

Volunteers helping out at Bethany

I have been inviting people over every Sunday to bring something new to our children. There's a teacher at Nassa Theological College and also part time teacher at Lion of Judah. He is really good and has been coming since last year to help teach the children, boys in particular different values. We also have Yonah and his wife, as well as the church they run in Magu, Yonah's wife teaches RE every Friday at school to the whole school (I am sure Emma may have mentioned this) and also participates in Sunday services etc.

I am thinking of organising a weekly Bible study for the older children (boys and girls) and have individuals like Mwita, Zephaniah and some of the care-workers whom I think can share their Christian experiences with the children. It's hard for individuals like Duttu and Dr. Sunday as they have limited time but when they come to Bethany the children are usually willing to talk to them and Duttu in particular has inspired some of boys and I hear them talking about becoming lawyers because of his influence.

I have also been thinking of a more practical approach for the children. I want them to reach out more into the community and this could be as simple as volunteering at a local church to clean etc or helping some of the families around who are very disadvantaged with difficult chores etc. However, something I really thought about and will attempt this during June holiday is to help provide shelter to families who are really struggling. How will this work out? I thought we could identify a family and our secondary school boys and girls can help make mud bricks and get someone who will volunteer to construct the mudhut and maybe some care-workers may donate some iron sheets to go on the roof...that way children will be doing something practical into the community using their energy and time.

Also some of our secondary school children have joined into donating blood which is great and encouraging to see that they value other people's lives and are willing to give up something to save others. This time we had six young people who volunteered to donate blood, four of those were boys which I am quite proud to see. I have kept their membership cards in their personal files for future references.

DAVID'S LETTER

David, the children really appreciated the time you took to write this letter to them and some of them wanted to respond individually though it is taking them a while to as they've been busy at school so once they are ready, I'll scan and forward the letters to you. The children responded really well because we had a short discussion after reading the letter but as usual, just few weeks after they tend to forget everything and go back to their normal ways, so it is a matter of constantly having to remind them. Form three children in particular are proving difficult in terms of their behaviour which in turn is affecting their academic performances so we are really trying different ways to help them and sadly this morning I got even more sad news about their behaviour and I'll need to have a stern word with them and I am even thinking of a more hard practical approach (taking them back to their relatives when we close for Easter giving them time to reflect upon their behaviour and those who'll not show changes, then, like Vivian, they'll be reintegrated back with their relatives). I think sometimes this is the only way for our children to understand that we mean what we say. This class in particular have always been trouble but we've overlooked it considering their age etc etc but now they are older and will complete form four next year, if they don't get their act together now, then they'll probably never will. With this group I think it's more about peer influence rather than anything else so if they all go back to their villages and see that no one is going to be there for them, maybe they'll have a wakeup call. Academically, this class is by far the best as I would say all of them rank on the bright/average side but their attitudes will be their downfall, this includes Esther Cosmas whom I thought would know better.

POSTER CAMPAIGN

I honestly haven't given this much thought and Emma and I haven't had a chance to chat about it but I understand what you mean and it'll probably be a good incentive for them to grab different opportunities offered here at Bethany. So I have bought some poster cards and will try and get a chance to firstly discuss

the topic and will give the children the challenge. We also have some of the village children (those in standard seven) staying onsite at the moment, it'll probably be good to also involve them and see how they may see Bethany differently compared to our children.

CONSTITUTION

Thank you David for doing the constitution. I have been through it but sought some advice from Sophia who has already processed theirs (Forever Angels') and got it approved after many attempts. So she looked at it and gave some ideas because these ministry people are very concerned with the wording. So the objectives we've put as you can see Sophia has crossed them all out because they want us to use those certain words. Also objectives shouldn't collide with the vision and mission statement. So I tried to follow Sophia's advice but couldn't think of how to change the objectives in particular so maybe David you may have some ideas.

Once it's done, I'll have to submit it to the ministry's office to be approved once again and officially stamped.

MONTHLY RESULTS (FORM ONE, TWO AND FOUR)

The children have done some monthly and weekly exams. So I have attached them for your information (only form fours results at the moment), I will send the other results for the other other forms later. Most of them seem to be doing very well with Physics but not so with other subjects. Also form fours performance is appalling so, something really has to change with these children and we are trying to look for some strategies to help them.

KITONGO LAND

The guy interested in the land rang and said, he'll make deposit sometimes next week and will do the necessary protocol to handover the land to him.

HANDOVER FORM (small boy's dormitory)

I'll also attach this to a separate email later but we've already signed it just working out the total cost from quicken.

LOANS UPDATE

Please David find attached the loans updates at the end of Feb beginning of March 2021. I am very sorry for the delay.

P.S. Just out of interest, last Sunday we thought it would be nice to have a special service to mark a year since the terrible accident. We invited Baraka's mum and some of her church members from Lamadi, also some church people from Magu to join in the service. Our trainee social welfare preached and was actually really good in the way he used the event to encourage the children in particular. The children sang and did some Christian role plays designed by themselves which was really good to see. Afterwards we had lunch together and then the visitors left. It was good and thought I'd just share with you.

Kindest regards and every blessing
Jesca