

My tender greetings to you and the healthed connect family.

Thank you for offering me the opportunity to share my life story.

I am Zambian male born in 1992 from a family of four (4) and happen to be the first born of the family. My father was named Ezrome Mumba and mother Agness Kasongo both Zambians and that our family comprised of 3 boys and one (1) girl.

I was raised in a compound Chipulukusu, Ndola district of the Copperbelt Province of Zambia. My area is characterised with a lot of poverty and that my family was not an exception. My father was only involved in piece works to support our family where my mother was a trader selling vegetables at the local market in our area.

Considering this background, it was not easy for me to enrol into school when I became of age because of lack of financial resource to get me started and so could only start at the age of ten (10). Furthermore, this is how I ended up at a community school called St Charles Lwanga in Chipulukusu instead of a public school. The school had eased the demand for one to start school such as one can start school without a uniform, minimal charge for school fees and many other requirements were not imposed on the students.

I was highly inspired by my teachers then at my school due to the fact that there was more time for them to talk about the importance of education in life of an individual, family, community, nation and the world as a whole.

Despite many challenges I faced in the quest to get the much needed education such as distance, difficulties meeting certain basic needs like proper food was able to remain steadfast in my journey. It is important to make mention that when I qualified to go to grade ten (10), my father died and had faced a very tough time as there was no one to help mother. This situation made me to look around myself and see where my help can come from and so God almighty directed me to visit my pastor by the name of Dismas Mulenga and shared my challenging moments. Of course the name of the church is Community of Christ and

so as the case maybe my church has played uncounted roles in my upbringing and their time around my school fees were paid off.

On a number of times I could get spiritual and moral guidance from the pastor Dismas Mulenga and it was indeed unfortunate that today Dismas is no more.

Because of HIV/AIDS, immediately I completed my final examination at grade 12 the next day my mother also died and so instead of celebrating this mile stone I started mourning my late mother. This situation further worsened my living and my future dreams shrank further and those of my siblings. My parents did not leave behind a house or essential properties for us to lean on for survival and so education became the only tool to use for our survival. My two brothers at a time they were young and had not yet started grade one.

So pastor Mulenga later advised me to apply for a job as a Community school volunteer teacher. The school was Mapalo Young Peace Makers Community School and by then the healthed connect had already started working with the community thereby providing allowances for volunteer teachers, hot lunch for the children and also capital projects like building a one by two classrooms. I did not hesitate to apply and that's how I went through interviews and was awarded an opportunity to teach at their school. This was a serious relief in that I had an opportunity to enrol my brothers in school and they were also receiving a meal from Monday to Friday every day. On the other hand the money I was receiving at the end meets some other essential needs such as food.

Now hope was restored in my life because work became like my father. The situation kept on improving a year later I received a scholarship to go and pursue a primary teacher training at Diploma level at a local college of education and this come like I was dreaming but later became a reality and graduated.

I have remained committed to my duties as a teacher and have played significant roles in the lives of many children coming or facing similar troubles like I did. Such as emotional support to some.

I am happy to share with you that God has been so faithful with me through Healthed Connect that am now school Healthed Head Teacher for the same school, My brothers are all in secondary school and one is completing next year and that they are all beneficiary of the education support provided for by the Healthed Connect. In addition, am married with a beautiful wife Dorcas and with one child a girl by the name of Agness named after my mother.

I may simply say my future is bright with many friends like you. Many thanks to Healthed Connect.

You are free to share my story.

Emmanuel Mumba

Head Teacher, Young Peace Makers Community School