

"UNTIL THE WORLD IS CLEFT-FREE!"



L O V E W I T H O U T R E A S O N . O R G

MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAPPY NEW YEAR



# A letter from your dear daughter

For over 20 years, I have never called any man “Dad.” I never expected that I would, either. My name is Ashley Kunaka and I was born on July 1, 1996 in Zimbabwe. My father was excited when my mom became pregnant, and he expected a son. When he arrived at the hospital and saw me, this broke his heart. Then, he saw that I had a cleft lip and cleft palate. He did not hide the shame and torment from my mother. “It’s bad enough, she’s a girl, but I can’t have ‘this’ for a child.” My birthday, July 1, was the last day my mother saw my father.

Raising a child as a single mom is difficult. If that child has health issues, needs surgery, and is deemed a curse by her family – well, life becomes exponentially difficult. By the age of 12, I went through four cleft repairs by various teams. The children I went to school with all called me Scar.



ASHLEY KUNAKA



No one knew me by name. Scar became my identity. I hated myself. I tried to commit suicide on two occasions. Each time when I woke up alive, I hated myself even more. In 2018, my mom and I moved back to Zimbabwe. Within a few days, an SMS was sent about free cleft surgeries at Parirenyatwa Hospital. I could not even think of having another operation, but my mom insisted that we go.

There during the LWR medical camp, I met Mr. Santhosh and Mrs. Susan Mathews. Mom-Susan was the first to call me beautiful, apart from my Mom. It moved me. I would follow her around the camp, as she took pictures.

WHEN ASHLEY MET SANTHOSH  
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ZIMBABWE

I yearned to hear the name Beautiful again. Every time she saw me, she would call me Beautiful. We sat down together, and I was able to video chat with Philip. After seeing him and hearing him, my heart began to have hope.

Towards the end of the day, I was able to talk to Dad Santhosh. He prayed not for me, but he prayed with me. He told me, "I'm your dad now, you can tell me everything." I let everything burst out. I was healed inside before I had my surgery. I told everything to God, even though He already knew my heart. Dad assured me of my beauty and intelligence, even before I went to have my operation.

Dr. Mathew did my surgery, and then I had to wait a day before the bandages were removed. When they removed them, I was speechless. I was not Scar anymore. I was Ashley Kunaka.

I moved back to South Africa and began working. I met an amazing man and we got married! Now, we have a beautiful daughter. I plan to return to school and study Business Management.

I pray that one day the world is cleft-free. In the meantime, we should teach and learn one thing, and that is to love each other, without any reason. That is the way we learn from Christ.

Thank you all for supporting Love Without Reason, I am one among many that have received your love.

*Yours lovingly  
Ashley*



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