

NAME: GEOFFREY MWILU

AGE: 23 YEARS OLD

D.O.B: 10/03/1981

P.O.B: KITWE

TRIBE: LUNDA

EDU.LEVEL: TERTIARY

*Geoffrey had been out of school for a long time and spent most of his childhood on the streets imbibing on harmful substances...*

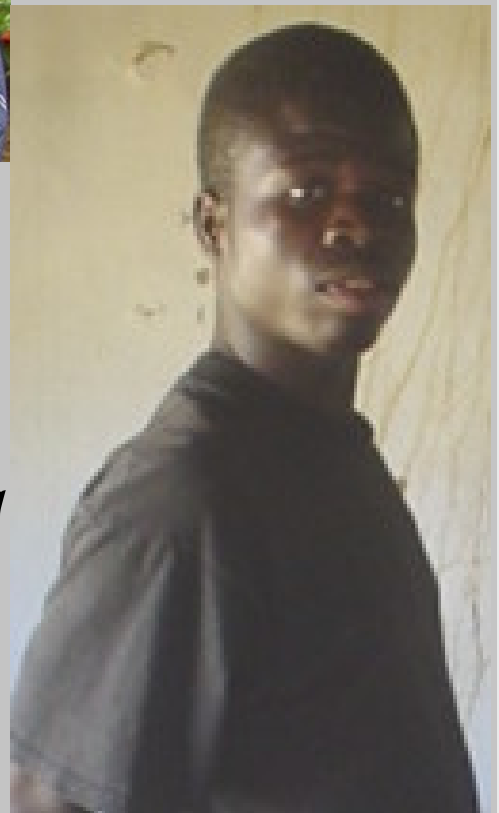
*G*

Geoffrey Mwilu was born on 10 March 1981 in Kitwe on the Copperbelt Province. He was born to Mr. Jeff Mwilu and Regina Mweenda. He is the only boy in a family of four as well as the second last – born.

His parents divorced when he was only ten years old. After the said divorce, he started staying with his mother but his father took him again. By then his father was already married to his second wife.

When Geo started staying with his father and stepmother things became thorny, because his stepmother did not like him and so she started abusing him.

This, however, led Geoffrey to move from their house onto the



streets, as he could not contain the pressure from his stepmother.

Moreover, going back to stay with his mother spelt hunger and lack for him so he opted to go on the streets.

Geoffrey went on the streets in 1993. He first went to Livingstone in search of his uncle whom he could not find and eventually decided to live on the streets. After a while in Livingstone, he moved to Lusaka, where he finally settled and was oriented into street life.

Geo says street life is very difficult and that one is vulnerable to a lot of danger. The abuse he faced from some police officers, bigger street boys and many other people tells it all on how he would describe street life. He also says that it was difficult for him to have an ambition, as confusion mastered the order of his street days.

Geoffrey was rescued from the ordeal of the streets in 2000, when Hope for Children took him into their orphanage. He then transitioned to Lifenet in 2001.

Before taking to the streets, Geo was in grade three at Mindolo Primary School in Kitwe.

When he came to Lifenet, it



was difficult to fix him in school because there was so much of a learning gap, which needed to be bridged. Providentially, he was put in an individualized mode of education where he could at least receive skill in reading, writing and speaking. This program was to serve as an interim yet critical step, before he could finally learn other life skills.

Even if Geoffrey had been out of school for a long time and spent most of his childhood on the streets imbibing on harmful substances, it was surprising to see his academic performance being impressive especially in Mathematics, which he enjoyed a lot.

After learning how to read and write, he was enrolled at Lusaka Business and Technical College, where he received life skills in Weaving and Designing. Other additional skills he learnt from the college were dying and communication skills.

Due to the closure of most textile industries in Zambia, Geo was posed with the difficulty of getting a job in his field of proficiency.

Nevertheless, it is heart-warming to note that Geo is a unique hard-working young man. He is very devoted to what he puts his hands. Therefore, Lifenet Children's Rescue Mission has employed him as the Aide at Kalundu Home for the Boys.

Geoffrey is a very active young man who loves playing football, dancing and singing. He is one of the members of the youth group at Capital Christian Worship Center Church.

His temperament is

phlegmatic. Moreover, adjectives that best describe his positive temperament tendencies are neat, loyal, practical, helpful, hardworking, organized, dependable, efficient, good listener, considerate and polite. Additionally, adjectives that best describe his negative temperament tendencies are: undecided, stubborn, tease, preoccupied, uninvolved, fearful and egocentric.



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