



## A Students Story Matara Nursery School

“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.”  
Psalm 127: 3

Mr. Paul Lorii, caregiver, at the Matara nursery interviewed:

### Learner Losikiria Nakidori from Namuton village

My Name is Losikiria Nakidori. I am 12 years old. My father is Nakidori Marino, also commonly known as, Agwak. St. John Paul Nursery School in Matara is only three minutes walk from my home village of Namaton.

Up to now, I have not yet been baptised. That is the reason I share my father’s name. It is the Toposa custom for the majority of people in our land to use their father’s names. I hope to be baptised in the future.

Life at home had been so hard due to too much work such as scaring of birds, digging the fields, and rearing of goats and other animals. I am always hungry. Many times we had to walk long distances to go and get food from our relatives in Namurupus Village. ( about 4 hours walk ) I had little food to survive on so I was actually drinking goats milk right from the teat before getting home late in the evening.



Figure 1 Losikiria is the 2nd from the left with his friends

Many times I was beaten when a goat or goats got lost or were missing

One day, my father came and talked to me and my brother, Lotalia Nakidori. He said that we needed to go to school. He wanted us to become helpful in the future like other people who are educated. This way we would be able to provide basic needs to our families in the future. So in 2019, I enrolled in school.

From that time I started schooling. Life is great for me since I am at school. I am able to receive porridge with sugar, balila ( boiled maize & beans or boiled sorghum & beans ) I can play football with my friends or sing and dance. I can even go bathing in the river on Fridays with soap. We didn’t get these things at home.

What I have learned in the school is prayers before starting the class. Sweeping the compound and picking up rubbish and burning it to keep the place clean. I take a bath every week and try to wash my clothes before coming to school. The teachers taught us to clip our finger nails and cut our hair to be clean and tidy. We learned to say sorry when we are wrong and forgive others when they are wrong. We draw many pictures of things. I can now look at a picture and identify it and also to draw it myself.

We learn all these things in the school. In our village our people don't know these things. Only fighting and arguments.

My prayer is that God (Akuch) will help me through studies. I want to become an important person. I want to build a better house. I want to buy my own clothes, put on shoes. I want to be able to speak to our helpers that do come around rather than needing translation. I would like to one day, visit places like Narus, Kapoeta, Juba, and even Uganda and Kenya. If I could become a doctor so as to treat my own people I would be so happy. This is because when I feel sick and go to the PHCC facility in Matara, I am treated and get well. This is much better than depending on our local medicine where they just guess on the kind of sickness to be treated and the duration for treatment is longer. They eat all our money for nothing.

My prayer is that the school will at one time in the future have boarding rooms. This way we can live at the school and only go home on holidays. That is when I would have to resume the gardening and rearing of goats while I am home.

( Source: Interview by Nursery Teacher and edited by Gabe Hurrish 05.Nov.2021 )



Figure 2 Nursery pupils write on black board