

Florence Nightingale International Foundation
75th Anniversary Luncheon
July 2, 2009
Presentation by Nondunduzo Dlamini

Let me take this opportunity to greet the ICN president, ICN members, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Let me also thank the ICN members for giving me this opportunity to fly by an airplane and be a speaker at today's luncheon.

Standing in front of you is a graduate from the GCEF support, Nondunduzo Dlamini, as they said, from Swaziland.

It had dawned on me but now the light has shone just because of the girl child education project. Thanks to the Swaziland Nursing Association who went all out and finally came up with the Girl Child sponsorship that has opened the eyes of many girl children in Swaziland.

I was from an affording nuclear family of four children and I being the eldest where my mother was a nurse and my father a mine labourer. Tragedy began when my mother died and my father resigned from work in 2004. There was no income for the family. Thus we were in financial crisis, lacking the basic needs such as food and transport to school. Being the eldest in the family, I was stressed a lot. And in 2006 my life saviour came in. I was relieved though it supported me and not my other sisters. Luckily now the two girls are supported by the same project

Personally, the Girl Child Education Fund has come to my rescue, when my mother died I thought my life had come to end, since she was the only one responsible for my upbringing including my education, but the existence of the Girl Child Education Fund had come to make my future more brighter since I have completed my high school education. In addition, I would say the Girl Child Education Fund has helped me achieve my intended goals. Due to lack of finances this year I could not be in a position to enroll in university as my father couldn't afford my finances to enter in school, but through faith I hope next year I will be studying accounting science.

I want to be a chartered accountant, professionally. I intend being a singer – I've already started that – and having my own television show where I will be exploring youth issues. I dream to be a manger of my own, because I do not want to be managed for the rest of my life. I also intend assisting charity organisations such as the Girl Child Education Fund since I have seen that they can help the blind see. And lastly, for my future, I want to be the best mother to every disadvantaged kid because kids without any parent, they are led astray and can enter into drugs and all those things that distract them from their studies.

To other young girls, I'd like to say that education is the key to success and power. By empowering girls the the social economic status of each country is uplifted. For this empowerment of the girls, I say, for example, me and my youngsters are living in a home because of my mother who built a home for us. Thus they do not have to waste time by being pregnant and engaging into drugs and alcohol as these may distract their focus into their studies. Girls should learn to abstain from sex as it is a sin if it's out of marriage. I will also encourage them to enjoy their youth and remember that God will change their actions.

I would like to say thank you to the Swaziland Nurses Association that is the national executive, the Girl Child Education Fund Coordinator and the nurse volunteers for this tireless effort in assisting the girl children achieve their goals.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the co-funders of the Girl Child Education Fund, that is the International Council of Nurses for assisting with the sponsorship to empower girl children in Swaziland as this is in line with the Millenniums Development Goals of Education for All including the more vulnerable. Lastly, thank you for the opportunity that I was given and may the Lord blesses you.

As I said I am attempting to be a singer. I have already started singing in my church choir and a public choir. Let me just sing for you a chorus. I'm not sure if I'll be able to sing for you because I've got so emotional.

*You are great
You do miracles so great
There is no one else like you
For there is no one else like you*

You know, this song is for the miracle that has happened to me. I was just talking to Linda telling her I wonder why I am being given this opportunity. They sponsored me for my education, bought my uniform. They used to ask me about my life at home and then from there, they did not end it, but then here I am today because of them. They have given me a lot and I'm still asking myself why have they given me such a lot of things yet I haven't given them anything to prove that I deserve these things. That's why I'm saying my Lord is a God of miracles because he's greater. I am a Christian. Thank you a lot for giving me this opportunity.