



KIWI'S STORY

Kiwi is the fourth child born into a family in Bacolod City, Philippines. But she is the first to live, and the life she is born into is extremely difficult. Kiwi's father earns little money, and most is used to buy alcohol. He is drunk every day for years, while Kiwi doesn't even have enough to eat. Then, miraculously, because of a local church event Kiwi's father becomes a Christian and is transformed! Soon, her whole family is attending the local church, which partners with Compassion and operates a child development center. Although there is joy in their home, Kiwi's parents struggle to find work. When the church starts a Compassion program, Kiwi is enrolled. Through the support of her sponsor, Edwin, Kiwi is provided many things that her parents cannot afford. But then Kiwi's parents move the family to Manila, where they have heard there are jobs. What they find in Manila, however, is even greater hardship. Thankfully, Kiwi is able to enroll in another Compassion program in Manila, and Edwin continues to sponsor her!

When Kiwi graduates from high school, her dream is to go to college. Because her parents cannot afford tuition, the only other option is for Kiwi to move to a different country and work at some menial, perhaps even dangerous, job. But Kiwi trusts in God, who has saved her family from so much in the past. And in fact, God does have plans for her life — plans for a future of success and hope!

Sensitive topics: *alcohol addiction, death, infant mortality, traumatic medical situations, poverty*

** A child appropriate audio version of this story is available. Inquire with a representative for details.*

JEY'S STORY

Mathare — the poorest slum in Nairobi, Kenya. That's where Jey lives. The saying is that kids born in Mathare have their life stories already written — stories of poverty, crime and early death. Jey's mother makes a meager living by selling illegal moonshine and drugs. After being raided by the police, she loses this source of income and decides that the family's best chance for survival is to beg on the streets. Soon Jey learns that it is much easier to steal than to beg. When he is arrested and taken to jail, Jey turns to God for help.

One day, God answers Jey's prayers, and he is released! He returns to school, where a worker from a Compassion center sees his great need and gives him the opportunity to join the program. Finally, not only is Jey released from prison, but because of his Compassion sponsor, Craig and his family, Jey also has the hope of being released from poverty. Now, graduated from high school, Jey faces a new challenge. Jobs are few in Nairobi, and returning to a life of begging or stealing seems to be his future. Perhaps the saying about kids born in Mathare is true — his story has already been written. But God has a completely different story in mind for Jey. Through Compassion, Jey finds his future — one of true release and outreach to others.

Sensitive topics: *drug production and trafficking, crime, child incarceration, violence, poverty*

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