

FOCUS MULAGO CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER PROJECT

BI-MONTHLY REPORT - JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2010

CAMP 2010; We held camp from 18th-21st January at the FOCUS camping center for 54 students aged 12-19. Our theme for camp and the year is/was "I wish you prosper and are in good health even as your soul prospers" 3John 2. Topics that the students found most helpful were: 'forgiveness' 'pervasion', 'dealing with fear', and 'incest'. Some of there feedback was;

- ✚ I never understood why I need to forgive others. It was something I could hold onto and keep someone in debt about if they hurt me, but I learnt that I am the one who also suffers with un- forgiveness and am as much in bondage as those I choose not to forgive. Some don't even know that they hurt you.
- ✚ I live in fear of what I will do after school. Will I be able to get a job?
- ✚ I fear that I will never find someone who really loves me for who I am
- ✚ I fear that I will never amount to anything.
- ✚ I fear what others think about me.
- ✚ I didn't know that incest was sin before God.
- ✚ I didn't know that God wants me to be in good health or to prosper. I thought there are some people who God favors more others, but I know now that He wishes us all good health and prosperity as our souls prosper.



Spiritual development is a key component in the program to ensure that all children acquire knowledge of God and His dictates, and born again ones are discipled into more mature Christians. During Saturday programs, all these aspects of spiritual development were emphasized.

EDUCATION; Our goal in providing education opportunities for children is to ensure that they make good

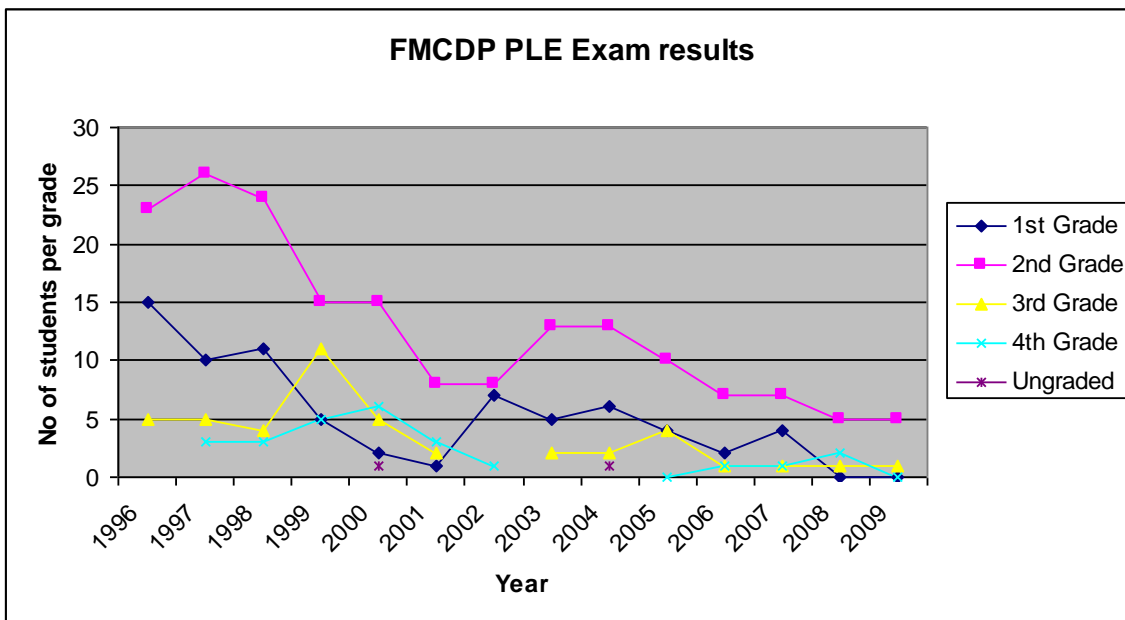
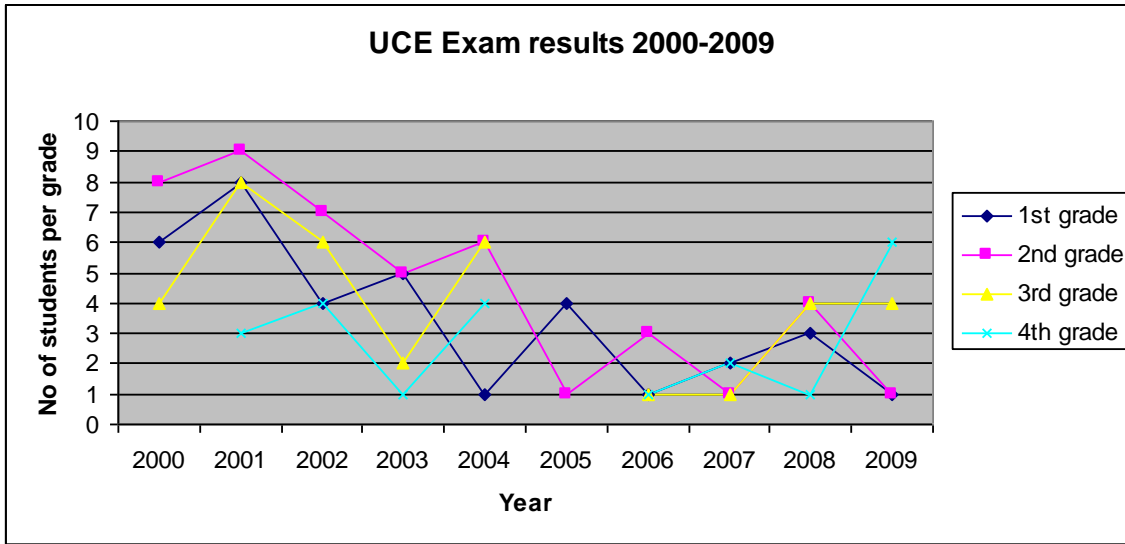
progress in their education and that they acquire knowledge, skills, understanding and change of attitude. Results were released for students who completed their Primary Leaving Exams (PLE), Uganda Ordinary Level Certificate Exams (UCE) and Uganda Advanced Level Exams (UACE) in December last year. Our students performed even worse than they did last year. There was one notable exception of Kavuma Edison who was one of the top students in his school and has qualified for a partial scholarship at Advanced level in Cornerstone Leadership Academy. The over all results were;



Exam level	No in 1 st Grade	No in 2 nd Grade	No in 3 rd Grade	No in 4 th Grade
PLE	0	5	1	0
UCE	1	1	4	6
UACE	Of the 3 that sat for these exams, two have qualified for college education			

Over the years, the tread is that the education performance is getting worse rather than better. We have noted that with the universal primary education (UPE) schools where most of our children go, the student to teacher ratios are very high averaging

80:1 which makes it hard for the children to get proper learning and compete at a national level. Other factors also remain an issue with no clear solution.



CHILD INFORMATION UPDATE;

The heavy rains in February have left many homes flooded. One of the ones most affected is Rehema.



Her Mother left Kampala early this year unable to make ends meet and asked a friend to keep Rehema so that she could keep attending school and receiving support at the project. The home where she has been living has faced persistent floods and the occupants have sought refuge with another family and asked Rehema to find alternative care. The Mother was called in from the village to find another home for Rehema, but to date, they are still seeking help.

Olive is 7 years old, an orphan, and living with HIV. Her caretaker who is not a relative can no longer keep her because

she has many other dependants and also because she is a problem child. Efforts to find an alternative home for her are still fruitless as many families are not willing to take on an HIV infected child.

Athena is 9 and lives with a grandmother who can no longer afford to live in the city. The granny asked the school to retain her for term time so that she does not miss out on an education. The school does not have a proper boarding section but have agreed to keep her there as alternative care is sought. One of the teachers is looking after her.

Innocent (8 years old) lives with his Mother and stepfather. The step Father cannot stand to have him at home and severely mistreats him. The mother cannot afford to take him to a boarding school and the family is totally dependent on his care so they endure the physical and verbal abuse.

These are some of the cases we are dealing with for which we would need a safe house where children can reside if facing abuse or rejection. The shelter, however, is not a goal in itself but could be seen as a practical means to support the root causes of physical abuse, sexual abuse etc. and to secure justice in these matters.

CHILDREN'S SECTION;

A PASTOR'S BUSINESS CARD

A pastor was moving from home to home to share the gospel. He knocked and knocked at one door where he was sure he had heard movement in the house, but there was no answer. He got out his business card and wrote with a marker on it; Revelations 3:20. On Sunday, in the offering bag, he found his business card written on Genesis 3:10.

WHO SAYS MEN DON'T UNDERSTAND ANNIVERSARIES?

A woman woke up and noticed that her husband wasn't in bed. She went downstairs and found him glancing keenly at the wall. He said, "Do you remember when your father caught us in your room?"

"I remember sweetie", she said.

"Do you remember when he pointed a pistol at me and said I either married you or I would be sent to prison for 20 years?" he asked again.

"Yes I remember" she answered.

"I would have gotten out today" he said sadly.

DID YOU KNOW?

✚ That a group of ravens is called a *murder*

✚ That a group of rhinos is called a *crash*

✚ That Graham Bell the inventor of the telephone never telephoned his wife or Mother because they were both deaf.

By Kawuma Ibura

I wonder what my future will be.

Ever since I was young, I have been seeing men mistreat women. So I have developed a heart of hating men. Men beat women, rape them, defile young children, they break their heart. They embarrass women, under-look them and it is worse when they refuse to educate the girl child. So, I hate them even more because girls are the mothers of tomorrow.



Also, I do not understand women who mistreat their co-wives children. I feel so sad for such children because they are innocent victims. It pains because I don't want to see anyone else suffering in this world!

Irene

I wonder what I would look like if I was the president of Uganda with all the people as my subordinates. They would be eager to listen to the voice of a famous mouth like mine. I imagine the day, preferably Sunday, okay any other day as well, the moment, time and hour, when I would be crowned and given total authority over the entire country to lead this land of my ancestors

People would scream my name on top of their voices, hold placards with my picture. It would read "Edison, the President of Uganda." One day, let it be!

Edison

I wonder why God is invisible God. He wouldn't hide himself in the heavens because we really have issues to introduce to him.

Personally, I understand He is omnipresent, but I still want to have a dialogue with him face to face. Many people suffer, especially the ones who are preaching the gospel, or they help orphans and widows etc. But still they suffer and they die without ever seeing God's smile to say "You did a very good job."

God is not fair; He would at least have appeared to me four times per year! But He does not do that anymore. I read in the bible that God is love and He is kind. But I need to experience these physically!

Linda

I wonder why most women are weak minded and cannot insist on something or defend it even when they are right. For example, a married woman finds her husband committing adultery with some women and swears she is never having a sexual relationship with him again. Shortly after that when the man has apologized a lot, she forgets her vow and continues with him again. However if a man caught his wife cheating on him, it would be hard to convince such a man to even stay with the woman in his house if he resolves otherwise. I wonder why that is.

In another instance, a man tells a woman he is attracted to her, and she rejects him and says a lot of things about how she could never go out with a man like him. Should the man persist at it, the woman will not only fall for him, but will love him more than he does her after a while. Are women weak psychologically?

Charles

I wonder why death is. If people didn't die, there would be so many people its hard to think what that would be like. Young people hate to think about death. You dread the moment you are dead, put in a coffin and put in the ground. There is no sound and you rot like you did not exist before. That's the worst thing I can think about.



If there was no death, we would never have to worry about losing loved ones. I think we live to die and everything we do leads us on the journey to death.

When you are born, everyone around you is smiling and you are crying. At the end, I suppose you will be smiling and everyone will be crying because you are dead. Death is a horrible reality! For those who died, may their souls rest in peace and may God bless us and help us live in peace

Emmanuel

I imagine a situation where I am the Minister of Education. I wouldn't let students fail because I know its not that they did not study but were out spotted. On top of that, I would put myself in the shoes of these students and remember that they have different problems. By the time students sit exams, some are sick, others are very stressed and all kinds of other challenges. At the same time they must all sit the same exams with expectations of passing which many do not realize. Some of the students are deluded that they will pass by teachers who cover a part of the syllabus and the National exams are not expected to know of such situations. The student winds up failing.

I just wish I was the minister of Education. If you could see what I feel in my heart, you would understand what I want to say.
Zaina

I wonder why I go to school. Waking up very early every morning, and rushing to catch up the bus. I reach school in time and attend all the lessons and do every assignment I am given. Every night, I study hard and even wake up later in the night to study but I end up failing. I wonder.

I try to put in more effort, but am discouraged by people around me. I try to ignore them but they still talk. I try again in another set of exams, but I still fail. I still put in my best effort, but I wonder why I go to school.

Rosemary

STATISTICS

Our current statistics of children in the program are as follows;

School level	Number		Total
	Male	Female	
Primary school	28	48	76
Secondary school	24	26	50
Vocational school	1	2	3
University	4	3	7
			136

We removed 1 child during this period. The family moved away from the city because they could no longer afford it.

STUDENTS INVOLVED IN REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

The child program gets students involved in missions beyond the campus. Through the various mission groups, we are getting more students to do outreaches to Primary and secondary schools in our community. Our emphasis is on a creative approach to ministry so some go to schools to give career talks or teach life skills and wind up sharing the gospel. We are struggling on how to engage students on campuses in their current context in what is happening around them. We are working with our community leaders to devise ways in which to involve students in community development. We find that many when approached would be very interested in various aspects of volunteering if they can be engaged. Send us any ideas of how specifically we can put many zealous youth to constructive work around here.

HOW TO SEND SUPPORT

Without your support, we would not be able to work with people like we do. We thank you so much for your partnership with us. Some of you have been especially involved in raising support for more children in the program. We want you to know that we appreciate you so much for your service to us. We request and encourage everyone who is supporting a child in the program to please send support funds to any of the following addresses if you haven't already done so.

A) Standard Chartered Bank Uganda Limited
5 Speke Road Branch,
P.O. Box 7111
Kampala. Telephone 256 0414 258117, Fax 256 041 342875, 231473
Swift address: SCBLUGKA
Account name; FOCUS Mulago Child Development Center Project
Account number: 0102010643100

Correspondent banks in New York and the UK for those who would prefer to use Standard Chartered bank transfers can use these addresses

Standard Chartered Bank
One Madison Avenue
New York 40010-3603
Swift Address: SCBLUS33

Standard Chartered Bank
37 Grace Church Street London
EC3V OBX
Swift address: SCBLGB2L

Notes:

It costs US\$ 300 to support a child per year at the project, or UK£174.

Until next time

Audrey Karuhanga