

**Douglas Masheti (Sir-prano)**

**Born: 13<sup>th</sup> June 1983**

I am in a family of 7 and I am the fourth born. In 1990 I started school and my family was better off. Both my parents were there for the betterment of our lives. At that time my mother was the one who had a better job than my father and so she took good care of us. Life was good, and every thing was okay. In 1994 my mother got diagnosed with malaria. She was taken to hospital but it was too late. She was pronounced dead upon arrival at the casualty. That was the beginning of our troubles since she was the bread winner of the family. My dad had just small jobs. We had a rough time after my mother's death. The second year after her death it became very hard for my dad. One day I was sent home from school and that was because my dad could not pay for the school fees. This became so hard because even food was so difficult to get. With the situation in our house, I had to help my dad so he could support the rest of the children. I went out looking for small jobs but there were no jobs for me because I was so young. I started begging in the streets, asking money from people. I did small jobs like carrying luggage for people and they gave me some money. I knew that I was supposed to be in the school, but there was no money to help me go to school and this forced me to stay in the street. There in the street I met other hopeless children and they used drugs. They told me that if I wanted to forget the problems I had, I must start sniffing glue, I had no option and so I started using drugs to make it possible to live in the street and forget the pain I was going through. In 1999 a group of local congregation missionaries were in the streets preaching about God. They talked with people one on one and I was one of them. I was invited to Kawangware Lutheran church for some talks, and because I wanted to be a good person in the society I agreed. In 2002 the church sponsored a trip to Tanzania which I was involved in. It was a rehabilitation trip that the church usually organize. I changed after being with people who had stopped and did not use drugs.

After some years in the church I came to realize that I had a talent of singing and acting. And so I started singing in the church until when I met other reformed street boys who had the same talents as I had and so we formed a group with them. We started singing and acting Christian drama, many people liked what we had started. We were so popular in the church and people wanted us to have the name of the group. One day we asked people what they thought we should be called. We had three alternatives and The Conquerors won. (Romans 8:37). Know that in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Today I am reformed and I am serving people who are going through a kind of life I went through and those are orphaned children and street boys.