



Sarah John

Sarah age 4yrs

My name is Sarah John. I am eighteen years old. I joined the Bethany family when I was two years old. My mother was abandoned with four children (two boys and two girls) all by different fathers. Her life was difficult from the beginning but it got worse after being abandoned because it's not easy for single parent to provide for a family on her own when she is jobless. My mother would always walk around with us on her way to find a living. One day she met a woman in one of the nearby villages who told her about the Bethany family. This woman told her that she might be offered help for her children and so she came to the Bethany family where my sister and I were accepted to be members of the Bethany family.

I don't exactly remember what happened to me at that time or even how I felt because I was still very young (at the age of two years) but I guess the joy I have now existed from the beginning when I joined the Bethany family. Since there I saw Bethany as an opportunity for the best of my future. I started to get things that even if I had to stay with my mother, I hardly could get them, perhaps I could not get enough food, good shelter to live in or I wouldn't have gone to school considering the status of women in our societies or maybe unmanageable education expenses.

I started pre-school immediately being taught by teachers around Bethany and some volunteers from the UK. Later I joined the local government primary school in the village around the Bethany family, this school's name is Yitwimila primary school. The learning environment of this school was not conducive, we had to get to school very early in the morning so we left home around 6 o'clock in the morning and get back home around 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the school also does not provide breakfast or lunch so we stayed hungry all day at school, in the classrooms too we had to sit on the dirty floor or use stones as there were no desks to sit at. All the time I did my best to avoid being punished by teachers by doing what they asked me to do and working hard in class.

I went to this school until to standard five when I transferred schools, from Yitwimila primary school to the Bethany pre and primary school which had just been built and registered in 2015. This school offers conditions which are better compared to those of the local government primary school. Teachers are more concerned about their pupils, there are adequate learning resources, children are influenced to work hard and behave well by learning Christian values and other good social values that will help them to live well in then society also to prepare for a good future. I did my standard five, six and seven at the Bethany pre and primary school and in my final exams (national exams) at primary school I got grade A results which enabled me to join secondary school.

I went to a local government secondary school in the village near the Bethany family, this school's name is Sogesca secondary school. Most of the conditions of this school are similar to those of the local government primary school (Yitwimila primary school), only that the classrooms are better looking with chairs and tables to sit at. I was able to perform well in class through motivation from my teachers, personal effort and without forgetting God who allows everything to happen in the way he is pleased. At school I saw how life was difficult for other people, some of the students miss school because they have to go to the farm, take care of the family when parents are away others are afraid of attending school because they haven't paid for various school contributions. These kinds of situations resulted to poor performance to most of the students (neglecting their abilities of doing well in class). Seeing all of these things happening to other people gave me a thought of how hard I was supposed to work and that I had no reason to fail because Bethany gave the opportunity to go to school and paid every contribution needed at school while for other students it was different. I knew that I was supposed to use the opportunity to do well.

I started form one in 2018 and finished form four in 2021. In my final exams (national exams) at secondary school I performed really well, I got division I points 7 which is the highest score, I also became the first in the district (out of over 1,000 students) and the third in the district (out of over 4,000 students). I thank God always for the success He's enabled me to achieve in my life through the opportunities He's opened up for me. I also thank God for the gift of intelligence that has enabled me to always become top in my class from primary school to secondary school.

Apart from life at school there is also life at Bethany which is also a testimony to tell. I have lived at the Bethany family for sixteen years for everything I have received it's because of God's grace. I experience God's love every time I see other children with similar or even worse backgrounds with smiling faces and they have hope for the future only because other through God's love have given and committed themselves to God's work to create happiness and joy in the lives of the needy. I tried to my best to work hard and to behave well as the Bethany family's motto states (hard

work and good behavior). In my life at the Bethany family, I have never done anything so terrifying or so bad neither did anything so bad happen to me, most of the things that happened to me were normal just as those that happened to other children. My experience at the Bethany family has enabled me to expand more in my faith in Christ, not only from what I learn about Christ but also from actually seeing the work of Christ being done here at Bethany. This reminds me of my one among of my responsibilities as a Christian that to be mindful of the needs of other and not living a life of my own interests (philippians2:4) and to be grateful always.

Since I finished form four, I have been staying at Bethany helping out with different activities. During the day I help out with chores like cooking, washing dishes and in the night, I have a session with standard five and six not to teach but I just give them questions from what they have learnt at school and marking their work, also I help the secondary school students with their homework. I am now expecting to go to high school for two years and later go to university or go to college for training. In the future I would like to be a doctor so that I could save people's life and because I believe it's something I can do out of the abilities I have. I pray to the almighty God that in the future, through my profession or in any other way I may be able to help the helpless and the needy.

I am so grateful to all the people who keep the work at Bethany going on, saying thank you alone is not enough for everything you do and give but just be encouraged that you have your reward stored for you in heaven (1corinthians15:58). May God bless you.



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