



Growing up in a time of AIDS: Abaqophi basOkhayeni Abaqinile Children's Radio project

Growing up in a time of AIDS – excerpt 2

Prettygirl; 2005

Note that English is the second language of the child making this programme. Transcription is direct.

PRETTYGIRL: My name is Prettygirl. I live at Ingwavuma. In my family, I live with my grandfather and grandmother, Philasande and Nomvula. Philasande is my brother. Nomvula is my little sister. I am 11 years old.

The story that I want to tell you is about my father and my mother. My father died on 1993, and my mother [got] sick on 1999, and come to my grandfather. My grandfather prayed for my mum, and my mum became better. She went to Ezimbengeni, and she has a baby. The name of the baby is Nomvula, and [my] mother come back to grandfather. On 1999 my mother went to Jo'burg, come back to grandfather.

My mother talk[ed] to me and tell [told] me what's wrong. When my mother was sick I would stay near to her. I wash[ed] my mother's feet, and I give Mother food. At first my mother did not want to tell me that she had HIV/AIDS. She was worried that I would not want to go to school and I would stay at home to look after her all the time. When she told me she was sick because of AIDS, I got a fright, but I was glad she told me. Now I knew how to take care of her.

[calling out] Nomvula! Uhambile! [She has gone]

Nomvula is important to me because when my mother was sick, she said to me 'please look after Nomvula because she is small one [young]!'

Hello Nomvula

NOMVULA: Yebo...

[sing together]

PRETTYGIRL: Now I am like [a] mother to Nomvula, because I [am] looking after Nomvula, and I wash her clothes, and I go to cook food for Nomvula... My little sister is very special to me.

In the morning, I get up on 4 o' clock and I sweep the yard. And then I go to the tap and I fetch water. And I come back to home and I clean in the dining room. When I come back from school in afternoon, I go to iron my clothes and Philasande's clothes and Nomvula's clothes. I go to

the tap and then I come back to home and I take the pots to cook. I cook everyday for my grandmother and grandfather.

Now I am in my yard. In my yard, I saw my grandfather, and the trees and the chickens and the wheelbarrow and the kitchen. I use the wheelbarrow for catching [fetching] water.

[singing begins]

Every day before we sleep we sing and pray. I pray with my grandfather, and grandmother, Nomvula, and Philasande.

[singing continues]

GRANDFATHER: Amen *[laughs]*



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