



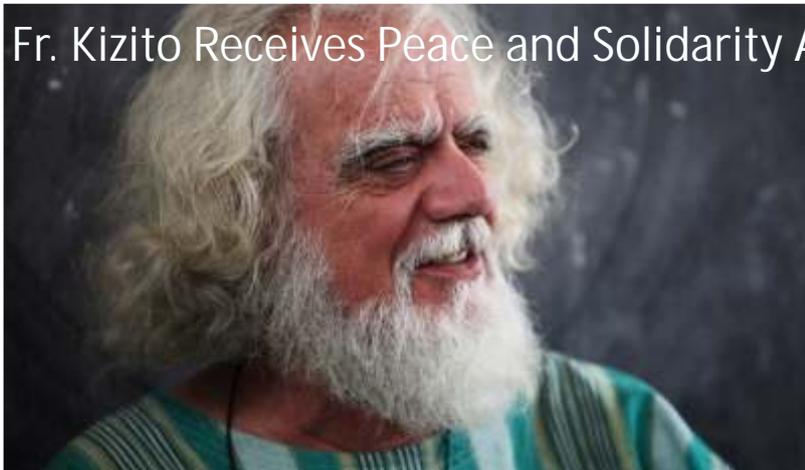
We belong to each other

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Fr. Kizito Receives Peace and Solidarity Award

Father Renato Sesana, known to everybody in Kenya as Father Kizito, has received a prestigious award assigned every year in December by the Lombardy Region in Italy for "Peace and Solidarity". The motivation reads : "With over thirty years of intense work done in Africa struggling for justice, human rights, democracy and peace, he is committed to supporting constructive dialogue and mutual respect among peoples, and to assure that everyone can have a dignified life".

Last December 13, in Milan, Father Venanzio Milani, who in the past had been Vice Superior General of the Comboni, collected the award, with goes with a 10,000 euros cash (something more than a million Kenya shillings) on his behalf, since Father Kizito was the same day in Tone la Maji (Ongata Rongai), one of the homes for former street children he has started around Nairobi, as usually busy with new projects and programs.

This is part of the text he sent to the government of

Lombardy Region.

I would like that through me, this recognition would reach all the peacemakers of Nairobi, especially the smaller and unknown. I'm just a link, one of the many, between the Lombardy Region and the world.

This award is precious to me because it is given by the Lombardy Region, the region of my people, of my parents, of those who have taught me with their daily example the values of dedication, work, sacrifice, honesty and simplicity of life, generosity, respect and service the weak and the poor. On these values I have built my life, when Jesus, on the shore of the lake, invited me to follow him "to the ends of the earth." While aware of my shortcomings, I have not ever regretted it. Even in the darkest moments, I always thanked God for calling me to be open to others, to the world, and to work humbly, along with millions to others, for the growth of a new people.

The recognition of the validity of the roots from which I come would be a foolish attitude if incapable of recognizing the values of the distant world that prompted me to become more human, the world of the African people.

With them, I learned to be a brother to all, and with joy I now recognize as my brother the African immigrant in Lecco (Fr. Kizito's hometown). We did the opposite journey, affirming in different ways the same right to be at home anywhere in the world. Our shared humanity unites us well beyond the things that could divide us. When I return to Lecco, and I happen to catch a train early in the morning to go to Bergamo, Brescia, Milan, I feel to be back to when I took the train to go to work at the time of my youth. Today on those early morning trains there are people from all over the world who make work the economy that was built up by my grandparents. There is continuity and a communion which are invisible only to those who do not want to see.

Solidarity is not such if it is not open to everyone, always and everywhere. The boundaries of solidarity are the boundaries of humanity. The economic crisis that we are experiencing in Italy cannot possibly be read as an invitation to live more fraternally, leaving the position of privilege, and exploitation of others, in which history has put us? Today we have to accept that if we really want justice and solidarity we must have them for all the people of the world, without boundaries.

Koinonia Newsletter 2012

Published by the Koinonia Media Centre.

Koinonia is a lay Christian Community with a commitment to the plight of marginalized members of the society, especially street children, women and young people from deprived backgrounds.

Our initiatives are found in Kenya, Zambia and the Nuba Mountains of Sudan.

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Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Reintegration 2012



fearful of street children and look upon them as criminals, due in part to their increasingly bold begging and extortion techniques. Consequently, the street children display apathy to the social workers' overtures

At the beginning of this year young boys aged between 5-14 years were reunited with their families and some enrolled to formal schools. The boys were among the 2011 rescued from the street of Nairobi and had underwent rehabilitation this year at Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Centre,

The Koinonia social workers initially carried out assessment of the children's families to determine the stability of the home environment. In January 21 2012 the twelve young boys were reintegrated back into the families and as well taken to school.

The street boys had earlier been identified by Koinonia Social

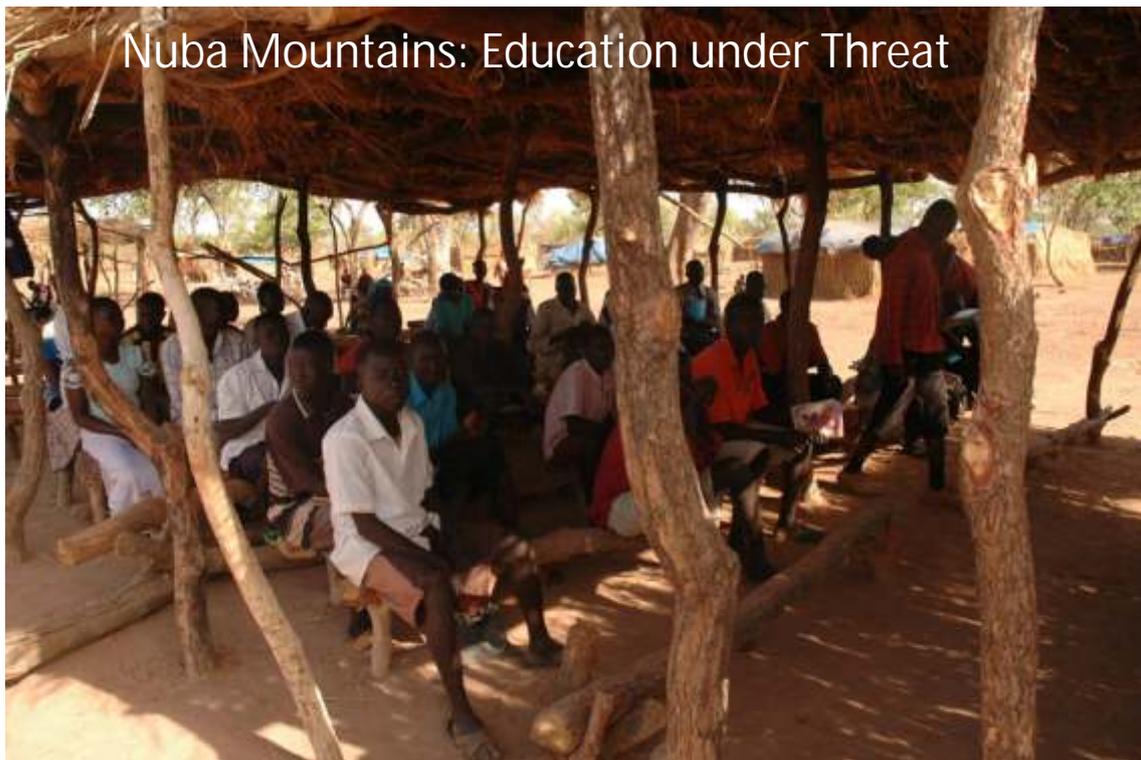
workers and were scheduled to be rescued from the street and taken to the centre for rehabilitation. The Rescue Centre targets to rehabilitate at least 20 street children per year.

The workers always have to devise ways to reach out to these children and gradually befriend them, which they do over a period of about one month. This is because many are

The social workers endeavour to deepen their newfound bond with the identified children by engaging in various activities with them.

Catch a glimpse on the video in the link provided below http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Ms2-xmvntm4

Nuba Mountains: Education under Threat



About 3500 secondary school students and over 70,000 attending primary schools have been affected by the raging war. Some have made it to South Sudan to seek education in the camps while others remain home stranded, not knowing how they will cover the long distance to the land of sanctuary. Abdel Aziz al-Hilu, the SPLM-N leader in the state confirms in an exclusive interview with NewsfromAfrica's Eric Sande.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=A7EfBGZ8e2k

Nuba Emergency

Who remembers the Nuba people of Southern Kordofan? Once again they are alone—trapped in the middle of a war. The area which includes the Nuba Mountains is part of Sudan, and it borders the newly independent South Sudan. The place names

of this little known geography are strange and confusing. Beyond the names are a people who number about a million caught in the middle of two wars: the war between Sudan and South Sudan for control of the oil fields and the war against the Nuba people themselves because the majority supported South

Sudan independence. They fought along side the freedom fighters of South Sudan, but at the negotiating table were denied the possibility of self-determination.



Koinonia Community Supports Three Blind Pupils in School



Koinonia Community supported three blind pupils at Nairobi's Kilimani Primary school in its extensions of goodwill to the needy in society. Three blind needy pupils at the school were presented with new school uniforms on the 19th of January this year courtesy of the Community, kicking off a new term in fashion despite of their disability.

Koinonia has been putting smiles on faces of needy children at the school, who in their deplorable condition find themselves lacking basic school necessities.

The programme was initiated mid last year when Jack Matika, a street educator with the Community while on a duty visit to the school and saw the despair some of those children were in, prompting him to share the idea with other Community members who overwhelmingly approved it.

Several visits to the school thereafter for more consultations with the teachers saw 14-year old Elijah Mwangi then a sixth grader at the school; become the first beneficiary of the scheme

last year, receiving a new pair of school uniform. Born blind to a single parent family of three, Elijah is determined against all odds to live his dreams of becoming a lawyer in future.

"This year again as we were doing the school placement for our school children, we thought of also remembering other disabled children who were also in need," said Matika. "We were able to meet with the school committee who helped us identify these children and this we shared back with Koinonia staff."

Three of the most in need pupils were selected from the school's Visually Impaired unit and according to Mr. Bernard Abuko, teacher in charge of the unit at the school, they deserved every help that came their way, owing to the poor background they come from.

Edwin Amwai, a grade 7 pupil second last born in a family of seven, stays with both parents in Ngumo estate. He and his brother were born blind; his father who is partially blind is a gardener working in a nearby estate and mother does small business which hardly can meet obligations for such a big family.

"I feel good and say thank you [Koinonia Community] for your support. I want to be among the

top ten in my class with marks above 350," a jovial Edwin asserts, who won't like to see his little problem with mathematics as a subject bring him down, although boasts of his prowess for Science, English and Kiswahili.

Also is eleven year old Ruth Ongachi who comes from Kibera's Silanga village. She too was born blind and stays with the mother and brother after her father died. She said she felt happy about her new uniform and was very thankful to those who bought her. "God bless them," said Ruth.

For her it's been very much challenging to get home alone bearing the landscape she has to cope with in the slums where she commutes from daily to school. She talks of many bends, turns and trenches she endures daily have made it hard for her to move alone at home, so has to be picked from the stage by mother or brother, where the school bus leaves her.

Ruth who was very shy throughout the interview says the Braille materials she gets in school have been very helpful in learning. She says her best subjects in class are English and Kiswahili, though a subject like science at times proves challenging to her. She expects to attain over 380 marks in this term and in future she wants to go to a national school, most preferably, Moi girls school Nairobi.

For Sheila Andema a grade seven pupil at the same school who is partially blind, she too wants to go to a national school, Thika School for the blind. She is the only child and lives with both parents in Kawangware but they are unable to provide for her special needs. She recounts of instances she is forced to stay away from school for lack of bus fare or other materials she needs at school.

Sheila likes English and Social Studies as her best subjects in class despite of having problems with Mathematics which she hopes to improve in future. Likes her teachers whom she says have been helpful to solving her problems in class and also her friends who help her in moving around school and going home.

Asked about her new school uniform, Sheila said "I am Happy for Koinonia Community for the new school uniform; it's just what I needed. Now I can walk around school boldly without shame than before, with my old uniform.."

Regardless of the special needs, education started in Kenya after the end of the Second World War. Education to these children was only offered in special schools until the 1970s when units and integrated programmes were initiated. Special needs education has continued to expand throughout the country.



Danish Art Students Take Street Art Tour with Ndugu Mdogo Children



Danish art students who toured the country late in March conducted a two-day street art on 30-31 March that saw them work together with children from the streets of Nairobi and those reformed, living in Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Centre in Kibera.

It was the ninth time students from the Silkeborg Højskole, a short-term vocational training institution situated in Det midtjyske Søhøjland District, had made trips to Kenya for the artistic engagement since the project was inception in 2008 after the director of the Art school, Jan Lundum met with Jack Matika of Ndugu Mdogo.

Jan says that the idea of doing a different travel apart from the accustomed ones, was one well thought of, which was not only to develop skills in art but also in other avenues of life as human being. The choice about Kenya as an interesting place to try was well weighed, because of what he cites as so much development of art in Eastern Africa as compared to Europe and other places.

His first meeting with Jack

was in May 2008 shortly after the 2007/08 post-election violence to see whether his institution and Koinonia Community could liaise and do something of benefit to both. Having both a shared religious background with Christian values was something more a catalyst to arriving at an agreement of commitment.

The Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Centre is a Koinonia Community initiative located at Nairobi's Kibera slum, where Koinonia social workers initiate identify children living on the street, and proceed to organize street activities with them as a prelude to a fostering process that gradually moulds them into sound members of the society.

The 13 female Danish students converged on Friday 30 March at the Ngong stadium with street children from different areas of Nairobi, to take part in art exercises that were seen to help the children express their inner-most feelings and experiences on the streets.

The exercises included paintworks, playing activities and weaving of other handmade antiques with the guidance of the Danish students' group. The street boys involved are mainly those under the

Koinonia street rehabilitation programme, who will be soon taken into Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Centre on a later date.

Jack Matika, head of Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Centre says the having the Danish students around has helped the children develop, and also aided them as street educators in their understanding more on ways these children want to be handled.

"Sometimes these children express themselves better through artwork activities like writing and drawing, we as educators are able to understand fears from the children through these expressions; what do they like and what they don't have," says Matika. "Through such ways, we are in a position to know well how to handle each and every child after the rescue."

On the second day of the programme, Saturday, the art students under stewardship of their director visited Ndugu Mdogo for another similar experience of art with now a rehabilitated lot of children, who like their counterparts, were on the streets but, thanks to the Koinonia rescue, now they find a home and good care.

Though new with the visitors at the centre could not hide their joy on seeing the new friends, upon learning that they were on a mission similar to those who visited last year. Joyful shouts

rendered the air as both groups exchanged greetings and pleasantries, with some of the children reminiscing on the last art activities they had with the previous group, started chanting some of the theme songs they learned from last year's experience.

The programme carried on well, with activities similar to those conducted with the street children on the previous day, spanning through the better part of the day, before the Danish students presented the children with some of the gifts they brought them before signing off. The artefacts made from the two-day engagement with the children will then be sold by the students back in Denmark as it has been always, to raise funds that will aid in getting those on the streets into the rescue centre and put through school, those who have undergone the one-year rehabilitation programme at the centre.

"This time we are doing small coffee cups with the prints of what they have done and when you buy this cup you get a small photo of the child who did the drawing with a few words from the child about challenges they face in being street children," Said Jan showing us a sample of the calendars presented to the centre, made from prints of last year's work.

On future prospects of the project, Jack says he wishes for it to expand and be more involving and networking with other Danish organisations and sectors, informing them more about the Koinonia projects and inviting them over to learn what the community is doing and "to walk with us" through this works.

Ndugu Mdogo Launches 'Amka Kenya' Music Album



Children from Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Centre nobly launched their much awaited Amka Kenya music album on Friday 27 April at an event in Kibera that majorly appealed for peace and harmony in the country. The event was held at the centre's premises in Kibera, Karanja Rd area.

Graced by former long-distance runner and peace champion, Tegla Loroupe, the event pulled crowds from the neighborhood, members and staffers of Koinonia community among other dignitaries from the government and organizations working with children.

Light showers that tendered at the morning onset saw delay of the event for about an hour from the earlier scheduled 9 am kick-off. The cold weather could not daunt the programme as planned. Activities of the day begun with a symbolic peace march along Karanja Road up

to the venue, led by Koinonia founder, Fr. Kizito and area councilor Mohammed Gore who both waved high peace flags to set out the peace procession.

A brass band from Baraka za Ibrahimu School led the procession behind the two principals with joyous tunes from their instruments, as the crowd thronged to the venue. All in similar fashion waved rainbow colours striped peace flags daubed with inscriptions of peace on each written in different world lingos.

Those who attended were entertained by children from Koinonia centers and pupils from two neighbouring primary schools. They performed enthralling folk dances, choreographed bops and oral poetry. This later was followed with a treatment of refreshments after the ceremony that had attracted many in hundreds.

On delivering her keynote speech, Tegla Loroupe commended the boys on their good job and expressed how honoured she was as chief guest as they unveiled their new album. Her words were of encouragement to the Ndugu Mdogo children of how bright

their future holds, calling them to exercise good conduct as they are blessed with having their sponsors.

Touched by a poem narrated by one of the pupils from the attending schools, Loroupe called on children to be front-runners of peace and let it prevail amongst them.

"It's up to us [children] to build our nation. We should learn from history and never forget," she said.

Narrating her experience with conflict in her home area of West Pokot, Loroupe reminisced on the sort of hardship and many setbacks that she had to go through while growing up back before her breakthrough in sports. In her later life in athletics, wide and vast traveling made her observe how other western countries were developed and this had her ask questions 'what was wrong with us'.

"Why do we have to be used? And that is something that has been hitting my heart. I said one time, I would go home and talk about peace and I would not be alone, I will be with other people. That is when I used sports to talk about harmony."

She called on the children to be front runners of peace in their homes and urge parents to value

need for educating children as an essential need for development, urging children to explore their given talents and reject engaging in any other unwanted practices.

Loroupe, a renowned international long-distance track and road runner has dedicated her achievements to promote peaceful co-existence and other developments of the poor and marginalized communities in the greater Horn of Africa Region through her Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation.

Amka Kenya a Swahili word which loosely translates to rise up Kenya is the main song, a patriotic song that forms the theme of the nine track album, alongside and eight other gospel songs that are already in the market, but redone melodiously by children from the centre, formerly living on the streets and have been rehabilitated back to the society.

View the video of the launch in the link provided below

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Fa50VowkGO8

Koinonia Children Celebrate World Orphans Day



Koinonia Children from Kivuli Centre united with the rest of the world in marking the International World Orphans Day celebrations this year.

The commemoration of this international event held every seventh of May was this year marked at the Dagoretti District Headquarters grounds attracting hundreds of children from schools, orphanages, with the government, and other stakeholders being represented.

This year's theme of the occasion was "strengthening networking to promote participation of orphans in development process."

The World Orphans Day was first marked in New York in 2002 and has been commemorated internationally every year with the full participation of governments, development partners and local communities. In Kenya the day has been

marked with celebrations every year since 2006.

The day's activities kicked off with a peaceful march that saw the procession of children with their care-givers alongside present government officials and other invited guests take the streets of Naivasha Road to raise awareness on the day and advocate for the needs of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC).

Various invited groups entertained the public with enthralling performances ranging from musical drama, oral poetry to traditional dances. Koinonia community was represented by the Kivuli acrobatic troupe, which in their breathe-taking moves, stunned the audience.

Also from Koinonia saw the much captivating screening at the event, of the 'Amka Kenya' a patriotic song that themed the recently launched album recorded by children from Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Centre about call for peace in the country.

Country's Director of Children Services Ahmed Hussein who

was the guest of honour represented the Dagoretti Area Member of Parliament Beth Mugo, expected to grace the occasion and present the speech by Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development but skipped the event over matters of national duties, rendering her apologies.

Mr. Hussein said the government has recognised and also realises the need to build and strengthen the existing partnership with development partners and communities working with the orphans, to ensure all efforts translate to meaningful impact in response to issues affecting children.

"During this day, we take time to take stock and reflect on where we stand in providing our support to our orphans and vulnerable children," he said, while reading the speech on behalf of the ministry.

It is estimated that approximately 8% of the adult population in Kenya is HIV-positive, i.e.: 150,000 people; currently, 1.2 million children in Kenya have lost one or both parents to the disease.

In Kenya, where 52 percent of its population which stands at about 40 million people, is composed of those under age of 18, its estimated that there are 2.5 million orphans in the country, most of whom are children living in very poor households headed by either those children themselves or elderly caregivers.

Currently the government has reported to implement a cash transfer programme that will see orphans from extremely poor households benefit from the kitty. The programme is currently on trial in some selected locations in the 47 counties, with 130,000 households targeted.

The Director in his winding remarks appealed to stakeholders to advance their support towards the cause of orphans and vulnerable children, and ensure that they are fully integrated into the society.

"In particular, am appealing to our development partners to increase their support to these programmes.

Baba Yetu Music Video Launched

The Ndugu Mdogo songbirds this year in July released the music video to their famed song "Baba Yetu" of their *Amka Kenya* album launched in April.

The Music titled *Baba yetu* - Swahili for 'Our Father' is the Lords prayer sang and presented by the rarely heard voices of the most vulnerable in the society: Former Street Children. The children rescued from the streets of Nairobi have found a earnest home at the Ndugu Mdogo rescue centre in Kibera, where they are taken through a

rehabilitation process and later linked back to their families.

The music makes part of the rehabilitation exercises and has so far seen unparalleled success with the boys, enabling them record severally in studios and successfully launch an album in April. The "Amka Kenya" album contains nine tracks of both patriotic and gospel songs.

George Ndikwe, a music director who has been working with the children in the project since last September in training them on vocals and recording says the main aim of the music project is a way to express to the society that these children can do that what we do and even better.



Currently the Ndugu Mdogo boys are working on their next album, different from previous productions that is made up of music of their own composition and is expected to be launched early next year.

Catch a glimpse of the making of the *Baba Yetu* Music Video in the link below

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-zstMH9dUA&feature=player_embedded

Kivuli Ndogo Olympics

Children from Kivuli Ndogo on 26 July woke up to an exciting Pre London 2012 Olympics games activities organised by Italian friends from Overseas NGO - Modena. This was a local event that aimed at sharing the love with the former street children and learning the importance of Olympics.

The event was a mock of the international Olympic Games 2012

held in London, UK, from 27 July to 12 August 2012. The Idea of Kivuli Ndogo Olympics was to give the children the whole idea that them too could take part in their own Olympics and have fun.

The Kivuli Ndogo Olympics did not only involve only sporting activities but also art activities that made it totally distinct from the usual one that many are accustomed to. The engagement saw the children and their visitors turn the Kivuli Ndogo residence into a stadium of Murals under the



theme "Rafiki United Olympics", where no wall was spared of the paint.

Follow the link below to view the video.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=tPgocm5RaFs

Former Beneficiaries Participate in Camping Activities



Families to families project, an initiative of Koinonia Community that facilitates reintegration of children in our centres, also doubling-up in doing family follow ups participated in a five days camping activities from 20-25 August 2012 at Rowalland Camp in Kibera-Nairobi.

of life experiences and sporting activities organised for the former beneficiaries of Koinonia social projects as part of the project's outreach program.

Catch a glimpse in the video below.

The activities involved life skills, guidance and counseling, sharing

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RlFXk3UAdf0&feature=player_embedded

Koinonia Caregivers Learn Tips in Bibliodrama



About 10 representatives and caregivers drawn from all the Koinonia Community centres took part in the two week-training which started on September 3, facilitated by two specialists from Italy. The two: Gian Paolo and Francesca are part of a visiting team from Italy who have been receding at Tone la maji for the training and a series of other activities with the boys at the centre.

The training on bible dramatisation held at the Tone la Maji centre concluded, after 2 weeks of intense activities and experiences that were coroneted with an awarding ceremony held at Shalom House.

Bibliodrama, a little known genre of drama, uses the Bible as a principle foundation of its engagements which are then largely molded by personal experiences of the participants who enact

particular scenes from the bible.

This interpretive engagement with the bible manifests itself in word plays, analogies, and even jokes which intensified the active experience of reading a script.

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Bibliodrama is most simply described as a form of role-playing in which the Characters played tasks taken from biblical texts. In this form of interpretative play, the reservation of available roles or parts may include certain objects or imaged, which can be embodied in voice and action and brought into a dramatic stage.

Much of the days' activities involved sessions of enactments of famed tales from the bible, where the

participants took onto the characters in modest. The skits would then be followed by in depth analysis of each character and role, in relation to daily experiences of the participants.

"In Bibliodrama we use bible text and try to see how it speaks to our life. We make the text alive, thanks to our experience and feelings," said Francesca during an interview with the Koinonia Media Centre (KMC) team.

The training was concluded with a modest graduation ceremony for the participants, held on Saturday September 15 at Shalom House. The partakers were treated with a bumptious banquet, accompanied with lively interactions with other Koinonia staffers who were present to witness the ceremony.

History of Bibliodrama sets back between 1980s and 90s in different parts of the world, though it was first observed in regions of South America, southeast Asia and later in Europe. Since then it has widely spread all over the world, bringing about varied versions in its practice, depending on the region.

For example the United States version where it originated, dwells more on the in depth study

of the biblical texts, while the European one which is more psychodrama explores the character's life story.

Gian Paolo says Bibliodrama is a way that helps connect personal experiences of people with the gospel within a dramatised context where the participants not only act, but give personal voice to the character.

"We connect the experiences in the [bible] text, with the life of the participants, done in dramatisation through also guided imaginations which will help people experiment with emotions and feelings, and how this text can speak to their life", Paolo Said.

He states that Bibliodrama which links personal life with the gospel will only succeed when the actors are honest and open. It assumes the readiness to encounter one's true self in the depth of being able to share it with the others.



Domus Mariae School Dancers Perform to the President



The Domus Mariae school dancers had a rare opportunity to entertain President Mwai Kibaki, a number of dignitaries together with the general public at this year's edition of the Nairobi International Trade Fair on October 4.

This is the first time the dancing troupe performed before the president on the opening day and on other event days at the Nairobi International Trade Fair commonly known as the "Nairobi Show." The road to award of the opportunity to perform has not been easy coming, bearing the rigorous auditioning they underwent to make it to the final list of performers.

The performances by the group incorporate pantomiming, in which they tell wordless stories on stage using only gestures and bodily movements including basic acrobatics, music, traditional dances and drumming which are of their own composition.

Catch a glimpse on the Video http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ct8kriqd1ms&list=UU2IUbhG9yXzrDr5d9Ewqv5Q

Eight Visiting Danish Students Concludes a Two-day Street Art Activity

For the second time this year a team of Danish art students from Silkeborg Hojskole, a short-term vocational training institution situated in Det midtjyske Søhøjland District toured the Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Home for art expedition with the children there.

The 8 visiting students concluded a two-day street art Activity on 28-29 October that saw them work together with children from the streets of Nairobi and those

reformed, living in the Rescue Centre in Kibera.

The visiting Danish student under their school director, Jan Lundum, engage with the children of Ndugu Mdogo in various activities which include paintworks, playing activities and weaving of other handmade antiques.

The artifacts made from the engagement with the children will then be sold by the students back in Denmark as it has been always, to raise funds



that will aid in getting those on the streets into the rescue centre and put through school, those who have undergone the one-year rehabilitation programme at the home.

Check the video below....

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=3lxixUV2Ral

G2G: A story of Women and Community with a Touch of Creativity.

Get Together Girls is the story of six Kenyan former street girls who have been stay at Anita's Home and have become fashion designers thanks to a tailoring project created by an Italian mentor, Grazia Orsolato, after leaving her job in Italy and moving to Africa.

Grazia Orsolato, founded Get Together Girls or G2G as famously referred, to focus on teaching former street girls to be self-reliant and support themselves and their families through fashion and creativity, learning all the manual skills that the tailoring projects requires. To them G2G is a bridge into a new life.

The girls and Grace deal with the colorful and creative activities of GtoG together with the cultural differences and the struggles and fears in their daily lives, always carrying with themselves the will and the awareness that they can hope and aim for a better future and finding the joy and the satisfaction to be able to create something unique together and

being appreciated for what they are now with the awareness of what they lived once.

The documentary below was written by Vanessa Crocini.

Catch a Glimpse

<http://vimeo.com/vanessacrocini/trailergettogethergirls>

Domus Mariae Prayer Day 2012

This year Domus mariae School held a prayer day for its candidates sitting for the Kenya National Examination Council (KCSE) in their preparation to the National Examination which started on 21 October 2012. Parents, teachers, Invited guests and Family members held a prayer meeting that saw celebration of holy mass in dedication to the candidates. It was on this same day that the School officially unveiled the schools new Bus.

Vincent Karino, a teacher at Domus Mariae School



says the main purpose of having the prayer day is to jointly seek divine intervention, candidates together with their parents

and teachers as a way to motivate them as they face their final secondary school exams.

He adds that the prayer day

marks as a day for the candidates to appreciate for their four-years of study in school, which also is a happy occasion for the school since its day of union.

Watch video on the link below

http://www.youtube.com/watch?list=UU2IUbhG9yXZrDr5d9Ewqv5Q&feature=player_embedded&v=ct8kriqd1ms

KOBWA Organizes Forum for Former Beneficiaries of CCIs



On December 8 2012 more than 200 young men and ladies, who had some experience of street life and were rescued from it by charitable children institutions in Nairobi (CCIs), gathered for their first ever conference.

Dubbed kongamano la vijana kwa base (Swahili for Forum of Youth of the Base, base having the meaning of the meeting

place in the streets), the conference was held at Shalom House all day long. It brought together beneficiaries from over 10 CCIs to participate in a deliberation forum to give feedback to the CCIs on the services they offer.

Kongamano la vijana kwa Base is an initiative of Koinonia Old Beneficiaries Welfare Association (KOBWA) attended by other very important organizations like KESCA,

Consolation Africa, Thomas Bernardo's Home and Rescue Dada. It was the culmination of a process that started in August 2012.

The former beneficiaries had an opportunity to share their life experiences, perspectives and a chance to propose the way forward on how to improve the process of rescue and reintegration.

Check the Video below...

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ct8kriqd1ms

Koinonia Children Day-out Swimming Experience



Boys from Tone la Maji Centre had a great day-out expedition to the Village Market Mall for enjoyment with the company of a visiting group of the Work Camp from Italy.

The trip realised on Thursday 16th of August saw more than thirty boys from "Tone" as commonly referred to, set out on a trip to the Village Market mall located on the western outskirts of the city centre. It stood out to be a considerable long drive through the city's suburbs while making way to the mall, though this won't dampen the thrilling spirits of the voyagers determined to have the best out of the day.

Throughout the journey, they sang in unison many in variety of songs ranging in lingo to style and perhaps sounds that made it short for them to realise that they were already at their actual location, waiting to

experience what they had been longing for.

The event was part of several other activities that the Tone Boys have been engaging with the Work Campers' group who have been with them at the centre since beginning of the month. This has been in sync with other similar Work Camp groups visiting Koinonia Community centers that have been on a trail of activities for weeks now.

The visiting Work Camp group in Tone la Maji comprises of 12 members from different cities in northern Italy and for the second week running, they have been engaging with Koinonia children in a series of activities as part of their programme to voluntarily live and work in a communal environment.

This is in light with the volunteer workers' motive to engage in social, ecological and culturally relevant initiatives for the benefit of the community, as they also make new friends and increase their international understanding.

The Thursday's event saw the boys alongside the visitors

enjoy the enthralling experiences at the mall's world-class swimming complex. Not anyone went on without roller coasting through the waterslides at the amusement park, or not did the little-bit chilling weather deter the boys from going down the water-filled slides or sampling any water activity that was on offer. You could see some of them shiver with cold but the excitement they wore on their face had them going on, time after time.

They enjoined with another group from Anita Home, a sister center for girls, who also according to their day's activities were on tour in the same location. Earlier on a day before, another group of Boys from Kivuli Center paired with their team of visitors had visited the same place and bet they must have had a similar experience.

Head of the Campers' group identified as Roberto says it was good for the boys to experience such particular moments with the visiting group to realise how much they were loved and appreciated.

"Most boys being from the streets, with no quite a family, find their families amongst those around them," he said, "we should be that family around and always provide

them that they seek."

He identified how his group which is staying at the Tone Center with the boys for a considerable three-week period has had good and eventful stay with the boys, somewhat might challenge them to come over again when offered another chance.

Additional activities at the center previously have been involving sporting, music and art events among other co-curricular activities, being a holiday season that are set to help the boys reflect on their various vocations.

Though many showed exhaustion from the long day's pleasure they were helped up in esteem, knowing that several other activities waits them ahead as the group prepares for the last and much alluring activities which also shall mark the end of their stay.

Kivuli boys as well had an awesome day out on Wednesday 15 at the same venue of which they enjoyed every moment of it.



**KOINONIA COMMUNITY
WISHES YOU A BEAUTIFUL
HOLIDAY SEASON AND A
NEW YEAR OF PEACE AND
HAPPINESS**



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