

Dear friends and family of papa and mummy,

My name is Junior Ferreira aka Choolwe Munsaka. Many of you might already know me as the firstborn of the Ferreira family, but I doubt if you know my story...

I asked mummy if I may write in her newsletter, and she gave me the opportunity to tell you my story first hand. I come from a poor family, from the Shabalala area, where I first met papa and mummy. My dad passed away when I was only four years old and because my mum remarried, I had to leave home at an early age, since we have this system in Zambia where you get single - and double orphans. I was a single orphan, and the oldest of four siblings. I was 8 when I set our house on fire, and I had to run for my life because my step father was ready to kill me! I struggled to finish primary school, and by the age of 10, I already lived with a few families. I was fortunate that a teacher took me into his house, and I cooked and cleaned for him, since he was not married at the time. The trouble is, every family in Zambia has orphans to look after and after a few years, my teacher got married, and also had a few orphans besides his own children to care for. I managed to finish school, but not without interruption. During my grade 10 year, I was an unruly, angry young boy and one day during school, a teacher came into the class while drunk. I was the leader of a group of thugs, and we decided to discipline the drunken teacher. I ended up in prison for a few days and luckily got away with 12 sjamboks. This did not deter me from being wayward and I often ran into serious trouble. I finished my grade 12 at a different school, but due to lack of funds could not get my results, and I anyway failed 2 subjects. This is when I heard from an uncle that the Kanjanji Orphan Project is offering computer lessons, and late one Sunday evening, decided to go and knock on their door for help. Mummy opened the door, and I explained my plight. Mummy then told me that they will give me some computer training, but first I had to attend the discipleship course. I thought that was too easy and immediately agreed. Two days later, I and 4 elders of the church under which mummy and papa were working, were on our way to discipleship.



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My ver first suit!



Aunty Monique sponsored us for a micro light flight

Dear friends and family,

First, I have to apologize to our family and friends that cannot read or understand English, for this newsletter is an exception to the rule! Choolwe, our oldest son, asked if he could please tell his story and also to thank all of you that helped him and all his fellow orphans to make a success, or to become a success story and a role model for the younger ones. Choolwe is an amazing boy, and one cannot believe that this well-mannered, soft spoken young man once was a violent teenager that ended up in prison! We are very proud of him, and we wish him all the success for a bright future. As he explained, he and Kelvin are now pursuing a conversion of their maths diploma to a degree, which will take them 4 years.

The winter has finally (and sadly - for me!) come to an end, but many villagers are now facing hunger as the crops also now come to an end. We are already giving maize meal to the old widows in our area, and would like to thank you who are supporting us with this.

We have also finished the new preschool at the local Mutemwa school, and will soon have a grand opening with the local chief and authorities present. Eric, one of our boys that has to redo some subjects from gr 12, is the teacher, and he does an excellent job with the 40 kids. Eric and Austern are already busy with some subjects such as mathematics and English which Choolwe and Kelvin are teaching the gr 12's in the afternoons and the gr 8 and 9's are coming on Saturdays to help with the project and then get extra classes in mathematics and computers. We will soon open a preschool here at the base for a trail run, since we have almost 40 small kids from the adjacent villages that can't walk to the existing preschools. Austern will be in charge of this exercise.

It was a scary experience for me, since I never left the town of Choma before, and the discipleship was in Kabwe - very far from Choma. After this, I did a computer course in town and helped mummy with the orphans at the camp.

I was the first-born on the project. I had the privilege to see hundreds of orphans coming and going, and to see the project growing through the years. I became a son in the house of the Ferreiras.

I met Jesus only at the end of the discipleship, and begged mummy and papa to send me again. In 2011, I did discipleship for the second time, and my whole life turned around! I followed mummy and papa to the Western province where we first lived at Nina fishing camp, before the Induna offered them land. We started to build a house and moved to Zamulimu just before I started my Teacher's diploma at Nkana teachers' college. Now, almost 10 years later, I am a qualified math teacher, and have started my degree with a university in Livingstone. I am still very part of the Ferreira household, and while teaching at the two nearby schools, I also run the solar computer centre at Zamulimu. My dream is to open a school here for the higher grades, since we have to send orphans to boarding school from gr 10. We are currently offering tuition for gr 12 students that have failed the national exams.

I would like to go back to my village, to go and say hello to my previous family, but I will always return back home since I have now become a true son in the Ferreira household.

I would like to also thank God and the Project - it has given so many of us a Hope and a Future.

Love and blessings from the heart of Africa.

Junior Ferreira (aka Choolwe Munsaka).



My graduation! (2016)



Cholwe and Kelvin, our sons that are teaching here and at the local schools.

Zulu and Masiye will soon be leaving after they have completed their school experience at the local Lusu primary School. They are both second year teacher students. Masiye is representing his college in Mongu next week on an event in Botswana with high jumping. We shall miss the boys next term, when they both return to college for the last term.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- † We are praying for all the different ongoing projects and that it will only bring glory to our Father!
- † We thank all of you that are keeping us in your prayers
- † We thank the Lord for good health and a malaria free winter
- † We thank the Lord for sustaining the Project and also for blessing this Project
- † We praise the Lord for enough funds to sustain the orphans on this project - we currently have 7 orphans in college and university
- † We pray a blessing over all of you that are involved in the Project.
- † Please keep on praying for our government as well as our OM leadership in KABWE
- † We are still praying for Choolwe's right eye and funds to go to an ophthalmologist in RSA, before the condition become serious.

With love and blessings from the bush, where we all know this is where God wants us to make a difference in/for His Kingdom.

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