

## **From Shadows to Light: A Journey of Hope and Gratitude**

I am Muhire Moses, a 22-year-old student at the Uganda Institute of Information and Communication Technology. As I write this, tears of joy and immense fill my eyes, for I would not be able to share my story without the unwavering I received from you.

During my childhood, my mother and I migrated from Rwanda to Uganda after my father abandoned us due to reasons best known to him. We settled in the slums of Mulago, Kampala district, where life was incredibly difficult, and our future seemed uncertain. Tragically, my mother passed away, leaving me in the care of my aunt, who was also struggling with her health and financial difficulties. Many times, we had nothing to eat.

As the Bible says in Isaiah 46:4, "I will be your God throughout your lifetime—until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you." From the slums of Mulago, I eventually found myself in the slums of Kitintale. Despite the hardships, I held onto hope, even as old buildings and abandoned cars became my shelter.

Growing up in the slums, I faced countless challenges that threatened to derail my education and future. My aunt, who was struggling to make ends meet, could barely afford the necessities, let alone school fees and food. Despite my love for learning, I was on the verge of dropping out of school.

One night, after a long day, I went to rest in an old car that I admired. It was so worn out yet beautiful to me because I loved cars. As I stepped into the car around midnight to sleep, someone suddenly grabbed me, and my heart raced with fear. To my surprise, the man who had taken hold of me offered me a place to sleep in his house. This man, who later became a friend, introduced me to his friend, Kabanyana Jackline. When she heard my story, she was deeply moved. Kabanyana Jackline is more than just a name to me—she is a mother and a mentor. She welcomed me into her home, and that single act of kindness marked a turning point in my life.

One morning, after I had showered and dressed, Jackline took me to a place I had never been before. As we entered, we were greeted with warm smiles. Little did I know, this would become my home. We arrived at Meeting Point International, where I was introduced to Rose Busingye, commonly known as Aunt Rose, the director of Meeting Point International. Aunt Rose often educates us about understanding human Value. Meeting her for the first time, I was struck by her loving smile—the first time a stranger had ever smiled at me in such a way, and I can't fully explain the feeling. From that moment, my world changed. I discovered that I, too, have Value and that I am loved.

The following week, I was enrolled in school, and since then, I have never stopped attending. I am now in university and have never been expelled. One question that often runs through my mind is, "Why me?"

My experiences have transformed my perspective, allowing me to view the world with love, care, and compassion. In primary school, I became the entertainment prefect. In secondary

school, I excelled in lacrosse and basketball. At university, I became the guild representative and joined the American football team as a quarterback. I've engaged with many people who have taught me invaluable lessons, including participating in the Communion and Liberation Union, where we support one another.

As I grew older, I often wondered about the person who had supported me all these years and never gave up on me. I learned that I had a sponsor, which deeply moved me. I had always been curious to know this loving person in my life. In June, a friend of Aunt Rose who works with Support International and partners with Meeting Point International, visited Uganda and told me that my sponsor is B. If love had another name, it would be B. for me. Every day, I pray for B. because they are like another parent to me. I wouldn't be able to share my experience without you. You are the reason I have a smile as I write this.

"Thank you" doesn't fully express my gratitude. You have helped shape who I am today. From the bottom of my heart, I love you so much, B.

With all my love and gratitude,

Muhire Moses.