

Out of Suffering, the Hope Centre for Handicapped Children is Born

By Pastor Tyrone Paul - Director (South African Evangelistic Mission)



Fikile and her son Amahle

Fikile Dlamini was raised by her mother in rural South Africa. She was unable to complete her schooling since her mother did not have an income. Fikile was forced to find a job at a clothing store in order to put bread on the table.



During this lonely time in her life, she had a relationship with a young man and fell pregnant. Her world was shattered when her first child was born disabled; the father abandoned Fikile and her son as well. Thoughts of suicide flooded her mind; anger, and depression overwhelmed her. She ran to her mother who is her hero and mentor. It was through the encouragement of her mother that Fikile pulled herself together and found God as her comforter. Fikile decided to cast all her burdens onto the Lord and accept Jesus Christ as her Savior.

She got married in 2009 and had two children who are perfectly normal. This came with another season of pain as her husband did not want to accept her disabled child within his new family. As her son began to grow older, Fikile became concerned about his schooling. There were no schools nearby that could provide the kind of care her son desperately needed.

During her journey, Fikile discovered that other mothers also had disabled children and were in the same predicament as her. She knew she had a deep love for disabled children. She could not run away from the passion she had in her heart for her child and other children like her son. It was then that HOPE flooded Fikile's heart and she decided to help handicapped children in her mother's house. The Hope Centre was born!



Pastors Tyrone (top), Lionel (left) and their SAEM churches regularly provide supplies for the Hope Centre.

Eleos and Giving Hope Network have helped provide funds for:

new kitchen, bathrooms, medical room, and various construction projects. Together, with our South African partners, we help to support Fikile and the other mothers.



It began to grow until they could not accommodate all the children. She approached a principal of a nearby school and he allowed her to use a vacant building. Fikile and the other mothers have helped to care for nearly forty handicapped children since starting the Hope Centre. Fikile currently is a house-mother to four disabled children, her own son, and her two daughters.

Fikile is a strong, determined, passionate, and caring young lady. She has never given up on her desire to see disabled children happy. She currently doesn't have any concrete financial support base. She helps to transport children to school to earn money to care for these children. Fikile is forever grateful to all who have helped to provide a better home for her child and the other children.

Rescuing Abandoned Children - A Day in the Life of Fikile By Ed Rosella

One day, as I was speaking to Fikile, she received a call. I didn't understand her conversation in the Zulu language. After the call, she said to me, 'I'll be right back.' I asked where she was going. She said, 'Someone told me about an abandoned baby with AIDS. I'm going to get the child!' I was dumbfounded. She didn't have a car or the means to travel to where the child was located. However, it didn't deter her. She hitched a ride and found a way! A few hours later, Fikile came back with the abandoned baby. I felt like I was in the presence of an African 'Mother Theresa'.