

OASIS
Orphanage

Lantern
ADVENTURE



The Orphan





CHAPTER ONE

The weak cry of a newborn baby caught the attention of Mr Ikota as he walked to work that morning. He stopped, looked round and saw a dog among the small plants. It was trying to reach into a small carton nearby, but each time the dog pushed its nose into the carton, it drew back sharply. Strangely, the baby's cry rang simultaneously. Mr Ikota became greatly disturbed, hence, he made for the bush to see things for himself.

To his amazement, he beheld a day old baby boy wrapped in an old cloth in the carton. The baby's umbilical cord was yet to be detached and its body was covered in dirt. Mr Ikota was dumbstruck, for he was witnessing firsthand, man's inhumanity to man.

Mr Ikota raised an alarm which attracted other passers-by. In a short time, a small crowd had gathered. The people were equally alarmed at the unkempt look of the baby.

"This is sheer wickedness!" said one fat woman in the crowd.

"Wonders shall never end. How can somebody throw a baby away like used paper?" another woman cried as she took a closer look at the baby struggling to survive.

"Life is so cheap nowadays. Only a mad woman would do this," added the fat woman.

Some of the onlookers took a bold step to save the life of the baby. The police were contacted and the baby was moved to the Government



General Hospital for medical attention.

To everyone's delight, the baby began to respond to treatment gradually. The hospital management named him Daniel and later moved him to the children's ward where his treatment continued. He got better by the day and soon started eating properly. Within two months, Daniel had put on some flesh. He began to look robust, with his cheeks shooting out like large-sized mangoes.

By the fifth month, the hospital management was ready to discharge Daniel. So in conjunction with the police, they arranged a temporary home for him. Their choice of place was the Oasis Orphanage. They contacted the director of the place, Mr Malaki and told him about the baby. The following day, Mr Malaki and Mrs Agogo, one of the women that looked after the children in Oasis came with a small bus and took Daniel away.