

Student Profile

Name: **Phales Mtonga**

Gender: Female
Date of birth: 28th May 1992
Place of birth: Lusaka, Zambia

Mother: Martha Nyirenda
Profession: Unemployed

Father: Peter Mkandawire
Profession: Defense Soldier (Eastern Province, Zambia)

Primary School: Chibelo Basic School

Secondary School: **Ibex Hill Secondary School**

2010 Level: **Grade 11**



Family Background:

Phales' parents do not live together and do not care or provide for her. Her father is a soldier, stationed in the Eastern province of Zambia. Her mother lives in Lusaka, but is unemployed and unable to provide for Phales.

She lives with her brother, Anderson Mtonga, in the Kaunda Square area of Lusaka. He is a primary school teacher at Ibex Hill Boarding School in Lusaka. Kaunda Square, where Phales lives with her brother, is a far distance from Chibelo Basic School, where she attends primary school. Many days, Phales walks to school, which takes her more than one hour. It is another hour's walk home.

Without a scholarship, Phales' brother could not afford to continue her education. As a teacher, he values education greatly and hopes that Phales seizes this opportunity.

Phales' Educational Background:

Primary – Chibelo Basic School

Phales attended Chibelo Basic School, which is far from her home. Unfortunately, she could not get a place at a nearby government school, which

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was overcrowded at the time. However, Phales enjoyed Chibelo School and learned a lot. Her favorite parts of Chibelo School were the computer lab and the HIV/AIDS Resource Center.

Her favorite subjects were Mathematics, English, Science, and Social Studies.

Outside of class, Phales liked to spend time at the HIV/AIDS Resource Center at Chibelo to learn more about HIV/AIDS.

At Ibex Hill Secondary School

Grade 8

Being in a new environment was a challenge for Phales at the beginning of the school year. There were certain things she had to adapt to, such as the teachers whom she found difficult to understand. As time went on however, she applied herself and focused on her weak subjects and began to show improvement. Her favorite subjects were mathematics and history.

Grade 9

In Grade 9, Phales felt that she improved tremendously. She earned higher class positions than she did in grade 8, reaching as high as 3rd position in some of her best subjects. She mentioned how she hoped to win the most improved student award this year because she put in a great amount of effort to raise her performance.

Grade 10

In Grade 10, History and English continued to be Phales' favorite subjects. She was at the top of her class in Math, Biology, Geography and Accounts—receiving a 95% in Biology during her second term. History and Religious Education are her most challenging subjects, and she is studying to improve her marks. She said that being at Ibex Hill has taught her to mix with a wide variety of people as well. “KF has helped me with a lot of things,” she remarked recently, “I am now at a school where I get a quality education and am in a better learning environment.”

Phales was also elected to act as monitor. She made sure the class was clean, kept order in class, and assisted the teacher with collecting assignments. Phales was elected because her fellow students recognize that she is responsible and hard-worker.

Grade 10 Academic Achievements:

- 1st Position in Mathematics, Chemistry and Accounts
- 2nd Position in History

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Phales' Interests:

Extracurricular Interests

While at Chibelo Basic School, Phales loved helping her brother with the household chores, especially the cooking. She also loved reading books and singing.

At Ibex Hill, she is now part of the soccer, netball and basketball teams. Her favourite is soccer where she plays the position of goalkeeper. During a recent game against the American School, she saved seven out of the ten shots against her, fearlessly launching herself across the goal to save the shots. She is also involved in school clubs such as the Scripture Union club, which teaches her the importance of gratitude. She is also a member of the choir, where she especially enjoys singing worship songs. Finally, she enjoys reading novels in her free time.

Community Service

During breaks from school, Phales helps her neighbor's children with their school work. She is planning on extending the tutoring to more children—"I am trying to have more children in the class so that I can make a change in their lives."

Career Interests and Work Experience:

Her career interest is to become an accountant or a doctor. "By being a doctor, I will do my best to serve other people's lives when they are sick. On the other hand, being an accountant I will try to make a change by not cheating and stealing other people's money and property."

Phales participated in work experience at the pharmaceutical company, Pharmanova Limited. There she analyzed the active ingredients of the painkiller, panado tablets and worked with Sonia to review the health and safety measures of the company. "I learnt that in panado tablets, it is the paracentamol that really kills the bacteria when one has a headache. Therefore, the panado tablets had to be analysed and made sure that it is manufactured in a clean environment to prevent germs. It helped me in chemistry as well."

Phales's Relationship with Her Mentor:

Phales looks up to her mentor, Lucy Lungu, as a friend and leader. She says she feels comfortable enough to go to her with problems both on her schoolwork and even when she struggles with her friends. "My mentor is the most caring, and understanding person I have ever met. We enjoy when we are together and communicate a lot."

What the teachers think of the student:

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Teachers at Chibelo School felt that Phales was among the best pupils in the class. She had a particularly strong zeal for learning and knowledge. She was patient, and took her time when answering questions, but was always effective with her answers. She is an intelligent girl and was deserving of a scholarship.

Phales' Thoughts

“Out of all my achievements, the greatest achievement I have experienced is the sponsorship that the Kucetekela Foundation is giving me.

I have been faced with a lot of challenges. I was in darkness but now I am in light because this programme has really brightened up my future. I am trying all my best to work hard and do something for other people like Kucetekela Foundation is doing for me. I have helped my friends in problems that they face especially in Mathematics and sports.

My favorite event was attending World AIDS day in December 2009. We went to watch a movie at Arcades and I learnt that abstinence is the best, and we should try to help those with HIV/AIDS.

I am enjoying school here at Ibex Hill Secondary School. I enjoy being with other people who are well behaved. I enjoy swimming, the parties we have, and the learning.

As a KF member I have learned that God is there for me because he created you to help other people, and to help me help other people. May he continue blessing us.

I enjoy sharing ideas with other people because it helps us to learn more. I enjoy being with the teachers because they encourage me and tell me what the future is really like and also how to improve in academics.”