



Growing up in a time of AIDS: Abaqophi basOkhayeni Abaqinile Children's Radio project

Inhliziyo yami ayisheshi ukukhohlwa / My heart doesn't easily forget S'bongukwanda, 12 years old, 2006

S'BONGUKWANDA: Manje sengiyekhaya. Sengilapha ngibona indlela nje ilangana ukuhamba imoto incane, kodwa manje inegoga kunehlahla ihlahla zomnoyi, ihlahla zomthenende, eh nasi nesihlahla sonqotho, isihlahla somgogwane. Nazi zindlu lena kwaGogo ziwu6. Nali ikhishi ababasela kulo. Sengizobingelela uGogo ke lana ekhishini.

TRANSLATION: Now I am going home. Where I am I can see the road can only fit one small car, but now it has tree stumps at the side and there are trees, *mnoyi* trees, *mnethende* trees, *nqotho* trees, *mgogwane* trees. There are six houses here at my grandmother's. Here is the kitchen where they cook on a fire. I am going to greet my grandmother here in the kitchen.

S'BONGUKWANDA: Unjani Gogo?
TRANSLATION: How are you Gogo?

GRANDMOTHER: Ngiyaphila.
TRANSLATION: I am fine.

S'BONGUKWANDA: UGogo usinda phansi ngobulongwe benkomo. Nendlu yakhe yakhiwe ngodaka naye usinda ngodaka phansi. Bese ekugcineni lugcine seluphumile kodwa phansi kusale kunukela ubulongo, phansi kusale kunukela ubulongo kube sekubakuhle phansi uma ungena kungabi nentuli. Ibe kahle ngoba uyakwazi.

TRANSLATION: My grandmother is smearing the floor with cow dung. Her house is built out of mud and she is smearing mud on the floor. In the end she pulls it outside, and inside it all smells of cowdung. The smell stays on the floor, and but it is nice on the floor because when you come in there is no dust. It becomes beautiful because she knows how to do it.

GRANDMOTHER: Yebo.
TRANSLATION: Yes.

S'BONGUKWANDA: Manje Gogo lento oyenza lapha ithatha isikhathi esingakanani nje usuqede njengoba nje uhleli phansi uguqe kanje?

TRANSLATION: Now Gogo, this thing you are doing here, how long will it take until you are finished kneeling down like this?

GRANDMOTHER: Kumanje sengiyaqeda manje ngokusheshayo.
TRANSLATION: I am about to be finished. It goes quickly.

- S'BONGUKWANDA:** Kuyashesha?
TRANSLATION: Is it quick?
- GRANDMOTHER:** Ehee kuyashesha
TRANSLATION: Yes, it is quick.
- S'BONGUKWANDA:** Oh oh oh, okay.
- S'BONGUKWANDA:** Manje wena Gogo wafundiswa ngubani ukuthi wenze lento oyenzayo?
TRANSLATION: Gogo who taught you how to do this?
- GRANDMOTHER:** Ngazifundela ngayibonela kumama wami.
TRANSLATION: I was taught by my mother - she showed me how.
- S'BONGUKWANDA:** Oh kumama wakho?
TRANSLATION: Oh, by your mother?
- GRANDMOTHER:** Yebo.
TRANSLATION: Yes.
- S'BONGUKWANDA:** Mina igama lama nginguSibongukwanda. Ekhaya ngangihlala noMama noBaba nosisi wami nobhuti wami oyedwa. Nosisi wami ozalwa ngumamncane. Ngihlala nomancane futhi.
TRANSLATION: My name is S'ibongukwanda. At home I used to live with my mother, my father, my sister and my one brother. And my sister who is my stepmother's child. I lived with my stepmother [father's second wife] too.
- S'BONGUKWANDA:** Ngimnyama ngebala eh ngingabangani. Ngiyathanda nje ukuhamba nabantu siyodlala ibhola, kubemnandi. Ngiyakuthanda ukudla into emnandi. Ngiyathanda futhi ukusheshe ngilambe. Ngiyamthanda uMama futhi naye uyangithanda.
TRANSLATION: I am black in colour. Eh I have friends. I just love to go with people and play soccer, it's nice. I love to eat nice things. I get hungry quickly. I love my mother and she loves me.
- S'BONGUKWANDA:** Eh bengifisa ukunazisa kabanzi mayelana nempilo yami. Mina ngangiphila kanzima uMa wami edayisa. Wayedayisa izinto ezinje ngerayisi, edayisa obhontshisi namakinati, noko wayekhona ukusondla.
TRANSLATION: I want to let you know a lot about my life. I used to live in difficult circumstances when my mother was selling. She sold things like this: rice, beans and peanuts. She did this to support us.
- S'BONGUKWANDA:** Kodwa ngangiphila kanzima uMa ehambile eyodayisa, uMancane wayehla esihlukumeza. Apheke ukudla okumnandi adle yena nengane yakhe thina asincintshe angasiniki. Angazi wayekwenzelani lokho...angazi noma wayeyazi into awayeyenzela.
TRANSLATION: But it was a hard life because once my mother had gone away to sell, my stepmother would abuse us. She would cook nice food and eat it with her children only, she wouldn't give us any. I don't know why she did this I don't know if she knew what she was doing.
- S'BONGUKWANDA:** Mina ngangingenankinga, ase ngingenankinga ngokuhamba kwesikhathi ngangivele ngithathe isilingi ngiyashayela iyinyoni. Bangitholi inyoni ngibuye ngizo kosa yona ngidle yona. Ngelinye ilanga ngabuya angamtshela uMama.
TRANSLATION: I didn't have a problem, I didn't have a problem going sometimes with my sling and shooting birds, and roasting them and eating them. One

day I went and told my mother.

S'BONGUKWANDA: La ngihamba noNonjabulo besizocinga uMama. Sizocinga uMama lapha ekhaya ngifuna umkurekhoda.

TRANSLATION: Here I am walking with Nonjabulo. We're looking for my mother. we are looking for her here at home, I want to interview her.

NONJABULO: Hawu wenzani lapho bo?

TRANSLATION: *Hawu*, what do you do here?

S'BONGUKWANDA: Ngidlala khona la!

TRANSLATION: I play here!

NONJABULO: Yini khona lokhu?

TRANSLATION: What is this?

S'BONGUKWANDA: Yisteering seroli.

TRANSLATION: It is the steering wheel of a lorry.

NONJABULO: Yise lorry? Pho wena wasithathaphi?

TRANSLATION: A [Steering wheel] of a lorry? Where did you get it?

S'BONGUKWANDA: Safika noMalume. Wasithatha emsebenzini wasithathela ukuthi sizodlala ngaso.

TRANSLATION: It came with my uncle. He got it at work; he got it for us to play with.

NONJABULO: Hlobo luni lwemoto lo olushayelayo?

TRANSLATION: What kind of vehicle are you driving?

S'BONGUKWANDA: Ngishayela uMercedes.

TRANSLATION: I am driving a Mercedes.

NONJABULO: UMercedes? Yhi cha uhamba wedwa!

TRANSLATION: A Mercedes? *Yhi*, no! You are driving in a league of your own!

S'BONGUKWANDA: Sawubona Mama.

TRANSLATION: Hello Mama.

MAMA.: Yebo S'bongukwanda.

TRANSLATION: Hello S'bongukwanda.

S'BONGUKWANDA: Unjani?

TRANSLATION: How are you?

MUM: Ngiyaphila.

TRANSLATION: I am fine.

S'BONGUKWANDA: Nami ngiyaphila.

TRANSLATION: I am fine too.

S'BONGUKWANDA: Mama wayekelani wena nokudayisa?

TRANSLATION: Mama, why did you stop selling?

MUM: Oh ngayeka ngoba kwakunenkinga ngokufika nomamncane wakho. Ngangibuya sekusihlwa kuleyithi ngithole ukuthi eh anidlile nilambile eh manje ngiphatheke kabi futhi nezinto engangizithengisa zazingasagcineki kahle wayezisebenzisa uma mina ngihambile ngasengiphatheka kabi ngayeka.

Kodwa nje ngiyamangala ukuthi wena ngangicabanga ukuthi wena nje

ngengane yinto emqondweni wakho engekho leyo kanti namanje wena leyonto usayikhumbula.

TRANSLATION: Oh there was a problem with your stepmother. I would get back in the evening and find that you had not eaten. You were hungry, eh, and I felt terrible. Also the things I had bought myself were not safe: she would use them when I was gone. I felt terrible and I stopped selling.

But I am amazed that you ... I thought that you as a child this thing would never be in your head (you would never realise what was going on). And yet to remember this today...

S'BONGUKWANDA: Yebo njengokuthi khona sengakhohlwa kodwa angikhohlwanga ukuthi kukhe kwakhona usuku olunjalo.

TRANSLATION: Yes like I said, there are things I don't forget, I don't forget that there were days like that.

S'BONGUKWANDA: Manje nangu uMama lapha sengifuna ukuqale ngimqopha acula, sicula sobabili. Sicula ingoma yasicula enkonzweni.

TRANSLATION: Here is my mother here. I am going to record us singing, I will record her and I singing a song from our church choir.

Song: Vumanini izono

S'BONGUKWANDA: uMama ngiyamthanda ngoba uyinginakekela konke engikucela kuye, uma kuthi mhlambe unamandla okukwenza uyakwenza. Ngiyamthanda ngoba uyangisiza into enye eyiningi, umangiphethe kabi ngiya kuye ayongiduduza, noma mhlambe angitshela nje into ezongenza ukuthi ngigcine nje ngizwe sengijabulile nami, vele ngikhohlwe yinto engiphathe kabi.

TRANSLATION: I love my mum because she looks after me all I ask of her – if perhaps she has the power to do so she does it. I love because she helps me with so many things. If I am feeling bad I go to her and she comforts me; if she tells me something she is going to do to look after me, I feel happy, I forget the things that make me feel bad. I forget but my heart doesn't easily forget if something makes me feel bad.



For further information contact:

Helen Meintjes
HIV/AIDS Programme, Children's Institute
helen.meintjes@uct.ac.za
+27 21 689 5404



Bridget Walters
Zisize Educational Trust
bridgetw@iafrica.com
+27 35 572 5500



Web: www.ci.org.za/depts/ci/prg/radio_project/index.htm