



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

Isibusiso / Blessing

Promise, 12 years old, 2006

PROMISE: Igama lami nginguPromise. Ngihlala eMaranatha. Ngifunda Okhayeni grade 7. Ngineminyaka ewu12. Ngiyintombazane, edarki angimude nje ngiphakhathi nendawo. Ekhaya kuseMaranatha. Nginenwele ezimnyama zewu roleni zifana nezikababa wami. Ebusweni ngifuze uBaba bese kuthi kwenye indawo ngiphinde ngifuze uMama. Ekhaya ngihlala noMama osisi bami abawu 2 nobobuthi bami abawu 2.

TRANSLATION: My name is Promise. I stay at Maranatha. I go to school at Okhayeni and am in grade 7. I am 12 years old. I am a girl who is dark in complexion and not tall, just medium sized. I have dark, curly hair that is like my father's hair. My face is like my father's and in other ways I look like my mother. At home I stay with my mother, my two sisters, and two brothers.

PROMISE: Ngizofisa ukuthi nginixoxele indaba eyenzeka empilweni yami futhi ibuhlungu yayingiphatha kabi kodwa manje sekwadlula. Indaba ngizoxoxela yona imayelana nomalume wami owashona ngo 2004. UMalume wayeyibusiso ekhaya kwakuthi sisahlala eHluhluwe uGogo ehlala lana naye uMalume. UGogo uma ehambile uMalume nguye ozosale agade ekhaya. Kwathi ngisho sesibuyile thina, la kodwa uMama wayesahlala eHluhluwe, uGogo mayehambile waya eHluhluwe kukhona ayokwenza sisale noMalume ngisho noma ngabe sesibuya esikoleni uMalume simuthole ukhuthi usiphekelile usenzele konke sifike sidle kungabonakali ukuthi akekho umuntu wesifazane ekhaya - uGogo akekho noMama akekho sifice kuphekiwe nje sifike sidle. UMalume wami ngangimuthanda kakhulu futhi ngimukhonzile, wayengafani nabanye omalume bamanje.

TRANSLATION: I would like to talk about a story that touched my life in a painful way although now it is past. The story I will tell is about my uncle who died in 2004. My uncle was a blessing at home when we were still staying at Hluhluwe. My grandmother was living there with my uncle. When she used to go away he would stay to look after us. Even if we were back here and our mother was still in Hluhluwe and our grandmother had to go away to do something, we stayed with him. Like when we came from school we would find our uncle had cooked for us and done everything as if there was still a woman at home - but Gogo wasn't there and my mother wasn't there! We would find that he had cooked and we would eat. I loved my uncle very much: I was close to him; he wasn't like other uncles these days.

PROMISE: Kusho kuthi ke uMalume ke segula wabuya ekhaya wazohlala

ehamba. Nakho ukugula aphinde agule aphinde ahamba. Nakho nje ukugula kwathi kwaze kwamqinisa kakhulu waze wagcina walala phansi ekhaya ngingaze ngabona nami ukuthi cha umalume usegula okwangempela ngoba uselele phansi ngoba kwakuthi noma egula ezibambe ngisho egula alule izinyawo ukugula kwakhe wayehamba nakho kodwa lokwamqala kwamlalisa phansi engasakwazi ukuhamba. Uma ehamba ahambe indawo eseduzane uma ahamba kude ngeke aze akhone uzoshesha akhathale.

TRANSLATION: And then it happened that my uncle got sick and came home and then got a bit better. He became sick again, and got better again until the illness became stronger and stronger and he was no longer able to move around. I could see that he was *really* sick because usually when he was sick he could at least still walk, but this was the first time illness had prevented him from walking. If he walked he would only go a short distance, if he went a long distance he would get tired very fast.

PROMISE: Basuka kudokotela bamchekha neHIV bathola ukuthi hayi, akanayo. Wahlala uMalume esibedlela vele wayengathandi ukuhlala esibedlela wathi kuGogo akambuyise azohlala ekhaya. UGogo wambuyisa wazohlala ekhaya. Bangasamvumela ukuthi ayolala endlini yakhe yedwa wahamba wayolala kwa-roundi noGogo walala naye. Ebusuku uthi uGogo uzwa waphaphama uMalume esathule aselele phansi asethule. UGogo waqunga sibindi wakangakhala wathula wathandaza samuzwa uGogo seyathandaza savuka saya khona safica sathola ukuthi uMalume akasekho sesishiyile emhlabeni.

TRANSLATION: The doctor checked him for HIV and found that he didn't have it. My uncle stayed in hospital but he didn't like being there and asked my grandmother to take him home. Gogo took him home. She didn't allow him to sleep alone in his house alone, so he went and slept in the hut with her. One night Gogo woke up and found uncle had died. She was very brave and didn't cry, she just kept quiet and prayed. We woke up and heard granny praying. We went to her and found that our uncle was no longer with us, he had left us on earth [had died]

rooster crowing, ducks quacking at Grandmother's house

PROMISE: Lapha nginoGogo ngizothanda ukuthi ngimqophe uGogo. Ngizomqopha ngimbuze mayelana nokushona kukaMalume. Ngicela uzichaze Gogo.

TRANSLATION: Here I am with my grandmother whom I would like to record. I will ask her questions about my uncle's death. Please Gogo, introduce yourself.

GRANDMOTHER: Mina ngingumama walayikhaya ugogo kaPromise.

TRANSLATION: I am the owner of this home, I am Promise's grandmother.

PROMISE: Ngifisa ukwazi kakhulu ukuthi mhlampe ungitshela into ezinhle uMalume ayekwenzela zona zikuphatha kahle futhi ezikukhumbuza yena.

TRANSLATION: I would like to know more, perhaps you could tell me good things that Uncle did for you and how well he treated you, and things that remind you of him.

GRANDMOTHER: Ziningi ngane yomntanami izinto umalume wakho ayengenzela zona, ngoba uma ngiyicabanga kufika izinyembezi. Izindlu lezi ezihlezi zihlezi kuzo zazakhiwa wuye umalume wakho. Ukumisa izindlu kumisa yena. Ngikhumbula indlu lapha ayesebola kakhulu

TRANSLATION: ephephuka engasakwazi ukwenzani kodwa wathi “Mama lendlu ngiyakhela ukuthi uma ningikhumbula noBaba qede nibuke yona.”
There are plenty things, child of my child, that your uncle did for me. When I think of them the tears come. All these houses were built by him. I remember one day when he was sick, and he was not able to do anything anymore but he said, “Mama, I am building this house so that you can remember me when you look at it.”

GRANDMOTHER: Umalume wakho ngoba wawumbona esehlala la ekhaya engasasebenzi esesebenza yonke imisebenzi yala ekhaya. Wayengathandi ukuba ngihlupheke. Uma esebona ukuthi lokhu niphatheke kabi wayeveza amahlaya abone ningahleki abuye aqhubeke aweveze amahlaya anibone senihleka ajabule. Ilokho ngane yami.

TRANSLATION: When your uncle was unemployed and staying at home, he did all sorts of home chores. He didn't like to see me struggling. When he saw that I was very upset about something he would crack a joke. If he saw that I was still not laughing he would do it again till he saw me laughing and that made him happy. That is all, my child.

[Rooster crowing]

PROMISE: Lapha sengisegeyithini ekhaya. Ngibona isihlahla ncingo nembali uGogo ayitshalile wahlobisa ngazo. Nangu usisi wami omncane Philiso.

TRANSLATION: Here am at the gate to my home, I see a tree, a fence, flowers that Gogo planted to decorate the homestead. Here is my young sister Philiso.

PROMISE: Sawubona.

TRANSLATION: Hello.

PHILISO: Yebo.

TRANSLATION: Hello.

PROMISE: Nangu umfowethu uS'phelele.

TRANSLATION: Here is my brother S'phelele.

PROMISE: Sawubona.

TRANSLATION: Hello.

S'PHELELE: Yebo.

TRANSLATION: Hello.

PROMISE: Ngiyabonga.

TRANSLATION: Thank you.



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