My Experience: A difficult situation I encountered in my life and work and how I solved it

I am Margaret Opio (Ms.) by name, a mother of two (2) biological children as well as a caretaker of 10 foster children directly under my custody in the project of God Helps Uganda.

Having had vast experience with handling orphans and vulnerable children from different backgrounds, who have been placed together as siblings, I would like to share one of the difficult experiences I was involved in and what I went through during that particular incident.

One sunny afternoon I returned from the hospital with a sick child. Upon approaching the houses where I reside, I heard a weird sound inside the house. I hurriedly greeted my two colleagues who were seated outside and I proceeded inside the house, curious about the strange noise inside the building. Upon entering the bedroom, I was deeply shocked when I came across one boy child forcing my little girl in to sex. With a lot of mixed feelings, I pushed the boy away from the girl, lost my temper and slapped the boy hard on the cheeks. I picked up my daughter, who was also shocked, and went into my bedroom with her. I could not control my tears, so I cried bitterly over the incident, asking God and the little girl why such a nasty incident happened to me. For some time I kept struggling with my emotions inside and was so low in spirit, full of anger deep inside my heart. It was not easy to handle the rest of the other children, because I was feeling so worn out. Later, I took the little girl to the clinic where she was diagnosed with a sexual infection and put on treatment. She began to wet her bed and developed a behavioral problem over time.

I sought advice from some people, but was even more disturbed with the ideas they shared with me. Some others encouraged me to pray for the whole situation. I always felt isolated but began to pray and fast quietly, although some times I still cried. As time passed by, the load in my heart began to subside and a few friends prayed for me as well.

Sometimes when I was so taken up with all these issues, I prayed and I started to flash back on the background of this little boy. I felt compassion when I realized that his mother dumped him as a small child into a pit latrine toilet. He was saved from the danger when his head was trapped at the top of the hole. The nearby people heard a little baby crying and rescued him from this pit. I was deeply touched as well by the very fact that he lost both parents at a very tender age and witnessed the body of his father who was brutally murdered through mob justice. He underwent much pain in his village, being called the son of a rebel leader and being exposed to sexual exploitation. I could feel how painful and touching the background of the little boy was. I even felt so bad about how hard I was on this child. I asked God to forgive me for what I did and to help me love this child, support him, and guide him to my best ability in all areas that he needs support.

Now I am continuing to pray for this little boy and hope that he will be a fighter for Christ in the future.I thank God for guiding this child to the God Helps Uganda Children's Homes in Lira, where he can find a home, parental love, peace and care. Thank you,

Deutsche Zusammenfassung: Margaret wird Zeugin eines schweren Übergriffs auf ihre eigene Tochter. Sie beschreibt ihren Schock und ihre Wut eindrücklich. Aber sie ringt um neue Gesinnungen diesem Jungen gegenüber. Plötzlich denkt sie daran, dass man diesen Täter, den sie hasst, damals als Neugeborener umbringen wollte. Aber sein grosser Kopf blieb im Plumpsklo stecken. Das war sein Start ins Leben. Seine Eltern starben, als er einige Jahre alt war. Sein Vater wurde als Rebellenführer von seinen eigenen Dorfbewohnern gelyncht. Er war Zeuge und bewachte den Leichnam seines Vaters. Im Dorf wurde er als Sohn des Rebellenführers gemobbt und sexuell ausgebeutet. Und nun wird das schwer traumatisierte Opfer einige Jahre später im Heim zum Täter. Margareths Bericht ist zu entnehmen, dass sie langsam in ihrem Inneren für diesen Jungen Barmherzigkeit entwickelte. Sie konnte dies Dank ihres Glauben tun. (Der Junge wurde aus der Institution genommen. Er fand eine Person, die ihn einzeln betreute und konnte traumatherapeutische Hilfe in Anspruch nehmen).

Margareth Opio hat zwei eigene Kinder. Sie ist verantwortlich für 10 Kinder auf einer Gruppe im Kinderheim in Lira/Uganda.