



NAME: RAYFORD M. PHIRI

AGE: 21 YEARS OLD

D.O.B: 27/10/1984

P.O.B: PETAUKE

TRIBE: CHEWA

EDU.LEVEL: TERTIARY

*When asked to comment on street life, Rayford said street life is not easy because it is very difficult for one to know what would happen to them the next day.*

Rayford was born on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 1984 in

Petauke in the Eastern province of Zambia and he is the fifth born in a family of nine. Rayford's father died when he was a child and he does not remember when this was.

However, his family moved from the village after the death of their father so that they could come and settle in Lusaka and look for a better life in the city.

Sadly, the above did not prove easy for Rayford's mother and his family. The city proved to be very costly and demanding for the family as the family could go for days without meals and proper clothing.

This led Rayford to start looking for pieces of work in the nearby townships. In the hunt for piecework, he thought it was better if stayed on the streets and make quick money without realizing what street life had in store for him.

Rayford went onto the streets in 1997 at the age of 13. His street livelihood was accompanied by many difficulties like sleeping in the cold for a long time; going without food for days and being bullied by older street boys.

When asked to comment on street life, Rayford said street life is not easy because it is very difficult for one to know what would happen to them the next day. All one would know is what they have done on a particular day. They would not for instance know where their next meal would come from".

Additionally, he said that he was exposed to a lot of torture by a lot of people and the police. His bedroom was the corridors and drainages of Lusaka.

There was virtually nothing that depicted Rayford's bright

enrolled for front office, where he learnt skills like communication

member of Capital Christian Worship Center church in Lusaka. He is one of the ushers at church.



future during the time he was on the streets; his life was encumbered with many albatrosses.

Hope for Children took Rayford from the streets in 2000 in August. Lifenet then adopted him in 2001. Since then he has always been at Lifenet.

The highest conventional educational level he reached was grade three. However, he was taken through some reading, writing and speaking skills by Lifenet.

Rayford's scholastic dexterity improved from the lowest level to the highest. He was very good at catching concepts. He learnt how to write at a fast pace even if he was a little bit slow in math and spelling.

After a year of learning how to read, write and speak English, he was then enrolled at Lusaka Business and Technical College. He

skills, first aid, hotel management, the roles of a receptionist and housekeeping.

Chabmoe Enterprise in Lusaka now hires Rayford. He is a very hard working employee who has been promoted now as a supervisor from a casual worker. He is in the process of transitioning into society after a few things have been put in place.

Rayford's temperament is phlegmatic and adjectives that best describe his positive temperament tendencies are neat, loyal, practical, helpful, hardworking, organized, efficient, considerate, polite and reliable. Moreover, adjectives that best describe his negative temperament tendencies are indecisive, teasing, preoccupied, fearful and offensive.

Rayford is a devoted



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