

Case 27

Home is a place of refuge for many people but I felt stripped of this refuge when my father and cousins gang raped me. I was only 15. I was so traumatized that I couldn't eat, talk or sleep. I was hospitalized for six weeks. Fear paralyzed my whole body. It was like living in a night mare. Every time I tried closing my eyes, the same scene would repeat itself in my mind. I even started shrinking away from any guy who would try and talk to me. The nurses had to spoon feed me and teach me how to walk again.

I went to stay at Saint Christopher Home (home for orphans) thinking that at least I could start over again with my destructed life. I stayed with many children and sisters. I stayed there for one year. During this time, I met with a guy who seemed very sweet and kind. I was very lonely and was in desperate need of love. Thinking that going out with him would make me forget all my pains and troubles.

I felt wanted in his company. He used to stay next to the Home. We used to see each other often. I spent so much time with him that when he asked me to sleep with him I agreed. I felt like this was the only way I could prove my love towards him.

After a few weeks, I found out that I was pregnant. One of the sisters found out about my pregnancy and transferred me to Homes of Hope. I was on the verge of giving up. I was raped by my own father and cousins, betrayed by my boyfriend, a few months pregnant and no hope for the future. I feared for my unborn daughter, what if she was raped just like me. Fear always shadowed my life. It doomed over me like a big tower.

The first few days at this home was different. People seemed to have a peace about them. Nobody yelled or condemned me. Through out my life, I've been yelled at, condemned, beaten and told that I'm good for nothing. As time went on, I made new friends. The people were really kind and caring. I found new parents and the love that I never had.

As I opened my heart more and more to the warmth I receive from God, the fear started seeping away. I could smile once again. I didn't have to wake up with a nightmare any more.

Now, I'm a proud mother of a beautiful princess and she is my jewel. AND most of all, I have found my identity in Christ. He was everything I was searching for through out my life.