

Student Profile

Name: **Phales Mtonga**

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

Guardian: Anderson Mtonga
Profession: Secondary School Teacher

Primary School: Chibelo Basic School

Secondary School: **Ibex Hill Secondary School**

2011 Level: **Grade 12**



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 secondary school teacher at Crested Crane Academy in Lusaka. Anderson is struggling to support six people, two of which are his siblings. His first priority is to pay for the education of his dependants (something KF has helped a lot with). If possible, he would like to return to school for a university diploma in order to advance his income and support more of his family members in the village.

Phales' Educational Background:

Primary – Chibelo Basic School

Phales attended Chibelo Basic School, which was far from her home. Unfortunately, she could not get a place at a nearby government school, which was overcrowded at the time. However, Phales enjoyed Chibelo School and performed well.

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

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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.

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.

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. She said that being at Ibex Hill taught her to mix with a wide variety of people as well. 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.

Grade 11

Though Phales was challenged academically during term one, she showed outstanding improvement in term two, jumping from 8th to 4th position. She continues to earn high marks in math and science and is working hard to improve in all subjects. "Phales is working hard," her teachers write, "and is capable of even better points." During term three Phales's grades dropped slightly, though this has only encouraged her to focus even more next year. She is fully aware of how important grade 12 is, and has vowed to give this essential year everything she has.

Grade 12

Phales has committed herself to her studies this year, but her courses have been challenging and this has reflected in her grades. In Term 1 she did very well in Math and Geography but struggled with English, historically her weakest subject. Her 4 A's still put her at 7th position in her class. Term 2 proved to be even more a challenge, and Phales came away disappointed in her results. Again she struggled in English, and her Geography grade dropped significantly. She has focused on her weakest points in the lead up to the National Exams in Term 3 and is confident her scores will show marked improvement.

Phales' Interests:

At Ibex Hill, she is now part of the soccer, netball and basketball teams. Her favorite is soccer where she plays the position of goalkeeper. She received an award for her excellence in sports at Ibex's 2010 prize giving day. She is also involved in school

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clubs such as the Scripture Union club, which teaches her the importance of gratitude, and the choir, where she especially enjoys singing worship songs.

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 help more children 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 (another KF student) to review the health and safety measures of the company. "I learnt that in panado tablets, it is the paracetamol 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:

Phales teachers believe that she is a hardworking student who can achieve anything so long as she focuses. They have also always been impressed with her natural athletic talent.

Phales' Thoughts

"I was naked but Kucetekela has fully dressed me up. I thought going to school was a waste of time but since KF came into my life, I have realised that being educated is the most important thing to do in order to experience a better future. KF has provided me with a mentor. She is Mrs. Lucy Lungu. I am very grateful to have such a person by my side because she is a courageous and caring lady. She tells me to call

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her Aunty because she loves me and treats me like her own daughter. I pray that one day I should be like her because she is a very hardworking woman who is also liked by everybody.

I would love to thank Mr. Oliver who is the President, Mrs. Nkowane, Mr. Simasiku, Mr. Lumbama, Miss Libby, and everybody else who gives support to this lovely Kucetekela Foundation because without your support, I would not even be where I am right now. May you please continue your great work and God shall reward you in heaven. “