

# A NEW DAWN



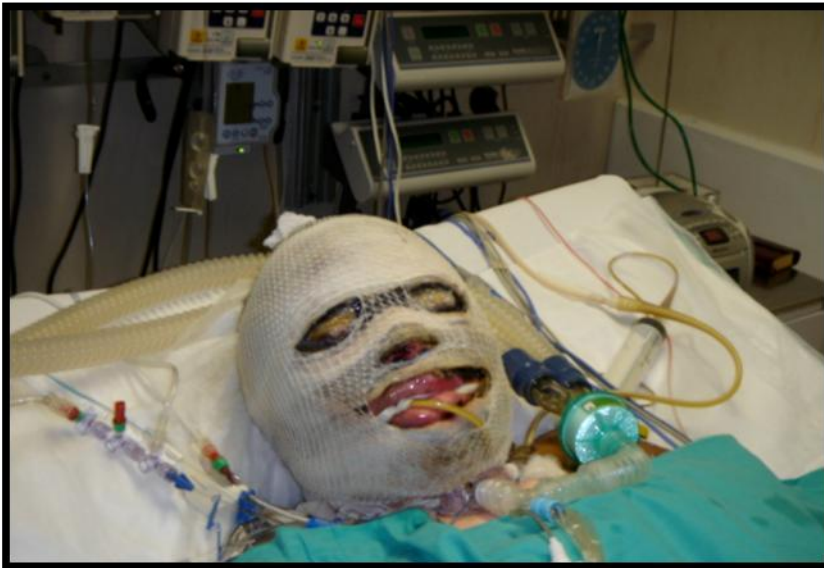
## A FUNDRAISER FOR KECHI OKWUCHI

*With God, all things are possible.*

## INTRODUCTION

Born on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 1989, Kechi Okwuchi is the first daughter of two, to her parents Mike and Ijeoma Okwuchi. She grew up as an only child for the first few years of her life, till her younger sister was born in 2000.

Kechi excelled in her pre-secondary school and rode that wave into Loyola Jesuit College Abuja. She was only a year from graduation, on that fateful day of December 10<sup>th</sup> 2005.



Kechi in a coma after the accident.

On December 10<sup>th</sup> 2005, the Sosoliso plane crashed, killing 109 passengers. Kechi Okwuchi and one other passenger were the only survivors. Kechi sustained 70% burns on her body and remained in a coma for a month at the Milpark Hospital in South Africa.



June 17<sup>th</sup> 2006: Kechi; 6 months after the plane crash. Picture shows most of her body where she sustained burns.

Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Nigeria, took on the funding for Kechi from the time of the crash until she left for the United States in 2007. She was sent to South Africa by SPDC for immediate treatment of her burns.

Kechi underwent multiple surgeries in South Africa. After waking up from her coma, she had to relearn to do everything again. She learned to sit, she learned to stand, she learned to walk and use her limbs. Needless to say, this process was painful. But one thing she never needed to learn was how to smile again.



January 24<sup>th</sup> 2006: When she opened her eyes.

Even with all the pain from the surgeries, she still remained smiling.

In 2007, Kechi returned to Nigeria and was admitted at the Shell Hospital, Port Harcourt.



July 20<sup>th</sup> 2006: Kechi in Shell Hospital

In August 2007, Ms Okwuchi was transferred to Shriners Children's Hospital, Galveston Texas, USA. Shriners Hospital specializes in the treatment of burns resulting from various forms of accidents for children. Children, according to the hospital's policy, are people

under the age of 18. However, the hospital, of their own discretion, decided to extend Kechi's treatment to what has now become 3 more years.

At Shriners Hospital, from 2007 till date, Kechi has undergone up to 75 different surgeries all over her body. These surgeries range from skin grafts to reconstructive surgeries.

Early stages of recovery. Special glasses provided so she can see prior to surgeries.



Close up of Kechi's face in 2008

Face mask to reshape her face and reduce the size of the keloids.  
Cast on her hands and legs after surgeries.







2011: Kechi Today.

Last year, on October 29<sup>th</sup>, Kechi turned 21. According to the United States government, she is now a legal adult. As a result, she would no longer be a patient of Shriners Children's Hospital. Shriners hospital has been kind enough to complete the surgeries they have begun.

Beginning the summer of 2010, Kechi began the next step in her recovery process. She began a series of laser surgeries, which are designed to burn off the kiloids on her skin and smoothen her skin once more.



To The left: Kechi before laser surgery on her hand.



To the right: Kechi after laser surgery on her hand.

Aside from the laser surgeries, she is also scheduled to begin facial reconstructive surgeries this summer in Boston.

This is an appeal to raise funds for these surgeries, as well as her up keep afterwards.

With your help, and the grace of God, we hope to raise enough funds to relieve the burden of this cost. Your kind donations will be appreciated; please send your donations to the listed accounts or send in your pledges.



Thank you and may God continue to bless you.

# PLEDGE FORM

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge Amount \_\_\_\_\_

To be redeemed by \_\_\_\_\_