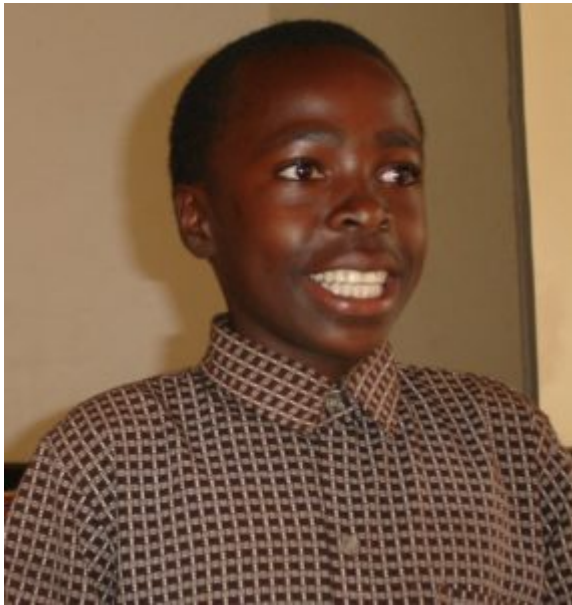


A Tribute to HIV+ Mothers



Living with HIV/AIDS is a journey started by many kids knowingly or unknowingly. To some, it was mythical truth they realized later to be real. Mine started unknowingly. At the age of 11, the truth was uncoated for me to taste its bitterness, it felt like the world came crippling down on my head. Being HIV positive at that age was the last thing I ever thought of. I hated and blamed

everything and everyone I could; lived indoors in a community that made life more complicated by pointing fingers, the ones who could have given me counsel at school—my teachers—always lit fire on me by calling me names which other children adopted.

You fought hard in changing schools for me so I could find comfort. Even when friends felt I was worthless, you helped me hold my head up and fight the challenge of living with HIV/AIDS; educated me that the world saw to live longer as hopeless, you showed and taught me the real meaning of love and life; life with a purpose.

You forewent your experience with HIV and became my first and best counselor ever, my guide and dear friend. You gave the whole of yourself to me; I am because you showed me the Way; Christ Jesus who has become a close friend, my hope of glory.

You single handedly raised me into the man that I have grown to be, full of hope and life. May you live to see me at your age today. I love you mama. You are the best!!! Happy mama's day!!!

Mum, you always said our case was/is with God and he will pass the judgment in our favor since we are innocent; I did not understand then, but now I do understand. I can freely say "I was blind, but now see; I was dead but now I am alive!" You single handedly raised me into the man that I have grown to be, full of hope and life. May you live to see me at your age today. I love you mama. You are the best!!! Happy mama's day!!!

Mother's Day

I am what I am not because I was what I am.

It is a journey many have not succeeded to complete
It took love, dedication and a lot of sacrifices to reach me
here

My well-being and happiness were birthed from her tiring &
sweat

Some had to forego luxury and pride to see me smile
Shielded me from the bitter reality of life and prepared me
for it

She spent sleepless nights when I was ill

Swallowed the pain to see me smile,

Happy Mother's day.