

On Tuesday, June 4, 2019, 2:25:25 PM, Sarah Olds-Mondlane wrote:

Exciting news from over here in Mozambique: Masana's transitional home is officially up and running! Last Friday we accompanied 3 boys across the bay to Catembe where they are now living under the care of a newly hired staff member. They will be at the Masana home Monday-Friday and will spend weekends with their families. We imagine that the boys will stay at the Masana house for 3 months but are going to take each boy as an individual case...if some need to stay longer they will. The idea behind this home is for it to serve as a time of preparation as the boys leave the streets and return to their families. On the streets, they have complete freedom and very little structure in their lives. That is not the case back home and, over the years, we've discovered that many boys struggle with going back home and having responsibilities. We also recognize that these boys often have very distorted views of family and their role within their own families. We hope to see that reversed and for the boys to truly understand God's design for family.



Today I visited the home with Roberto and 2 other staff members. We sat around the table together as Luis, the director of Masana, led a discussion on the role of mothers. Roberto was able to share with the boys from his own experience of not knowing his birth parents, being adopted by an abusive woman, running away from her house and eventually being adopted again by the couple whom he calls "mom" and "dad". Many of our boys are raised by aunts or grandmothers so Roberto's experience of being cared for by someone who didn't give birth to him was the perfect testimony. Our prayer is that the boys will learn to appreciate and honor every family member that takes care of them.

On Friday, two of the boys will leave for their first weekend at home. Please pray for their time with their families to go well and to be full of joy! The third boy has a very unique story...one very similar to Roberto's. His mom was from Swaziland and came to Mozambique pregnant and hoping to have an abortion. The person who had been arranged to perform the abortion would not do it because the pregnancy was already so advanced. This little boy was born here in Mozambique and then abandoned at the home of the family that was hosting the mother. This family cared for him as their own son. When the boy was 13, he learned from neighbors the true story of his birth. He became very angry and rebellious and went on to cause a lot of problems for the family that had cared for him his whole life. As a result, his adoptive mom is hesitant to take him back in but she's willing to work with us. For the first month, she will visit the Masana home from time to time and, if all goes well, during the second month she'll allow the young boy to visit in their home. We are grateful that she is willing to try! Please be praying for this young man and for God to restore him to his family. He has already experience so much rejection in his short life but I know that God can redeem what the enemy meant for harm...just like He did in Roberto's life. Pray with us.

Sarah Olds-Mondlane

