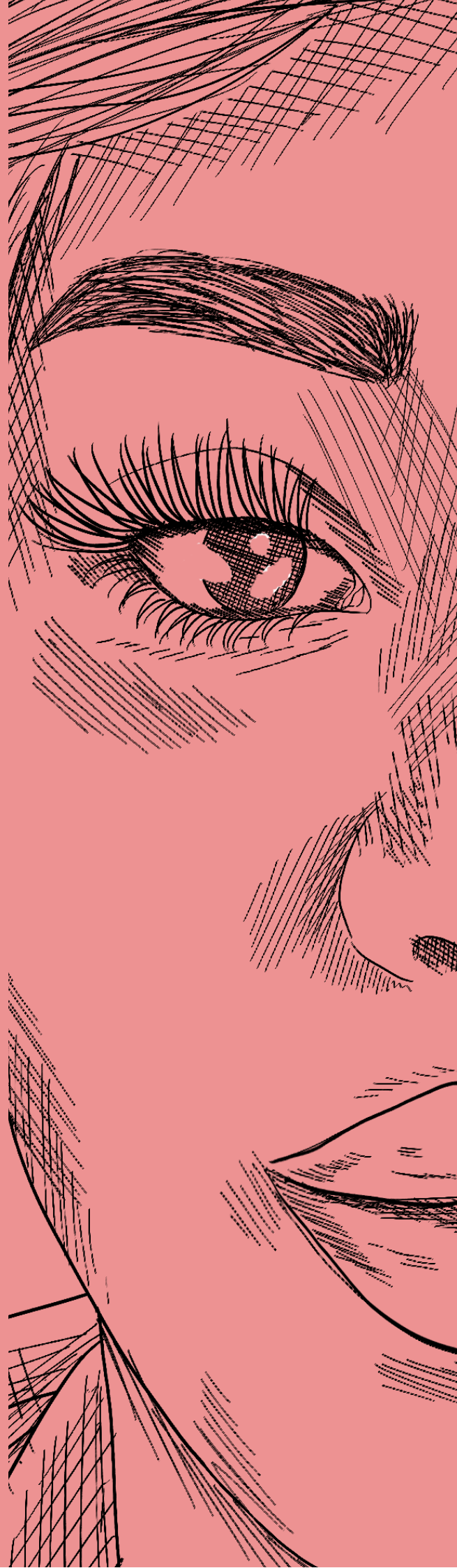


BEHIND
EVERYTHING,
A SMILE IS
EVERYTHING

BUSISIWE ELIZABETH MAPHOSA



My name is Busisiwe Elizabeth Maphosa. I was born in 1994 and I am currently 27, turning 28 on the 7th of August 2022.

I am married to Emmanuel Nkosinathi Dube.

We are fortunate that God has blessed us with two cute, beautiful boys - my soldiers - Njabulo Wisdom Dube and Elijah Dominion Dube.

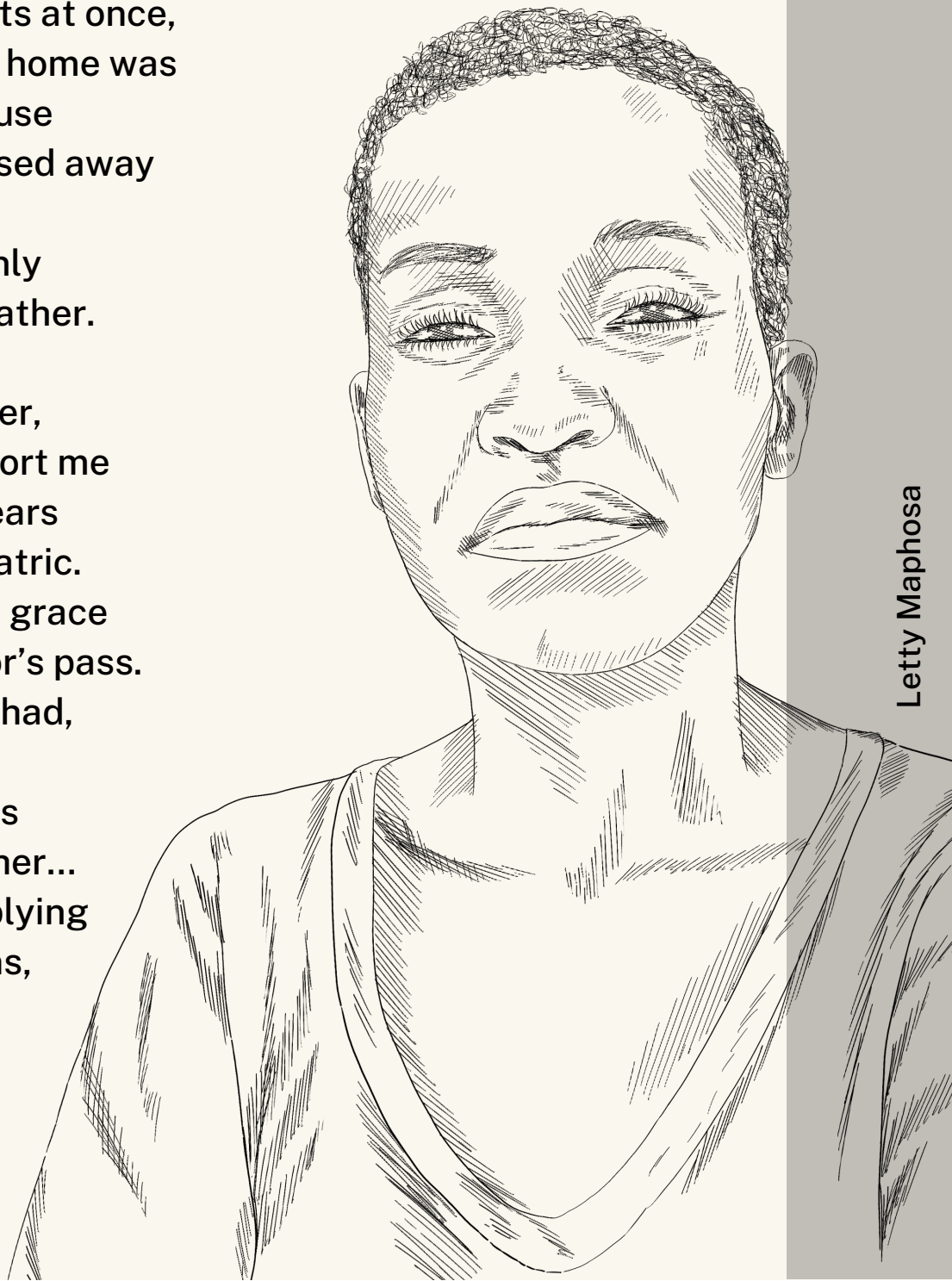
I was born in Ekangala, where I still live, to a beautiful woman named Letty Maphosa and my handsome father.

It was unfortunate that my father denied the pregnancy, which forced my 17-year-old mother to drop out of school to take care of me.

My mother faced the challenge of being both parents at once, and the situation at home was very, very bad because her mother had passed away the previous year.

She was left with only the support of her father.

As a domestic worker, she hustled to support me during my school years until I completed matric. By God's mercy and grace I received a bachelor's pass. With all the hopes I had, I saw myself living out my dreams of becoming a teacher... but when I tried applying to higher institutions, it was to no end. I also applied for policing but it did not work out.



Letty Maphosa

In 2015 I met this loving, handsome, caring and God-fearing man - Emmanuel. I love him, I loved him and I am still going to love him more. He is a man of dreams and visions. He made me the woman I am today, and I am thankful to God for that.

Unfortunately when we met, he was not working. As young as we were, we had our first born and rejoiced as we stepped into this new stage of life together. I moved into his home the year our first born was conceived. We pushed, pushed and pushed very hard to change our situation but with no luck.

I even tried going into politics, in the hope that I could become a youth leader.

When I moved into his home, I met his loving, caring and God-fearing mother, my mother-in-law.

Martha Kukie Dube loved me as her own child. She never once criticised, discriminated against, or gossiped about me.

She ran a business from her home, where she sold chickens and eggs. She introduced me to the business and I fell in love with it. I fed the laying hens, collected the eggs, filled water tanks, worked as the accountant, and collected money from those who owed us.



Emmanuel Nkosinathi Dube

We pushed together and she would give me 10% of the profit.
She also bought me clothing, a cell phone
and other things that I needed.

During this time I did not feel the gap that was my husband's
unemployment, but whenever I paid my mother a visit
it pained me to see that her situation had not changed,
even though she had worked hard to get me through school.
She also had the additional stress that I had not
furthered my studies as my friends and peers
who grew up with me had done.

In 2016 and 2017 I was busy job-hunting.
Luckily, my friend told me to go to the factory on weekends to
find opportunities. I managed to get a job at RCL Foods, which
would pay R250 every Thursday.

In 2018, with the help of a fellow church member,
I signed a three month contract at the Pro Paint factory
in Bronkhorstspuit. I worked from October to December
and managed to buy my mother groceries
and December clothes for my siblings.

In 2019 my husband paid my lobola with the help of his mother.
We went to home affairs and yet another step
in our life together had been taken.
We were very happy. Living with my in-laws brought joy to my
heart because they loved and cared for me as their own.

Elijah Dominion Dube



Njabulo Wisdom Dube



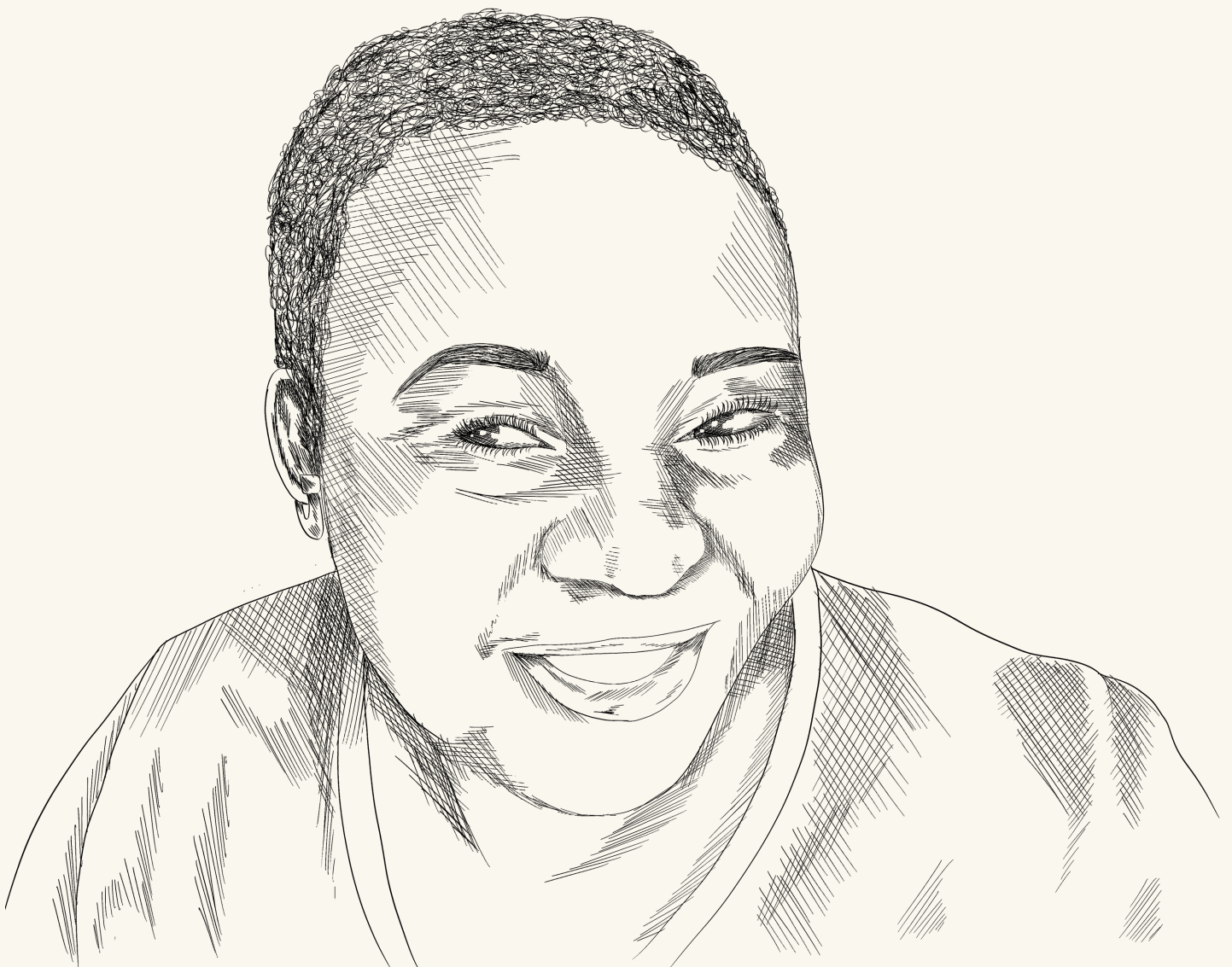
In 2021 my best friend, someone so close to my heart, my mother-in-law, died. It was January 11th when I received a call from my sister-in-law, who told me that she was no more.

I cried until I ran out of tears. On the 13th it was my father-in-law's birthday, it was the very same day we laid Martha Kuki Dube to rest in her final home.

The pain I had in my heart,
only Jesus could understand.

I had so many questions
that I could not find answers for.

I wondered how life would be without her
as she was a pillar of strength in our home.



Martha Kuki Dube

We tried and managed to live without her, even though it was very hard. I had to manage the business, the house and care for our second-born, who was a five month old baby at the time. I cannot deny that it was very challenging to do this on my own. I also had to make sure my father-in-law was well taken care of. I washed clothes, made meals, polished his boots and did anything else he needed.

Unfortunately, he lost his job in May and business on my end was slow.

The situation became increasingly difficult. There were nine of us depending on his old age pension: my two sisters-in-law and their two sons, their cousin, myself, my husband and our two sons.

By July, my husband and I decided to move from section H to our place in a new section of Ekangala called Ebhubesini.

My mother-in-law had bought us a stand there and on the property was a shack with access to water. When we moved, my husband was still not working.

In our new home, things got tougher because we now lived in a small, leaky shack that was not even painted. We used candles for light and had a two plate gas stove to cook on. Sometimes the gas would run out and it was too expensive to refill.

Life was very slow and we were not happy because there was no development in the area. When we considered the situation, we knew that the place did not suit us, as we were too young to compromise ourselves and surrender to a life like that.

Finally, God heard our prayers and
in late November my husband secured a job.

Things were getting better at last.

We decided to move out of the shack,
back to where we came from, but this time
we rented a back room in the same section.

We were relaxed and comfortable.

We felt at home and things finally became easier
after seven long years of suffering and
having not lived the life I wanted.

I wanted change, to be able to
afford the things we needed,
to build my mother a house, to drive a car,
to have a professional career, and for my children to
go to a good private school.

In January 2022 I applied for a job at Statistics SA.

I secured a three month contract,
which was good for our family. Having two incomes
made a very big difference. We could afford to
take the kids out, enjoy ourselves,
and shop together as a family.

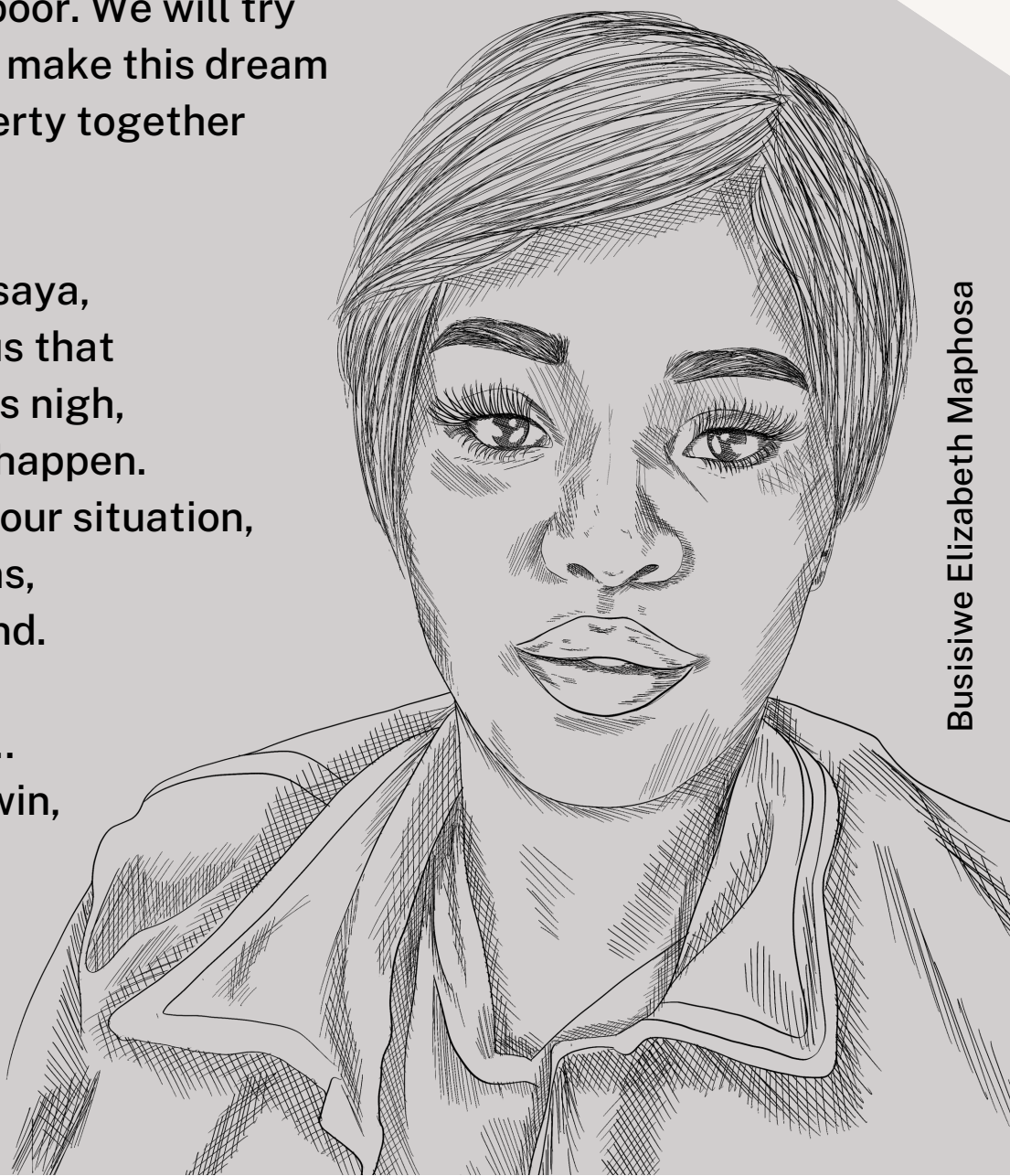
Now, my husband dreams that we will run our own NPO
so that we can help those in need such as orphans,
the elderly, addicts, and others who are talented
and need support. We believe that to love someone is
to help them meet their needs. Many people in our area
are poor and cannot meet their needs,
some are even more poor than others.

Our dream is to fight this enemy that we call poverty.

We hate poverty so much because we know that it is the worst enemy one can face. Poverty can make you someone you are not and can turn people into animals. Poverty can make you envy the life of another. It can build hatred, jealousy and selfishness in a person's heart. Poverty can make you a beggar. When you are poor, you always have to compromise. You make friends because there is something to gain from them, you laugh even when your heart and stomach are empty.

If we can help people defeat this enemy, we would be doing work that pleases God. We believe that if you are born poor, it is not in your hands, but it is up to you and your community to ensure that you do not die poor. We will try by all means to make this dream of fighting poverty together come true.

In the book of Isaya,
God promises us that
when the time is nigh,
he will make it happen.
He will change our situation,
fulfil our dreams,
and heal our land.
Love is life,
and life is love...
Quitters don't win,
and winners
don't quit - so
we will never
give up this
dream.



Busisiwe Elizabeth Maphosa

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