

## A LETTER OF HOPE TO THE AFRICAN CHILD

Dear beautiful child,

They say you are black because of the colour of your skin and the texture of your hair but do you know that black is beautiful? Look at how your skin glows when you play in the sun. We watch you play in the mud, we watch you run around the streets with your sticks pushing about wheels and tyres that are the toys you play with, a proof of your innate creativity.

We see you stare with hunger and desire in your eyes as more privileged children exit their parents' cars and occupy the posh chairs of expensive restaurants, with polished shoes, well groomed hair and smart clothes. We see the look of pain in your eyes as their parents openly show them love and affection; a kiss on the forehead, some sweet words, a warm hug, a gift for Christmas.

We see you put on a tough skin to brave the weather on the streets, we see your need to show bravery and avoid any show of weakness to survive. We see the anger, we see the bitterness, we see the maltreatment you suffer from bullies. We see how your collar bones pop out as a result of malnourishment, the swollen stomachs, the thin hands, legs and neck that are a testimony of how little you are fed. We see it all.

We know you didn't choose this kind of life, we know that circumstances of life landed you here and that you have nowhere to run to, nowhere to escape to. We know that you wish you were born white or more privileged or in another continent, where the less privileged are catered for by the Government. We feel your pain like it is ours.

We write to let you know that there is hope; Yes, it looks like the future is bleak and you have no where to turn but dear child, there is hope. Yes, Christmas is coming but no mummy and daddy to share it with but there is hope. Yes, the harsh rays of the sun shine down on your skin and you have nowhere to hide. Dear child, just look down at your glittering skin and tell yourself that there is hope.

When you see more privileged children being pampered, don't feel sad, just remind yourself that there is still hope. Oh! It may not look it now, it may be hard to see beyond your present suffering but remember **YOUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT!** What do you want to become in future? A lawyer? A doctor? An engineer? A nurse? A pharmacist? What do you want to become? The richest business man in the world?

Dear child, we are letting you know that it is very possible! You can and you will achieve your ambitions, you may have to work harder than others but you will get there because

where there is life, there is always hope.

With love,

Doxa Cares.