

TESTIMONY

A life in the streets was never what I was contemplating when I left home. I was **about 18 years** old at that time. Life at home was unbearable. We hardly had three meals a day let alone a decent meal. A balanced diet was a story in the movie for us. My parents were so poor. They could not even afford to send us to school. I would be hurt to see my parents struggle in attempting to feed me and my other two sisters and three brothers. The condition at home was so bad that I plotted a plan of escaping the misery. I could not put up with it anymore. I had managed to save two hundred shillings. This was going to be my transport to wherever I was to go.

My parents and I had sometimes back visited an uncle in Nairobi. I remember he stayed in a place called Kariobangi south. That was where my heart wanted to go. The day I was to escape, I packed my tattered clothes in a green paper bag and hid them outside our house. I checked to confirm that my savings was intact. My running away plan was secret; I did not want anybody to learn about it since they would stop me from leaving.

Somehow I managed to get my way to Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. The place looked strange to me thought it was not my first visit. Everybody seemed to be sure of where he/she was headed to and in much hurry to get there except for me. I was in utter confusion. I dint know where to catch a matatu (Vehicle) to Kariobangi south- where my uncle lived. I asked for direction from a stranger who gladly helped. We got to Kariobangi south in thirty minutes. I was the last passenger to alight from the vehicle. Real frustration set in as I could not trace my uncle's house. I searched for hours without luck. I had no option but to talk to one old lady, who was selling groceries, for a place to sleep. I narrated to her my ordeal and she offered to help. I stayed with the lady for one month, helping her with house chores and at times in selling her groceries. She was so friendly and good hearted. She helped me get a job as a house help.

I was earning **Kshs 1,500 per month**. I could save as much as I could, and was never extravagant. I never went back home for five years. I wanted to go home with lots of money to surprise my family. I can never forget the first time I visited home. The situation was so bad. My brother-the second born in my family had died after being shot by police for mistaken identity and my parent- were bed ridden. They were also getting old. I was very much saddened by their situation though everybody else was excited to see me home alive, having thought that I was dead. I vowed to work hard when I get back to Nairobi, in order to cater for my poor family.

Back in Nairobi I had made friendship with other house helps in the block where I was employed, but had strong attachment to one girl with whom we had a lot in common. On occasions we would share our problems and think of how we could overcome them. The money we were getting was not enough, and we doubted if it could ever be enough to enable us support our pitiable families.

One day she suggested we try going to the streets. We had learnt that girls make a lot of money by simply selling their bodies. We thought of that idea and realized we could make a lot of money as well through the same means.

We had to quit our jobs as house helps. We jointly looked for a small room where we called home. The savings that we had were enough for us to get a small room and buy a single mattress. That night we dressed neatly in our cheap clothes and went out to River Road near the Kampala bus, which is notoriously renowned as a prostitution Hubel, Nairobi Kenya.

We did not know how to approach men that is our prospective 'customers' if you would allow the term, this because of our cowardice, therefore we stood for 4 hours with only one soft drink soda hoping to be spotted by men but no man showed interest in us. Fortunately at around 5.00 am a man approached us. He talked to my friend and they left off immediately. I was sadly left there alone without any man taking interests in me. That morning I went home without making a single cent from any man.

My friend came later that day having made **Ksh. 3,000** from the male client. She was so excited and so was I, because at least she brought something home. The very same day we went shopping for new designer clothes and foodstuffs.

Though I personally was not lucky to get a male client, my friends catch-or client was a good motivation to go out another night. At night we took off to the Simmers night club. This night things really took off for me, since I managed to get two male clients. That night I got **Ksh. 2,000**. This marked the beginning of my career in prostitution.

Subsequently, we would always to Simmers night club and other prostitution spots every night and at times during the day.

After 5 months, we were able to buy household items and furniture together with some new clothes and saved some little money. Sincerely, we in deed made lots of money from prostitution.

After one year I visited my family. I had managed to save **Ksh. 10,000**. I asked my sisters to get ready since I would go for them in two months' time.

On the contrary, my parents were seriously happy that I had found finally a well-paying job back in the capital city of Nairobi. I had earlier lied to my parents that I had been gainfully employed as a secretary in an office in Nairobi.

I even went further to tell them that I would henceforth be able to put my siblings to school and would regularly send them money for their school fees and the pocket money for their upkeep.

Everybody in the family was happy but personally, I was dying inside. My conscience was killing me. I knew that what I was doing was bad, evil, dirty and immoral but unfortunately I had no option. On some days, I would get some hostile clients and would be violent enough to rough and beat me up after having used me. Seriously, it was a tough and rough career not as I would have in any way imagined initially.

Several times I contemplated quitting but I could not get myself to quit since the consequences would affect the education of my younger siblings that were looking up to me. I swore and promised myself to quit this immoral career of prostitution, once I got an alternative source of income or work.

Coincidentally, that is when I came across pastor (JIMMY) James Carter, who I thought he was a great client coming from his body size and smart clothing. He wanted to speak to me and I was more than glad to speaking to him believing to have been fortunate enough to have such great catch.

But he started counseling me how what I was doing was not only immoral but had dire consequences to my future health and socio-economic status. He told me that apart from being a preacher, he had a burden to help or sensitize people from this type of career by giving them life mentoring, counseling and prayer sessions coupled with any small support from well-wishers to initiate be small income earning ventures for people like us (the prostitutes).

Since this was what I had vowed, promised myself many days and years before I did not hesitate to accept pastor James' idea.

he invited me to his little organization that is named Lifetrarecen and asked me to help het more people like me that were sincerely willing to abandon these type of careers. He then came with some little cash helped me start off my clothe-second hand clothes selling venture at Kariobangi where I live currently.

I also offered to work at Lifetrarecen as a secretary.

I can sincerely confess today that I am a reformed lady. I feel clean inside and my conscience is never more cleaner than before. Moreover, I am now burdened to help more ladies that have or are yet vulnerable to give in into prostitution no matter the financial challenges that they may be facing due to nefariously negative consequences that issue from such immoral careers. I still comfortably support my family with my hard earned money.

THANK YOU LIFE TRARE CEN

LIFETRARECEN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Life transformation, Rehabilitation and Restoration Centres (LIFETRARECEN), was birthed as Church Social Responsibility project for ANC Ministries in the year 2020 during the raging Covid-19 pandemic.

LIFE TRARE CEN'S core objective and aim for existence was to extend a helping hand in reaching out those that seem excluded from the general population thus rendering the vulnerable or highly susceptible to all the vices that bedevil our human society. This group of vulnerable people have had their situations made worse by the advent of the nefarious Covid-19 virus global pandemic.

The first initiative of Life Trarecen, was to engage the youth who seem more susceptible and greatly affected; by starting a football club '**Consuming Fire Football Club**'. This initiative was to facilitate the engagement with the youth not only in physical, football activities that would go a long way in eradicating drug abuse, immoral and criminal activities. The football club is also immensely important in providing the **Life transformational coaching and mentorship** platform.

The transformation, rehabilitation and restoration of commercial sex workers are the project that we are currently undertaking and pursuing. This visionary project is mainly aimed at transforming, restoring, rehabilitating and supremely empowering commercial sex workers in Kenya. This is by starting at River Road, Nairobi the capital city where also the ANC Ministries church sanctuary is located.

At River Road, is where we find the greatest population or number of prostitutes that flock in droves both day and night. Prostitution has exponentially increased in the ravaging effect of the novel Covid-19 virus global pandemic that resulted from adverse socio-economic caused by the said virus global and also nationally.

This noble initiative to empower the identified commercial sex workers; seeks to pursue and persuade the former to abandon their current immoral and risky 'business' or 'work' with the promise of giving them a decent alternative means of survival or living.

This is achievable by empowering these former commercial sex workers spiritually, socially and most importantly economically.

This will also greatly be complimented by offering free counseling and life mentoring programmes to support the transition of the former and help them integrate into the greater society at large. This is by helping them through trained; life mentoring and transformational training that enable them to gain first and foremost self-acceptance and a renewed self-image. In this regard, in our small capacity

and the help of little small well-wishers, we have managed to pursue and persuade one commercial sex worker (**Read Jane wakesho's Lifetrare cen testimonial**). She will also display a pivotal role of helping in identifying and pursuing and persuading many more of her former friends that are still deeply steeped in the commercial sex workers. To this and we have already identified quite good number of them that are more than willing to immediately abandon their current commercial sex venture, once a decent alternative is availed to them.

The project is scheduled to run in four phases covering four main target regions namely; Nairobi the capital city, Mombasa, Kisumu and Nakuru. Each phase is projected to take a period of 2 years. We are targeting a minimum of fifty commercial sex workers rehabilitation initiative.

The entire project is expected to have rehabilitated, restored and positively reformed between 500 – 800 commercial sex workers at the projected of the completion of the entire four phases of the said project.

THE PROJECT GIVES EMPHASIS ON:

(A) Crime Reduction

Prostitution has a direct Link and correlation with criminal activities and a myriad other immoral activities related to crime and other social vices.

(B) Reduction of Juvenile and parental Delinquency

Prostitution which gives rise to parental delinquency which in turn engenders juvenile delinquency and the increase of street urchins and children that are born out of wedlock or in dysfunctional families.

(C) Child Abuse and Child Labour Reduction

The children born of commercial sex workers face adverse challenges before and upon their births. Due to lack of better living conditions and earnings from their mothers they are consequently highly susceptible and subjected to child labour and inevitable abuse in their quest to make the ends meet and gain a decent living.

(D) Reduce the joining of many to criminal gangs and the allure to join terrorist groups.

Most of these children born of the said commercial workers are void of social security and a sense of belonging to a group. The resultant effect is that as they grow in their teenage years they easily fall prey to joining criminal gangs and are highly gullible and likely to join the now rampant terrorist group cells. That easily find them as their sitting ducks ready to fall for anything and everything no matter how heinous it is. This has now become an issue that can no longer be swept under the rug in our country Kenya where its openly and constantly targeted by terrorist groups and militants.

(E) Greatly Reduce Suicide among the youth

Over 60% of youth suicides issues from the fact that the vast majority of these youth come from unwanted pregnancies and stigmatized for lacking fathers with their mothers being with their mothers being renowned as commercial sex workers. This has led to the definite increase of the above mentioned youths due to non-conducive socio economic conditions that has led many of them to truncate their lives prematurely.

(F) Greatly reduce drug abuse and behavioural disorders among the children.

Due to unrelenting challenges that constantly barrages the children of commercial sex workers, most of them end up in drug abuse in order to 'escape' the harsh realities that they constantly live under. Moreover, these children are subjected to behavioral disorders and a plethora of antisocial behaviours which causes unquantifiable and untold harm to the society at large.

(G) To greatly prevent or reduce teenage pregnancies

Most children sired by commercial sex workers are more than likely to fall prey into early teenage pregnancies that consequently compounds the vicious cycle of poverty, suffering and societal delinquency.

(H) Reduce the spread of H.I.V AIDS and other S.T.I's.

It's no brainer. The greatest spreaders of HIV AIDS and other related sexually transmittable infections come from the group of commercial sex workers.

(I) Increase the creation of employment opportunities ad income earning activities or initiatives consequently, reducing the poverty levels in Kenya.

This can be solely achieved by creating, empowering commercial sex workers to gainfully employ themselves through life traceran self-employment initiatives and small income earning business venture initiatives.

(J) Keep the family unit and fabric together

Thus having better communities, societies and the country at large since the better families a country has the better the country becomes. This can be realized through life trarecen counseling, life transformational coaching and the free life mentoring programmes that will be availed or easily accessible to the former sex workers that will be drafted into this noble project.

(K) Raise a great team of Transformative Agents.

Once the former commercial sex workers have been transformed, rehabilitated and restored, they will in turn be the agents of Lifetrarecen that will persuade others to forsake their immoral living.

THE PROBLEM STATEMENT

Because of increasing levels of poverty and unemployment in Kenya, there has been an exploding rise of the nationwide rates in crime, violence, drug abuse, child labour this including prostitution. This has been compounded greatly by the advent of Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, many companies and business organizations closed shop. This led to unparalleled increase of the unemployed persons. This is because of the formerly employed persons. Young girls due to lack of options were forcibly turned to prostitution to make ends meet or due to the increase of prostitution, in the major towns of the country, the after effects of the increase of the prostitution has consequently resulted in the increase of the spread of HIV/AIDS and the STI's. Apart from the rise of sexually transmitted infections and HIV AIDS; there is also the direct increase of the said major forms.

THE EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE ABOVE INITIATIVE

- i. Former Commercial sex workers getting decent self-employment jobs or income earning activities.
- ii. Former commercial sex workers actively involved in church and other spiritually transforming activities.
- iii. Former commercial sex workers working as social agents, sensitizing the current sexual workers on the negative effects of prostitution in general to the community and the nation as a whole.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

By the end of the envisaged four phases of this project, approximately eight hundred (800) commercial sex workers will have abandoned prostitution and will have found by the help and requisite support of LIFETRARECEN will have found an alternative means of earning a living.

This project will include the identification of commercial sex workers their persuasion and their retraction from the streets and prostitution spots. This will include counseling and social

integration development of skills and other socio-economic empowerment. Upon their socio-economic empowerment the said project will seek to absorb the prostitutes in the different income generating ventures run by LIFETRARECEN.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION & MANAGEMENT PLAN

The implementation of this project will be in four phases. The first phase is ongoing and is centered in Nairobi province.

The second, third and fourth will be carried out in Nakuru, Mombasa and Kisumu respectively. Each phase is a period of two (2) years. Described below are step by step of the rehabilitation, restoration and general transformation process.

a. Identification

The identification is the very first and foremost stage. Here we will identify the target areas where we are likely to find the commercial sex workers. These places are very common, hence it easier tracking the give ladies upon the area identification.

b. Visitation and Introduction

We endeavor to talk to them first as individuals and where appropriate in groups. Our project talks on sensitization talks will be brief and concise. This mainly just as introduction, we will then proceed on to exchange contacts for follow up purposes.

c. Follow up

At this stage of the process, we will call the already identified commercial sex workers that are willing to start over again their lives. We will book an appointment with the identified ladies and our Lifetrarecen representatives will meet them at a place that is conductively convenient for both parties.

Our representatives will actively engage with the ladies to ascertain the cause or reasons that made these ladies go out to the streets. These meetings are conducted intuitively and could be shortened if the respondent seems too uncomfortable or unwilling to disclose the there issues that brought about the said life. Some meetings are held in the church with pastor as most Kenyan ladies open up easily to men of cloth in church set ups.

We will then endeavor to continue making follow ups and invite them to our church meeting as we target their spiritual transformation.

d. Counseling & Social integration.

Here we will take them through counseling sessions. These sessions are tailored to make them open up and express their deep seated inner turmoil that may be adversely affecting them.

Here we shall seek through these counseling sessions highlight the negative consequences that come as a result of their engagement in immoral lives. The counselor will also endeavor to introduce them to the life transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Myriad benefits of living the Christian life and embracing the virtues of Christianity.

e. Placement

The transformed ladies (former commercial sex workers) will be given attachment at areas of their identified strengths in the LIFETRARECEN income generating projects.

Through these income generating projects will consequently, they will be enabled to find for themselves and their children without having to engage in immoral business activities.

The income generating projects include:

- Salons
- cyber cafes
- Food kiosks
- Airtime supplies
- Second hand cloth stalls
- Shoe shining stalls
- Tailoring shops
- Fruit juice stalls.

Moreover, any other good business proposals that are created will be considered for soft loans.

These above-mentioned LIFETRACEN income generating projects though not conclusively exhaustive will be of immense benefit for both the commercial sex workers and their respective communities that is society at large.

The envisaged general benefits from this project include;

- The reduction of the rampant spread of HIV AIDS and other attendant STDs that are resultant effect of prostitution.
- Reduction of fragmented family ties and broken marriages due to prostitution of commercial sex workers.
- Financial empowerment of the former commercial sex workers that will enable them to move on after a life of prostitution.
- Reduction crime related activities and Juvenile delinquency that issue from prostitution.
- Reduction of witchcraft related activities that are tied to prostitution.

The primary and major beneficiaries i.e. the former commercial sex workers after successful completion of the current phase (phase I) of this empowerment project will eventually be part of a team that will be incorporated into the project management team and will thence actively involved in other phases of the commercial sex workers transformation and empowerment project that will be extended to the other parts of the country i.e. Mombasa, Nakuru and Kisumu. After 2 years, 4 years and 6 years respectively.

Other prostitution prone areas will be taken into consideration as we progress down the line.

PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The management board has duly selected a monitoring and evaluation (M & E) team to do a bi-annual; (half year/monthly) monitoring and evaluation of the project. The M & E – monitoring and evaluation team is composed of a certified accountant an M & E consultant, Lifetrarecen project coordinator and the Lifetrarecen secretary. The secretary is expected to give half year reports after every evaluation. Any discrepancies or concerns raised will be remedied immediately.

DOCUMENTATION AND SHARING RESULTS

After the bi-annual monitoring and evaluation (twice per year), the ensuing reports will be prepared in that regard.

We will then submit the LIFETRARECEN project progress reports to our sponsors after completion after the said monitoring and evaluation progress report documents to anyone interested upon request.

PROJECT BUDGET