



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

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### **Isikhundla sikamama / The place of my mother Prettygirl, 11 years old, 2005**

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**PRETTYGIRL:** Siyahamba manje sibheka ekhaya esandleni sokudla kunesonto likaMkhulu lapho engumfudisi khona. UMkhulu nje ngiyambona njengoba ngingena egeythini uhleli ngaphansi kwesihlahla, uphumlile.

Igama lami ngingu Prettygirl Sinenhlanhla. Ngineminyaka ewu11. Uma ngizichaza ngizoqala ngokuthi ngibukeka ngimkhulu, nginekhanda elikhulu. Indawo engihlala kuyo eNgwavuma esigodini saseMaranatha. Emndenini wasekhaya ngihlala nomkhulu, nogogo, noPhilasande noNomvula. Izinto ezingijabulisayo wukufunda futhi ukuthi ekhaya akasekho ogulayo, noMkhulu sengcono.

UMama wabuya ngo1999 eGoli weza kuMkhulu. UMama wabuya eGoli egula, wafika uMkhulu wamthandazela. Waphila uMama. eMbengweni wayesethola umntwana, igama lakhe nguNomvula. Umama wangitshela ngo 2003 ukuthi yena une HIV Aids. Waseyangitshela ukuthi uma ngabe kwenzeka eshona ngobonakekela oNomvula.

**TRANSLATION:** We are heading home now. On the left hand side, there is Grandfather's Church where he is a Reverend. I see Grandpa since I'm entering the gate. He is under the tree resting.

My name is Prettygirl Sinenhlanhla. I'm 11 years old. When I introduce myself I'm going start saying, I am fat, with a big head. I stay in Ingwavuma in the Maranatha area. At home, I stay with my grandfather, grandmother, Philasande and Nomvula. What makes me happy is to read and when there is no one who is sick in the family, Grandfather is even doing well now.

My Mom in 1999 came back from Johannesburg to Grandpa. My Mom came from Johannesburg ill. Grandpa prayed for her and she got healed. At Mbengweni she gave birth to a child called Nomvula. Mum told me in 2003 that she had HIV Aids. Then she told me that if it should happen that she dies, I must look after Nomvula and the others.

**NOMVULA:** UPrettygirl into angiyenzela yona umangigula uyangigeza angiphekela anginikeza ukudla, ngidla asisuka ngilale, ngisuke lapho ngilale. Ekuseni uyavuka angenzele itiy. Ntambana masebayopheka uyangiphekela...

**TRANSLATION:** What Prettygirl does for me, when I am sick she washes and cooks for me and gives me food and I eat and go to sleep. In the morning she makes me tea. In the evening when they go to cook, she cooks for me.

- PRETTYGIRL:* Ukudlala indawo kaMama akumnandi kahle ngoba zikhona izinto ongeke uz' ukwazi ukuzenza nje njengoMama.
- TRANSLATION:* To play a mother's role is not nice, because there are things you can't manage to do as a mother would do.
- PRETTYGIRL:* Lapha ngisekhaya, ngibona ugogo ugeza izitsha. Sawubona Gogo.
- TRANSLATION:* Here I am at home. I can see my grandmother washing the dishes. Hello Gogo.
- GOGO:* Yebo sawubona.
- TRANSLATION:* Yes hello.
- PRETTYGIRL:* Unjani?
- TRANSLATION:* How are you?
- GOGO:* Ngisaphila unjani wena?
- TRANSLATION:* I'm fine, how are you?
- PRETTYGIRL:* Nami ngiyaphila... Ngicela ukukubuza ukuthi kulolusuku lonke uhleli noMkhulu kade wenzani?
- TRANSLATION:* I'm fine... May I please ask what you were doing all the time you were with Grandfather today?
- GOGO:* Kade ngenza nje umsebenzi wasendlini.
- TRANSLATION:* I was doing my normal daily house work.
- PRETTYGIRL:* UGogo naye ubalulekile kimi ngoba uyasithengela ukudla bese umkhulu yena ayineleze imali kagogo ukuze ukudla ukube kuningi.
- TRANSLATION:* Granny is important to me because she buys us food and then Grandpa adds to Granny's money so that there is enough food.
- PRETTYGIRL:* Njengamanje sengiyaphuma ekhishini sengingena esitting room. Ngibona iwashi, nabosofa, neradio kamkhulu. Ngizocela ukuthi uMkhulu ayichaze.
- TRANSLATION:* Now I'm leaving the kitchen, entering the sitting room. I see the clock, the sofas and Grandpa's radio in the sitting room. I will ask Grandpa to introduce himself.
- MKHULU:* Mina ngingu P. Mabika, maliphelele nguPeter. Kodwa ke likhulu ukuzalwa nginguMkuzi. Leli lithi Peter yigama engalithola ngalokukholwa.
- TRANSLATION:* My name is P. Mabika, my full name is Peter. My birth name is Mkuzi. I was named Peter after I became a believer.
- PRETTYGIRL:* Lapho wazalelwa khona indawo yakhona ikanjani?
- TRANSLATION:* What was the place like where you were born?
- MKHULU:* Ngazalelwa eMbonisweni ezweni labantu lapho bathi kuhlala izilwane neyidlovu, ngazalwa khona kuleyondawo ngakhulela khona.
- TRANSLATION:* I was born in Mbonisweni, the area where people say animals and elephants live. I was born in that place and grew up there.
- PRETTYGIRL:* Ngizocela futhi ukubuza ukuthi uneminyaka emingaki futhi lapho ubuhlala khona wawunakekelwa ngubani?
- TRANSLATION:* May I ask how old you are and who looked after you where you stayed in your previous place?
- MKHULU:* Ngineminyaka awu 85. Ngokho ke ababenginakekela, nganginamakhosikhazi ami. Eyokuqala ngaba nayo yashona, ngaphinda ngaba nenye futhi nayo yangilahlekela. Ngalahlekelwa

- ngabantwana abawu 7 bonke. Njengoba ke manje senginale nkosikazi enginayo sesiguge sobabili asisakwazi ukusebenza.
- TRANSLATION:** I'm 85. My wives used to look after me. The first one died. I married the second one and she also died. I lost seven children altogether. I've got this wife now. We are both old we can't work anymore.
- PRETTYGIRL:** Wazizwa uphatheka kanjani ngokushona kukaMama wami?  
**TRANSLATION:** How did you feel when my mother died?
- MKHULU:** Ukushona kukamzukululu wami kwaba buhlungu ngoba sengisele nalezintandane azisenamelusi, azinamsizi nami anginamandla futhi.  
**TRANSLATION:** My grandchild's death was very difficult to cope with, as she left her children behind and they have nobody to shepherd them and help them, and I don't have strength anymore.
- PRETTYGIRL:** Uzizwa kunjani ukuba esikhundleni sikaMama wethu?  
**TRANSLATION:** How do you feel about being the one who has taken the place of our mother?
- MKHULU:** Akungihluphi lokho ngizwa kukahle kakhulu ukuba ngibagone abantwana ngothando, inhliziyoyami iyathanda ukubagona.  
**TRANSLATION:** It's not bothering me, I feel better when I look after children, to hug them with the love in my heart.
- ALL:** *[singing gospel]* Siyakudumisa, Nkosi yamaKhosi ...



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