my educational needs. I am doing grade 6 and promise to do well in class. The once street child Junior is now Miss Mutani Junior who is aspiring to be a policewoman after completing school. The ASYM Home is indeed a home where a child can have full life. My tears are dry. Thank you for putting a long lasting smile on my face. Bye bye....!"

Kudzai's story

"I think I am dreaming. Is this me? Having shelter over my head....This is more than a miracle in my life! Hello there..... My name is Kudzi aged 15. I was born in a broken family. My grandfather had many

relationships with women which resulted in having a child in every affair he had. My father was as a result of these affairs. My father behaved like his father and had many affairs with different women. I am a result of my father's multiple affairs and was raised by my relatives. My mother passed away when I was still young.

Some relatives started to question my identity. My father's background was now doubted and most of my relatives began to doubt that I belong to the family. I was then on several occasions accused of killing her livestock by poisoning and that I assaulted her servant boy. I went through hell of emotional abuse and this affected my schooling and I dropped out. I then woke up one morning and decided to move out to the street of Harare in October 2011.

I didn't stay in the streets for long because I'm not of that calibre, "I'm not strong to stay on the streets." Within few days I found myself in the hands of social services officers who referred me to Street Ahead. My interaction with the Street Ahead people transformed me. I learnt to forgive, to set goals in life and accepting the reality that my family was in bits and pieces. While I was at Street Ahead Transit Care Centre I participated in different workshops and church sessions. My spiritual life quickly grew and now I can pray for myself. God is answering my prayers.

In January 2012, an arrangement was made that I move to ASYM Home in Mutare. I was told I would start going to school again. I was happy to hear this and I couldn't wait for the day I would finally resume my school. Today I'm narrating from ASYM Home in Chikanga Mutare where I met 3 other children who have similar cases as mine. The staff members are welcoming. I am already attending school at St Josephs High School where I doing Form 2. My life has greatly changed. When I finish my education, I want to be an engineer. God help me."



Junior with her brother, ready for her first day back in school!

Morelight's Story

"Hello, I am Morelight, a boy aged 16. In 2005, when I was in grade 5, I moved away from my uncle's home and went into the streets of Gweru. Yes you may want to know why I was staying with Uncle. My mother is late and I don't know who my father is. My uncle abused me on several occasion and I would go for days without adequate food. I started to beg for food in Gweru streets until I met other street boys who took me to Bulawayo. Life in the streets of Bulawayo is very painful especially if you can't speak Ndebele. I faced many challenges in Bulawayo. My thanks go to the Thuthuka Street Youth Organisation, who provided me with decent meals everyday and facilities to bath at their drop in centre. The services provided by Thuthuka made me to decide that staying in a home is the BEST.

At the moment I am happy because I was referred to ASYM Home where I'm hopeful that my life will be transformed. Today 20 January 2012 is my first night to sleep in room, on blankets sheets after 6 years of sleeping in the open space of Bulawayo Streets."

Morelight never came back home on his first day at school. We are still hoping he would come back home. We pray for him! We don't have his picture but hope his story will be remembered in your prayers.

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