

## MY LIFE JOURNEY IN KCP(KINAMBA COMMUNITY PROJECT )

My name is Obard Mbarushimana I'm twenty one years old, I'm a Rwandan and my home is in Kigali. I started to attend KCP in 2009, where I started my class as a primary 2 student. My life journey in KCP has been an amazing tale or let me call it a testimony that will be told to anyone who knows me including friends, families and people I meet in the future.

I was 8 years old the time that KCP allowed me to be called their student, I didn't even know how to say "good morning" not even "how are you" in English, but look now, I can even introduce and describe myself firmly with no fear or trembling in front of an audience. Thus I thank KCP for this, let me say it was like watering a plant that had no water and fertiliser at the same time, thank you KCP. In KCP I learnt the Rwandan traditional dance. I proved that I was a good dancer with culture and motive as well. To tell the truth I declare that I do count Meg as my second parent, and not even a parent only but a guider, an adviser like she always says that nothing will change unless you put yourself into it. What you have to do is just to wake up and work hard. In brief KCP raised me without caring about my past tough memories but focusing on how they can make my changes in the right way.

I discovered many places because of KCP, like we went in Akagera National Park, The National Museum in Nyanza, we went to different hotels to show our traditional dance and to different International schools where we showed what we learnt from KCP.

After finishing primary six (6) I was given another chance to go in secondary, I was so young, no let me say like I was too short compared to how I'm right now, the people weren't expecting see me grown like this (you will see the photos at the footage). All the credits goes to KCP.

We have to know that what we study is what follows and describes us, through the class of behaviour I have passed in KCP I was seen as a student in my secondary community who can stand and rule and even talk for the others, that child who came in KCP without any word in English became the leader of English speakers in the whole school compound, where the school trusted and send me in different English debate competitions, preparing some speeches. Coming to KCP has been my key to success and I'm still fighting for the trust I was put in to make it mean the reality.

I'm now a university student in Burundi-Bujumbura in HOPE AFRICAN UNIVERSITY. Firstly after finishing secondary I was worried about what to do as a secondary student who studied sciences and finally he is going to stop here without an identity of what he knows to do, or any particular job related to what he have studied, just in all those various thoughts that were running through my minds. Meg asked me my plans for the university, whoa, since the day one I used to wish I can be a specialist in eye treatment and luckily when Meg asked me that I replied quickly with ophthalmology and we searched for the university with an ophthalmology together then finally we found it here in Burundi. So, in ophthalmology I study; human anatomy and physiology of the eye; surgical and medical semiology; general psychology, medical psychology, human anatomy, human physiology, introduction to the Bible, and English but the university lessons change in every term. Thus, what I am studying this term will end with this term and next term I will be joining the other ones, just step by step. And I am glad to be a good ambassador of KCP here in BURUNDI-BUJUMBURA.

The borders were closed between Rwanda and Burundi so I had to travel by plane. It was my first flight for real and I was afraid of course, I had never even sat in a plane before and when the plane took off I just rose my hands up in the sky happily saying thank you KCP.

Actually I am happy in this university they take care of the students and of course I have created some friends from the university and many of them don't share the same language. Thus, some are from DRC, Tanzania, south Soudan, Burundi, and some Rwandans. You all know that adapting yourself somewhere that you are not used to isn't that easy but because I found friends there, they helped me to settle in nicely because right now I know how to talk to them without interrupting their culture, and talking about the culture I have learnt many related to Burundian's culture, like, their dance, poems, songs...

This new step I have made really changed my life and it have also changed a lot about how I thought other countries may look like. Before I used to travel from one country to another I was imagining that all countries are like Rwanda but I figured out that that my minds were somehow stuck on a dot. Thanks to KCP, the good family that made me know more about life. Be blessed KCP.

My journey in KCP is a long story, if I was to talk or give my testimony in front of a crowd of audience I can't dream putting my microphone down, because I can share a long story of my life in KCP with my colleagues who have attended KCP with me or before me and after me. May all positive blessings come to KCP.

I summed up my life journey in KCP, but it is a long story from when I was eight years old, and look right now I'm twenty-two. Thus, the best lesson I have learnt from KCP is helping others to reach their dreams without hesitating thinking on myself only. Always helping is a key to someone's health, let's keep on helping because the pure heart is the heart that satisfies the society using any means you can.

Thank you Meg!

The photos show me with the friend who helped me settle into life in Bujumbura, my accommodation and me in the university football team.



