

TUNZA CHILDREN CENTRE MARCH 2010 REPORT

This month was a bit settling because the form one students had found their place in school and began to acquaint themselves with the high school environment. Some seemed excited and others are still flowing in the mood as they find their way. Besides, our sessions went on as usual.

The two professional counsellors completed their period of commitment and some of the issues they raised were some similar challenges we have encountered before: The character of Mama Tunza who acts to be cool and good to visitors but hard on the kids. They reported that the kids were very responsive and were willing to grow as they showed through signs of maturity from one level to another.

The two counsellors managed to have sessions with twenty kids both big boys and girls through one-on-one. They donated to them some devotional and motivational materials for reading and even Bibles. The kids are truly becoming better citizens and we can sense some differences than how we found them at first. Cases of fights with each other have reduced and even Mama Tunza has few complains towards them. We can utterly say that the kids are really reforming as the sessions go on.

Some of the challenges we encountered were the lack of food at the centre, at times it was very touchy to see the kids surviving with little portioned meals which they would always complain it would not suffice their hunger. It was very challenging we tried to chip in and bought some maize and beans, but only few kilos. Moreover, there has been heavy down pour of rains and most of the times the roads were un-passable we were stuck in the muddy waters from the Tunza centre to the roads. The bikes could not move beyond the main-roads. But all in all we devotedly went as expected.

The boys are in their last phase of the "PURITY" series - the Purity of Life - and Collins has gotten some few documentaries and real life Christian movies e.g. "Something to Sing About," that would help the boys to evaluate between the virtues and vices of life. They have been conducting evaluations after every session and the boys are really showing positive signs of change. Some of the boys who had major behavioral issues are in their path of life transformation. The next series will be on "CAREER, CAREER GUIDANCE AND CAREER CHOICE." These sessions will mostly target the boys in upper primary and high school to help them to begin planning early in time and work towards enhancing their dreams of life.

The girls have just ended their "RELATIONSHIP" topic and they began a topic on "Goal Setting." This is meant to help the mature girls to set their life goals despite their shortcomings or limitations of life. In their relationship sessions, the girls learned on how to relate with fellow boys at the centre, with the staff and with each other. Unfortunately, all the high school girls were forced by Mama Tunza to shave because she could not maintain their long hairs. We still have some challenging cases of special diet for two high school girls one of them being Gertrude yet the school cannot offer unless more charges are paid for the same so we have been forced to literally give her cash at times for to buy snacks and fruits at the tuck shop. She has been complaining of ulcers thus most of the foods offered at school even at the centre have had side effects causing reaction to her body. It has been very hard to handle such cases at the centre no matter how compassionate we may be because of financial limitations. At least now the play-field has been leveled and the kids can play without many incidents of physical injuries.

Mercy, Bramwel and Vincent have settled at the Musa Gitau Boarding school and we are grateful for the sponsors who took the initiative. They are catching up well and their term performance was above average hoping for better. Vincent went home but we are hoping he will be back to catch up with the sessions before the schools open.

We are still hoping to raise support for Wallace to record his music and sell his album, as well as initiate the program for the form four leaver's because most of them did not perform very well and we would like to help them discover other gifting in their life to attain their lifelong goals. Even if it means to establish handiwork for them that would arouse their creativity and see them earn a living. It is also high time we would like to train the staff on work ethics and better ways to enhance healthy relationships with the kids.

We would also take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your continued support of this program at Tunza Children Centre. Please we will appreciate your feedback on our reports. Many thanks.

Report compiled by:

Collins & Becky
(Counsellors)