



# HOMECARE SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

## 2ND QUARTER NEWSLETTER 2014

### NOTE FROM THE C.E.O'S DESK

#### Sleeping on Babies



In the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 3:16-27, we read the story of 2 prostitute mothers who went to see the king to have a dispute settled. In the previous night, one of the babies had died as the mother had slept on him and exchanged him with the other mother's living baby. We read this story mostly in light of how the King used wisdom to execute justice; however, my concern is with the conduct of both mothers. The application is very relevant today.

Normally, when any mother has a baby, she forgets her comfort and keeps checking on the baby day and night. In this story, we see that one mother was in deep sleep to the extent that she slept on her baby without knowing! When she finally woke up and realized that the baby had died, she switched him with the other mother's baby. The other mother was no better since it was only until morning when she woke up and she realized that her living baby had been exchanged with a dead one! How can a mother sleep throughout the night (perhaps 7-8 hours) and not get up to check on her baby?

It is easy to lay blame on these mothers, but that is exactly what is happening in our society today. These two mothers represent parents, church and nations. We have slept comfortably and left the children and youth at the influence of social media, peers and internet and T.V. The world is mentoring our children when we are fast asleep! We have mothers who would rather go to the salon and leave their children all day with house helps who may not even be of the same faith, and who may influence them negatively. Our children go abroad in search of better opportunities and they end up in drugs and homosexuality. We are sleeping on babies if we think money can take the place of parenting!

The sleeping mother represents a church, continent, society, parent – who keeps thinking that the children are alive yet they are morally dead. We are surrounded by mothers who are ready to exchange their dead children. Our children are suffocating under our leadership. Satan is taking our children from under us when we are fast asleep!

Arise and be interested in your children's education. Go to school occasionally and see what they are learning. Keep a family altar and service it.

Arise and learn a bit of I.T. so that you can see and know some of the things your child is reading on computer, phone etc.

Arise and pray – these are evil days.

## April & June Saturday luncheon

As a ministry that prays for the family, we are concerned by the recent attack on the marriage institution and how the young couples are responding to them. Therefore, the 2nd quarter of this year we decided to take a different approach in our monthly Saturday fellowships. We have so far held 2 luncheons- one in April and the other in June and invited guest speakers who are well



*A talk in session*



*Rev. Judy introducing Mr. & Mrs. Gikonyo*

conversant with the topic of 'Marriage.' The main focus of both forums was on "Strengthening marriage to avoid divorce". Our speaker in April was Mrs. Rosemary Kibuthu, a professional counselor working in Daystar University. We also had Mrs. Carol Gikonyo, a young mother who is the Founder of "Operation Linda Ndoa", an initiative that seeks to bring young mothers together for mentorship and encouragement.

Some of the points that stood out from the message were: - marriage was God's idea from the onset and no other creature in the garden of Eden could satisfy the deepest longing for companionship in Adam, until God made for him a woman, - Gen 2:21-22. That success in marriage starts with obedience to the command in Ephesians 5:22-33 for mutual submission i.e. submitting to one another in the fear of God. Success in marriage is also dependent on mutually agreed goals and plans- something to work towards together.

In June, Mrs. Rosemary Kibuthu, concluded on the topic she had started in April. We also had Martin Njihia, a coordinator of a program known as 'Man Enough' whose aim is to call out men to lead in service as sons, brothers,

fathers and husbands in their families and society. Martin challenged us on 5 keys that define a man as opposed to what many of us think; a man ought to take initiative, live responsibly, lead sacrificially, love faithfully and leave a legacy.

The luncheons were well attended and a great success, It was agreed that we will be holding such meetings on topics of interest every 2 months.

## Staff & Members Birthdays

Homecare is not just an organization but a family: we celebrate each staff member's birthday every month by cutting a cake, sharing a small snack and a word of encouragement. In the month of April, we celebrated with Richard (OVC Dept) and David (Admin Dept) in a short fellowship as we bonded and shared the Word. In June, we celebrated with Mercy. The same is extended to the greater Homecare Family as we celebrate members' birthdays every second Thursday of each month.



## Homecare Staff Outreach



*Kibera market*

In line with our theme for this year "Come and see a Man", Homecare staffs, decided to put into action what we have been preaching about inviting others to 'Come and see a Man ...' So one of the Wednesday afternoon, we went out to the nearby Kibera market and told the people about the good news of Christ. Out of the 22 people that we managed to reach out to in a short span of about an hour, 4 of them believed and got born again. We realized that Missions is not about travelling to remote places, but that there are many who live amongst

us in our neighborhoods, in our offices, in our market places that have not had the opportunity to hear the good news upfront. We were encouraged by the reception and have purposed to make such outreaches a habit and not an isolated event.

## OVC- HOMECARE MENTORS

The second quarter of 2014 was one full of activities towards holistic growth of the children in our Program. The highlight was marked by two vacation camps in April: for children aged 7-12 years, and for Teenagers. These engaged the children positively during the holiday, while giving them opportunity to develop Godly values and life skills.

### Teen's camp

In April, we hosted 51 teens for the camp at our Homecare premises on Kabarnet road. The theme of this year's camp was "Life Skill Training." One of the lessons in the camp was 'Self Concept' and there was a discussion on how to understanding oneself and who you are, finding an identity, how you define yourself and how you brand yourself etc. and how all these helps one to deal with the challenges that they face. The teens were encouraged resist defining themselves with where they come from and, how changing their attitudes towards life can help them to become more focused on working towards what they desire to achieve in future. These lessons helped the teens gain a better perspective of who they are and what they can become through God.



*Teens making a presentation*



*Group discussion time*

One of the most heated topics in the camp was on sexuality. The teens had an opportunity to express themselves and open up about the challenges and the pressures they faced. The mentors taught them on the negative effects of engaging in sex, sexual vices and how to abstain from such behavior. Many of them confessed to being involved in illicit sex and masturbation. We will be doing follow up on especially those we identified with these habits.

The issue of drugs also came up and a few boys confessed to doing drugs and/or helping drug dealers with their business. They got counseling on the same and since then they have dropped the habit but we are still following them up on the same.

There was also a Q and A session where they expressed themselves further and the discussions from the floor were animated, as the teens sought to give their opinion on discussion topics. Overall, our Teens Camp was successful and the teens gained some skills and knowledge concerning the issues that they go through. They were also encouraged to learn that the issues were not unique to them as individuals. We ask that you continue to pray for our Teens and children in our program. We will be holding another camp for them in August.

## Children's Camp

Children are a priceless treasure from God! They are bundles of potential: blossoming where nurtured, and wilting when neglected. We their guardians share the awesome privilege and responsibility to cultivate their holistic growth.



Recognizing this all too well, we host an Annual Easter vacation camp for orphaned and vulnerable children in Kibera.

This year 2014 was no exception; we hosted over 200

children, aged between 7 and 12 years, to a two-day Easter camp at our Homecare premises.



*Children enjoying their tea break*

The Easter camp celebrates Christ's death and resurrection, in a child-friendly forum, making it readily applicable in their lives. This year's Camp's theme was "***I am a part of God's big family***". The objective was to help children understand the power of the Cross in reconciling us back to God and to one another.

The children got to learn that as God's children, they are special and should be aware of that despite their current circumstances. They enjoyed themselves tremendously as there was lots of music and dance, food and play.

## Second Term



*One of our girls going back for 2nd term*

We saw all our children resume school for their second term and we thank God for provision and continuous support from our partners.

## TESTIMONY

*Praise the Lord for He is good, and His love endures forever.*



*Chris with his saxophone*

*It was on 30th May, on a lovely Friday evening when I was preparing to Minister in a Kesha(overnight meeting). I was looking forward to being in church and to playing my saxophone. It was heading to 10:30 pm and I rushed through Waiyaki way on my motor bike to be in church on time. What I didn't know is that the enemy had planned evil against me. When I reached near Safaricom house, a driver, who was most likely drunk, had just come from a bar nearby and was going towards Kangemi but driving on the wrong side of the road and coming straight towards me. By the time I realized what was going on, I tried swerving but it was a bit too late and he hit me head on! The impact was so huge that it threw me off my bike and I landed several meters away in a ditch, unconscious. The driver did not bother to stop but sped off and left me for dead.*

*Fortunately, some police on patrol had witnessed the whole incidence and rushed to my rescue. They must have thought I was dead, they picked me up and threw me to the back of the pick-up. The commotion awoke me and I started groaning in pain. They then realized I was still alive and rushed me to a hospital nearby where medics gave me first aid treatment and injected with painkillers. Though covered in blood, everyone was amazed that not even one of my bones was broken. Except for scratches and cuts, and that my entire body aching from the force of impact, I was completely okay!*

*I then pleaded with the police to take me to church as they were waiting for me to minister. Amazingly, they accepted and accompanied me to the Kesha, with my smashed motor bike at the back of their pick-up. Everyone in Church was shocked to see me covered in blood and escorted by police; they realized I had been involved in an accident.*

*I insisted that I wanted to play my saxophone as planned, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, God's power came down and there was such a revival in the church, the presence of the Lord was evident and there was a lot of repentance and deliverance. When I was through ministering, the police, together with some of my church members, took me back to the hospital where I got further treatment. They also catered for my bill and I was discharged by morning. I later declined a request by the police to write a statement, since the culprit had already escaped and everything had turned out well. The police also offered to take my motor bike to the garage, and a church member volunteered to fully pay for its repair, and others still gave finances towards my upkeep until I recovered completely. I saw the faithfulness of God that night.*

*Indeed the Lord is good, and His faithfulness endures forever.*

*\*Chris is a Homecare member and a gifted saxophonist who ministers in our Thursday fellowships each week. His ministry is a tremendous blessing to Homecare.*

*Come & see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah? John 4:29*

## BETHEL DRESSMAKING SCHOOL



*Teacher Karanja leading devotion in the morning*

Bethel Dressmaking School has remained a blessing to the students, most of who come from very poor backgrounds. From its onset, the school has seen many of its students lives transformed. Several students have been able to put up small businesses in tailoring and dressmaking while a few others have secured jobs in tailoring shops. For them, to have the opportunity to put bread on the table and fend for themselves is a testimony; again, it is an honor to serve the Lord in this as the Bible says in

Matthew 25:40 that *"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me."* There are currently 19 students in

the school and 16 of them will be sitting for their Grade III Test later in the year. Two students will be sitting for Grade II Test and one will be sitting for Grade I Test (the highest-level gov't test in dressmaking). It is encouraging to see that the skills they are learning are having a positive impact in their lives. So far they are able to make simple clothes and do repair, while there are those who are actually earning some little income making uniforms and dresses for customers.

One of the student's, Mama Kibet, a mother of two who is doing quite well making school uniform and little girls' dresses. She shows enormous interest in her work and is very creative, motivating even the others.

There is also spiritual nourishment as each day the students start with devotion and a word of prayer. It is our hope that God will make a difference in their lives and give each of them a testimony.

## FADHILI

The Fadhili women have come a long way and have something to thank God for. So far, after receiving the standardization mark from KEBS, they have received an order to deliver 100 kilograms of powder detergent, which they are eagerly working on. They are currently in the process of printing the packing



*Fadhili member receiving the food hampers*

papers so that they can deliver the order.

The Fadhili women are also excited as they now have the privilege of getting a food basket every month. The hamper consist of maize flour, porridge flour, beans and cooking oil. This will go a long way in complimenting the weekly feeding program and subsidizing their food costs. It will also offer nutritional support as



*The late Ann's children excited in their new uniform*

they continue to take their drugs. The members would not hide the joy in their faces as they received the hampers.

The women are also grateful for God's provision for school fees, uniform and other basic needs for the late Ann Muthoka' children, Mary, Denis and Agnes. They continue to trust God for future provision of the same.

## WEEKLY SERVICES



*Worship in progress*

Our Thursday meetings have so far been great. We have had various speakers minister to us centering on our theme of "Come & see a Man...", and we have experienced wonderful revelation from God's word each time. Amazing sessions of worship and praise have also been part of our services.

## RETREAT CENTER



*Karen retreat centre*

Our retreat center in Karen continues to warmly welcome and host many individuals, families and groups. Whether coming for a week long retreat, a day of prayer or a few days of relaxing, the Retreat Center is the ideal 'home away from home' experience.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Children's camp: 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Teen's camp: 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2014

Homecare retreat: 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014

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*Come & see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah? John 4:29*