

My name is Vivian Obure Francis I am 18 years old, I completed my secondary education last year (2021) in Mara region. I came to the Bethany family when I was two years old. My life at the Bethany family at that time was lovely because everything I needed was provided and it was good to stay in this family as a child. I thank all the care workers who took part to stay with me from my childhood stage until I grew up. I give a lot of thanks and appreciate their hospitality and lovely moments we spent together.

ABOUT MY LIFE AT PRIMARY LEVEL OF EDUCATION

My life at primary school began well here at the Bethany family where life was still simple, lovely and enjoyable. During my studies we transferred school from Yitwimila primary school to Bethany pre and primary school. Our performance in class decreased because it was difficult for us to turn from learning subjects in Kiswahili to learning subjects in English but we thank our supporters for building the Bethany school which has helped a lot of children including myself in developing English skills and vocabularies that made it simple for me to perform well and to join secondary school.

ABOUT MY LIFE AT THE BETHANY FAMILY DURING SECONDARY LEVEL OF EDUCATION

When I got to secondary school my behaviour started to change, I was very naughty and rude to the care workers, I didn't listen or even follow the Bethany family's rules and from this point I saw the Bethany family as a prison because I wanted freedom I wanted to go and see how life is outside Bethany thinking that it's simple and enjoyable. This happened in my first year at secondary school (2018), even when I got to form two I was still very naughty and disobedient. My care workers tried together with Miss Paulo tried to make meetings that concerned my behaviour and they even tried to make me understand that I had to follow the rules and regulations of the Bethany family but I was very arrogant and didn't want to listen to what they told me I thought my choices were more important than their advices. Miss Paulo with her team still didn't give up on me they kept warning me and giving me punishments when I went out of Bethany without permission. Thanks to them for not giving up on me so earlier, they really tried very hard but I was very difficult to understand and pay attention to what they told me. During form three my behaviour became even worse, I acted so rudely to my care workers who treated me well and I didn't appreciate their love for me, this led to misunderstanding. I thought living a life of my own was a right decision to make.

One Sunday evening standing in front of my fellow children and my care workers, Miss Paulo told me that if I continue misbehaving I'll be thrown out of the Bethany family. Even by her saying these words to me still I didn't realise that I was doing something wrong and I didn't want to change my attitude. Time went past and I still acted the same, all my care-workers tried hard to make me change but still I was as hard as a stone to change my decisions. Time came when Miss Paulo had to call my mom, she told her about my behaviour and she also asked her to come and pick me up from the Bethany family because she thought I might convince other children who are well behaved to behave badly. My mom thought that Miss Paulo was lying about me so she came to Bethany (in November 2021) where she was told to take me. I thank that the day I had to leave the Bethany family I realised that everything was going to perish from my world, I even apologised for all the wrong things I ever did to my parents at the Bethany family and for goodness sake they forgave me and I went home (to my mom's place) well.

ABOUT MY LIFE WITH MY MOM AT OUR HOME VILLAGE

Life at my mom's home was very difficult to me because I didn't get the basic needs as required. Everything was very expensive, I needed money and it was hard for me to continue with my secondary education so I had to sell peanuts in order to get school fees and money for other basic needs. I was then able to continue with school. I joined a school called Prof. Philemon Sarangi secondary school to finish up form four studies (in 2021). The learning environment was not good enough but I started the year well. In March we did exams and I scored division I points 13 and I also met a friend who was being forced to get married while she was still a student but by God's grace she came over it, she really encouraged and helped me with physics and basic mathematics subjects which were hard for me. I thank the Lord that the English I had learnt at the Bethany family gave me the ability to understand the questions well. During the national exams I gave my prayers to God I asked Him to help me perform well because this was an exam to determine whether I could continue with further education or not. Thanks to God because I performed the exam I got division II points 18 a score which allows me to continue with further education.

COMING BACK TO THE BETHANY FAMILY

After I completed my secondary education (form four) I continued selling peanuts in order to keep getting money for the basic needs at home. I found life so difficult hence wanted to come back to the Bethany family to seek for help. One morning I sent a text to Miss Paulo asking to come to Bethany to greet my brothers and my sisters thank goodness she was very welcoming and gave me a chance. I came back to Bethany (in March 2022) but in my mind I had an aim of coming to apologise to my care workers about my past and to ask for an opportunity once again to get support for my further education. For all the bad things I did in the past now I realise how foolish I was to follow my very stupid decision of living a life of my own rather than using the opportunity I had for better and again I am really very sorry to all the people whom I ever caused trouble to them. I am also very grateful to all the people who have given up themselves to support and give donations to the Bethany family. I have nothing big to give them but I just ask God to give them eternity and happy lives as they share their joy with the children at the Bethany family. May the Lord bless the work of their hands.