

TUNZA REPORT: OCTOBER 2010

The month of October was like a season of exploration to us as counselors, this was because of the new initiatives we were trying to instill into our program. So far so good, we are moving on to greater heights.

For the last four Sundays we have successfully been able to run a Sunday service program for the children and some of the workers at the centre hall. The service runs from 11am - 1pm and is now compulsory for all the kids. This program was timely according to our evaluation because since the centre was moved from Kibera, the kids have never had time for worship or biblical teaching. We discovered the significance of the spiritual resources in our counseling program to compliment and blend with our sessions with the kids. The Sunday service program is very important in both psychological and Christian counseling. We have mostly dealt so far with some of the psychological issues affecting the kids through the various stages of our counseling program.

Consequently, after identifying the problem in a counseling session, psychological counseling requires an exploration of the problem so as to offer a way forward for the client/kids and thus later help the kid solve his/her problems in life. After this stage a counselor can consider to offer a spiritual solution and that is why we considered offering a spiritual integration for the kids. Thus, it was important for us to reconsider initiating this service so that we do not leave the kids marooned to look for spiritual resources in life but help them seek for better options.

Accordingly, we involved the church which we believed would offer the best for the children's spiritual growth and they accepted to be sending either a pastor or a lay minister and one or more people to help out in the service. So far the response from the church has been positive.

However, the new program was not without a few challenges. For instance, we are supposed to match up for the transport because

this activity was not included in the church yearly activities calendar as well as the budget allocations for the same. Every Sunday we have to hire a taxi to transport the people going to minister at the centre. We would like to enhance the worship during the service and thus have someone from the church train the children on music and various worship songs. This would require us to buy the songs books or golden bells for the children, which also requires financial implications.

Besides, there are other urgent problems that require serious intervention. For instance, the centre does not have a permanent or rather reliable water source that would adequately supply the whole centre, thus the flush toilets are unsustainable and sometimes the dorms are foul-smelling due to lack of water in the toilets. Moreover, majority of the young kids do not have the orientation to using the in-built dorm toilets. Therefore, we ardently seek for your support to either help dig a borehole or help to build four pit latrines at the centre. We will be ready to supervise these projects with your support.

In addition, the centre lacks a transition program for those who are completing their fourth year courses in secondary school; we have been trying to design a program that would help the secondary school graduates so that they become self independent and not to continue to depend on the centre for further support. However, all these initiatives require financial muscles. And again, it has also been hard dealing with Mama Tunza because she cannot define the destiny of the children after their secondary school education. It would be all vanity if the kids do not have a future designed for them, otherwise their education would be null and void. Even in a normal family set up, the parents have a structured and clear path to the future of their children and we would not like to deny these kids a bright future.

Many thanks for your continued support and God bless you all for your kindness.

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