

KARIS KIDS NEWS

Summer Camp 2018

Summer Camp took place in August at Seroma Christian High School, near Kampala and was attended by 265, about 90%, of the young people aged 9-19 from our Karis families.

Our theme was “Lemera ku Jesu”, or “Holding on to Jesus” from Hebrews 12:2. The goal of the camp was for each child to be empowered to persevere and hold on to Jesus in challenging life circumstances. We explored the life of Joseph from Genesis 37-45 in age-specific groups.

The children also met in morning devotional groups to study Hebrews 12:1-3 with their Ugandan and UK leaders. They learned to spend special time with God reading and memorising scripture as well as praying individually and as a group. During these devotions a number gave their lives to Christ for the first time or recommitted their lives to him.

The small groups were led by a team of Ugandans assisted by people from the Karis churches in Winchester. The Winchester group were joined by four UK medics fresh from a placement at Kisiizi Hospital with Pippa Peppiatt. For the majority of the UK team, this was their first visit to Uganda.



Official opening of the Summer Camp with Bishop Hannington

LIFE SKILLS

Craft activities this year were geared towards skills development: paper bag making, crochet, and bracelet making. There were also opportunities to express creativity by baseball caps and flip flops using fabric pens and decorative items. The activities were enjoyed by children, youth, and adults alike.



Two life skills seminars were offered this year.

“Coping with stress”, led by the UK medics, covered what stress is, how to spot it, and how it affects different people. The seminar also offered practical and spiritual help. The subject was new to many, but was valued by the Ugandan team and the young people who took away lots of ideas.

“Sexual Purity” was led by Dr Vivian Kityo, Head of the Teenage Pregnancy Crisis Centre, Kampala. She defined

sexual purity from a Biblical perspective, discussed ways the world has diverted from God’s original plan, and shared ways in which the young people could maintain sexual purity.



Drama illustrating stress



SPORTS



Sports sessions were noisy and energetic, consisting of multi-skilled activities, football, netball, tug-of-war, board games, and ultimate frisbee.

WORSHIP

Lively worship reflecting the camp theme was led by the Hemming family and the Ugandan worship team and combined new songs from the UK with traditional youth worship songs from Uganda.

Nigel, Zac and JJ Hemming also led Samba workshops.



TALENT COMPETITION

At a talent competition teams presented the camp theme in song, dance, poetry, and drama. This was both fun and educational as participants

worked hard to convey the theme in an entertaining way. Winners received special T-shirts donated by the New Wine summer conferences.

QUOTES FROM TEAM MEMBERS

“It was such a privilege on the camp to spend time getting to know the girls in my group and to have the opportunity to chat through and pray about situations they were facing.”

“The young people in my group were so grateful for the support and love Karis had given them and their families. It was really clear that God's hand was in this ministry, restoring hope, confidence and love to such vulnerable families.”

“As well as going to serve on the camp, God also used the opportunity to challenge and grow me. It is a wonderful opportunity to step out in faith and allow God to work in your heart as well as those you are going to serve.”

“It was a privilege to be involved with the camp and with Karis as an origination. It was lovely to see the young men participating in the camp and hopefully getting to know God better and some of them made new commitments to God.”

“Meeting the family of youngsters that I personally sponsor was hugely impacting. They are now not just names on a piece of paper, but boys and girls with smiles and personalities.”

In a Nutshell

Karis Kids is a registered charity which links families and churches in Uganda with families and churches in the UK. The aim is to support families caring for orphans (Psalm 68:6). All money from donor families is sent direct to Uganda. Gift Aid and church gifts are used to fund staffing and administration.

Website: www.kariskids.org.uk

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Registered charity no.: 1120915