

Introduction to Moses Sakala

Moses Sakala

Date of birth: 3 March 1993

Sex: Male

Languages: Bemba, English, Nyanja, Ngoni

Religion: Catholic

Community: Makululu

Status: single orphan and former street kid

Moses and his family

Moses' father died in 2003. His mother used to sell vegetables at a local market but she ran out of money and is now unemployed. He is the fourth born in his family of 4 girls and 3 boys.

Moses used to live with his eldest sister until she died in 2003 at the age of 28. He moved to the streets shortly after her death to beg, wash cars and sell plastic bags, as they didn't have money for food or school fees anymore.

He started boarding at Shitima School in 2003 but he used to run away to Lusaka several times per year. He has made a huge change in his life and hasn't run away for over a year. The school is very proud of his achievements and his willingness to change. He is now a leader and a role model for the other street kids who start school here and we are very proud of him.

Moses goes home to visit his family for one weekend every month. Their home is made with mud blocks and a thatched grass roof. They use a pit latrine 5m away and they draw water from a well near their house. They add chlorine to their water before drinking it.

Education

Moses has been coming to Shitima since 2003 and is in Level 3 (grade 5/6). He is currently ranked 7th out of 26 in his class and his favourite subjects are English, mathematics and social studies.

Health

Moses is healthy with no major health problems. He hasn't had malaria in 2007 and is sleeping under a net in the dormitory at school but not at home.

A typical day for Moses

The boys that live at the school wake up at 6:00, take turns showering in the dorm and have breakfast of buns and tea at 7:00 with the day students. Classes begin at 7:30 and finish at 12:30. There is a 20-minute break in the morning and an hour for lunch. The students eat nshima (maize meal-a staple in Zambia), relish (usually fried cabbage or collards from the school garden) and a protein (soya pieces, beans or small dried fish called kapenta) for lunch at the school. The boarding students eat beef, chicken or pork every Sunday for lunch and supper.

Afternoon activities at the school include prep work, reading, HIV/AIDS education, cleaning, gardening, sports and club activities such as girl guides/boy scouts, music, drama, sewing and environmental science. The day students typically go home around 15:30 and the students living at the school usually play football, dodge ball, crafts, and other activities. The cook prepares the relish and protein and the boys prepare their own nshima for their supper at 19:30. Bedtime is at 20:30.

More about Moses

Favourite sport: In Lusaka he enjoyed playing basketball but since Shitima doesn't have a court, football is his favourite sport here.

Favourite colour: yellow

In his spare time he enjoys reading, playing football and watching movies

Ambition in life: Moses wants to finish grade 12 and then become an accountant. He wants to help the poor, especially those in Makululu and he would like to buy a house and a car when he has an income. He wants to fly in a plane someday too.

Moses says that he is very happy to be supported at Shitima School and in his life. Being with his family, being treated well at school and passing exams at school also makes him happy.