



Poems for the Young

Francis Emson
Dakwa



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FRANCIS EMSON DAKWA



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*Dedicated to
Rumbidzo
our baby*



A Word About the Author

Francis Emson Dakwa was born in Gweru, Zimbabwe, on 11 August, 1947. He did his primary education at Mambo and Senga Government Schools and proceeded to Zimuto Secondary School for his ‘O’ levels. He obtained a First-Class Pass at ‘O’ level.

He holds the following academic and professional qualifications:

Certificate in Education (UZ)

Diploma in Specialized Education (Special Education)
(Distinction in the Practice of Teaching)
(University of South Africa—UNISA)

Bachelor of Arts (UNISA)

Master of Education—Special Education (Wales, UK)

Francis Dakwa trained as a teacher at Gweru Teachers’ College, thereafter teaching at several schools in Masvingo, Southern Zimbabwe. He subsequently was appointed head and principal of the Margaretha Hugo School and Workshops for the Blind.

He served the government of Zimbabwe as Education Officer and Deputy Chief Education Officer (Special Education). He was part-time lecturer (Special Education) at the University of Zimbabwe for four years and is currently part-time lecturer (Special Needs Education and Counseling) at the Zimbabwe Open University and full-time lecturer in Special Needs Education at the Great Zimbabwe University.

Francis Dakwa has earned distinctions for the past four decades as an expert in the teaching of English Language

and Literature, as a tutor of students with special learning needs, and as a remedial education expert.

He is married to Shingairayi Florence and they are happy parents of five children: Tariro Michael, Rugare Princeton, Piwai Helena Rose, Silas Tatenda, and Rumbidzo Lovejoy.

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Preface

Poems for the Young is an anthology of fifty poems subdivided into five themes: My Home, Myself, My Friends, My Pets, and My Destiny. The poems are expressed in simple language and meant for young children from three years to twelve years of age.

In these poems, the child is doing most of the “speaking” and enlivens life around him. He or she communicates with his parents, friends, brothers, sisters, and pets.

These poems can be read by children in their homes and at school. Parents can use them and read them to their children as “bedtime stories.” They can also be used as set books in the primary schools at both infant and junior levels. Children at pre-school (ECD) centres and Special Needs Educational institutions will also benefit from these poems.

Poetry is food for enjoyment. Read the poems and thoroughly enjoy yourself! Your life will never be the same again.

F. E. D.

MY HOME

Mummy, Dear Mum

Mummy, dear Mum,
Where are you?
I need you near me,
Help your dear child.

It is cold today,
Cold, cold, indeed.
Cheer up your little one,
The wind is chilly.

Listen to me
Hear your little one,
Come near me,
I need your company.

The only mum,
The one I know,
How I miss you!
Where are you?



Chipo, My Brother

Chipo, my brother,
Listen to the voice
Listen to your mum,
You have no choice.

Friends have gone.
There is no phone.
Run, run to her,
You will find her there.

Mark my word, Chipo,
Hear me, hear me.
Come out of the disco,
Mummy holds the key.

Do not get lost,
Mum needs you most.
Come home, Chipo,
She holds the pillow.



Thank You, Jesus

Thank you, Jesus, for my home,
Lovely home, lovely shield.
Thank you, Jesus, for my dad.
What a pleasure, sitting round!
Bless my mum, bless my friends.

Thank you, Jesus, for the food,
Sweet, delicious is my meal.
Thank you, Jesus, for our maid,
Toiling daily round the pot,
Making life a real comfort.

Thank you, Jesus, for my sister,
Lovely pretty, little sister.
Joys at home, life abundant,
Thank you, Jesus, for her presence,
How we joke and run together.



Daddy, Come Home

Daddy, come home.
Why live far alone?
What a tough life!
Come to us, come at five.

Home is sweet, real sweet,
Chicken, beef, all the meat.
Think home, Dad, think big,
Leave alone, the wigs and twigs.

Your place is here, Dad come,
Love is waiting, Father run.
Children crying, missing you,
Food is ready, lovely stew.

Daddy, Daddy, life is here,
Leave the forest, come and see.
Home is best, home is near,
Leave the rain, so wet and mean.



Little Children

Little children, come together,
Play and feel the sunny weather.
Smile, for God has made you great,
Praise Him always in the net,
Feel the comfort, sing the song.

Little children, come together,
See the lovely, lovely gardens.
Watch the trees, the flowers hidden.
Take a walk, enjoy the feathers
Of the birds, the hens, the ducklings.

Little children, come together,
Come and see the shining pool.
Swim, enjoy the waters cool,
See the sunshine over the heads,
Laugh and smile like newlyweds.



I Bless the Day

I bless the day, the hour, so good,
When I saw the world so green.
Oh, Mum, oh Dad, how good you are!
To bring me up, to cheer me so!

The life, the joys around me sweet,
I love to share with all my friends.
To tell the world how blessed I am,
To be a child so loved and dear.

Awake, my Thomas, my dear to me,
My brother, just to follow your lead.
Stand all by me along the way,
Lest I fall or else I stray.

Rosebud, dear sister, share with me
The day to remember all the time.
Let cake and fun attend our souls,
The greater day, the happy day.



Say Your Prayers

*S*ay your prayers, little one,
Thank the Lord for that dear home.
Kiss the mum and hug your dad,
What a joy, behold the home!

*S*ay your prayers, little one,
Thank the Lord for that dear life.
Health and food and friends around,
What a joy, behold the home!

*S*ay your prayers, little one,
All the pets around your home.
Teddy Bear and Rose, the cat,
All to cheer and make you laugh.

*S*ay your prayers, little one,
Sing that lullaby so sweet!
Go to bed, rest and dream,
For tomorrow's joys eternal.



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