

THE RISING STAR

Editor's Note

As we close out our second volume, we enter into the last quarter of the year with the hope for better things to come. Looking back, we can see that we have come a long way. **Fair Life Africa Foundation** has been so blessed to have the support of friends, volunteers, donors, colleagues in the field and corporate supporters in setting up our **Care Continuity Challenge Initiative** for street children. This issue is dedicated to you all, as we appreciate you, and hope that we can continue to count on your support in the following months and years ahead. God bless you!

Visits to Oregon

The **Oregon Correctional Facility for Boys** is run by the **Lagos State Ministry of Youths, Sports and Social Development (MYSSD)**. Fair Life Africa Foundation has taken an interest in this facility, as it houses many street children from **Kuramo Beach**, where we have met and supported many of them. Last month, we also took ten children there, following our decision to cease **Breakfast and Talk** at Kuramo. However, the decision to relate with the MYSSD facility has been a controversial one, because the facility is not actually meant for street children, but for delinquent young boys, and even then, there is a question of its fitness to cater to these troubled children. Our continued relationship is for the benefit of the children who reside there, who we care for, but are yet unable to take into our shelter. They are encouraged by our visits, and motivated to see the rehabilitation process through, instead of running back to the streets where things are much more hopeless for them.

At these visits, which are a type of our Breakfast and Talk meetings, we counsel and advice the children, hold quizzes, give out gifts (which have included clothing and story books) and treats. We also engage the children in discussions and learn more about their experiences through our **Child Data Forms**. **Mrs Bitebo Gogo** of **Keeping It Real Foundation** and **Miss Rita Ohaedoghasi** accompanied us in our visits this month, and shared their personal stories and lessons with the children. Fair Life Africa has also accompanied some in their family tracing excursions and also contacted their parents and encouraged them to visit them at the facility, with positive responses.



Fair Life Africa attended to support a Book Read by Keeping It Real Foundation (KIR)

Collaborate for Change

From our beginning, we have been committed to the **Collaborate for Change Agenda**. This is a belief that we are more effective when we seek partnership and synergy with others. We continue to seek such partnerships, and have supported the work of our colleagues in their efforts to educate youths and children and the general public. This month, we spoke at a seminar organized by **The Anti-AIDS Club** at **Yaba College of Technology**, attended the weekly **Book Read** organized by Keeping It Real Foundation to support disadvantaged children to read, and participated in the celebration for the **International Book Week** with a worthy Children's Charity. Fair Life Africa continues to facilitate the **Forum For Child Practitioners Concerned With Street Children**. From this forum and our growing network, we will invite professionals and experts to come on air to discuss pertinent issues relating to the street child on our upcoming radio segment with **Radio Continental 102.3fm**. The weekly programme will start on **Tuesday, 11th October at 11am**, and will feature **Mrs Clara Ibiorgba** from the **Directorate of Citizen's Rights**. Join us live!



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A rescued former Kuramo street child who attends the weekly Book Read by KIR



The Notorious Kuramo Beach

OUR OBJECTIVES

To enrich the lives of the most impoverished in society; To support and empower the most vulnerable members of society, enabling them to live a fair life; To effect positive changes in their lives through social initiatives and programs

News from Kuramo Beach

We continue to visit Kuramo Beach to learn of new developments and steps being made towards rehabilitation, following our participation in the rehabilitation committee. From the visits, it seems that no progress has been made towards this end. Despite the catastrophe of the ocean surges last month that led to the brief shut down of the beach for operation, the place remains highly populated by street children, drug dealers, peddlers and prostitutes. Like a badly damaged car out of the wreckage, it creeps on – typical of Nigeria! Where is the intervention? Where is the social support system? Where is the law enforcement? In fact, the news from Kuramo is that the law enforcement is tired, ill-equipped and unmotivated. We have heard, but yet to ascertain, the account of 35 drug dealers (some of whom were caught in possession) being released back to Kuramo within days. Such things should not be.

Poetry by Taiwo Akinlami

Welcome to KURAMO BEACH, Lagos: Here WATER is THICKER than BLOOD in the estimation of the POWERS-THAT-BE...

Welcome to KURAMO BEACH, where the BLOOD of YOUNG MEN & WOMEN are more in QUANTITY than the mighty water that flows in the waters...

Welcome to KURAMO BEACH, where the BLOOD of YOUNG MEN & WOMEN has become libation to worship the dirty god of politics...

Welcome to KURAMO BEACH, where the BLOOD of the Nation's Future is left to dry on the wicked SWORD of LIP SERVICE...

Welcome to NIGERIA the HOME of KURAMO BEACH, where our GOD must ARISE that all His enemies may scatter...



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To whom honour is due...

Supporters this month, whose contribution Fair Life Africa wishes to recognize, are:

Corporate and Professional Support

- Standard Alliance Group
- Radio Continental 102.3fm
- Deacon Osaro Eguasa
- Mr Fomare Majoroh
- Mr Olanrewaju Fajimi
- Mr Ifeanyi David Edge
- Mr Lukmon Oluwatoyin Kotun
- Mrs Bitebo Gogo
- Mr Tokunbo Ojekunle
- Miss Comfort Alli
- Miss Rita Ohaedoghasi
- Mr Oyebisi Babatunde Oluseyi
- Barr. Taiwo Akinlami
- Mr Seth Reynolds
- Mr Alex Scot-Emuakpor

Financial Sponsors

- Mr Emmanuel Haruna
- Miss Uzo Onumonu
- Miss Ebele Ugboma

Physical Donations

- Miss Keni Abumere
- Miss Onajite Emerhor
- Mrs Angela Ngerem,
- Miss Mosun Aderinokun
- Mr Juwon Oluwole
- Mr Onazi Aboh
- Mr Obe Majoroh
- Mr Emenike George Ikenna
- Mr Adegoke Fadare
- Mr Peter Nkason

Volunteers

- Miss Grace Chinonye Okorochoa
- Miss Peace Ejen Odu
- Mr Godwin Sunday George
- Mr Ayo Zaccheaus Akintimehin



Ufuoma Emerhor partook in a wheelbarrow race, as part of a celebration of the International Book Week, September 2011



Ufuoma Emerhor and Mrs Bitebo Gogo, of Keeping It Real Foundation, make a special visit to the children at Oregun with gifts

WANT TO HELP?

EMAIL: CCCNITATIVE@GMAIL.COM

OR CALL US ON 08058711125



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Appreciating our Volunteers

Since January, when Fair Life Africa Foundation began to operate, we have had the support of a variable number of volunteers, donors, friends, colleagues in the field and even corporate bodies. All are too numerous to list here. However, we would like to acknowledge a few of our consistent volunteers, whose support has been immeasurable in the last month. Much thanks **Olanrewaju Fajimi**, for your diligence with our website. Thank you, **Ifeanyi Egbe** for helping us to design a resourceful database. Thanks to **Fomare Majoroh** for your continued architectural support at our Lekki site. Thank you, **Grace Chinonye** for being such a graceful, voluntary personal assistant. Thanks to **Peace Odu**, **Ayo Akintimehin** and **Godwin George** for your faithfulness in supporting our various programmes. Your valued support keeps us going and inspires us all the more.

Ask, and You Shall Receive...

Almost everyone knows this saying of Jesus, and the others that follow: '...seek, and you shall find, knock, and the door shall be opened...' (Matthew 7:7). However, we often still doubt if in fact it is true. Well, Fair Life Africa has found it to be true. We are pleased that this month, following our request for financial sponsorship in our August Newsletter, we have seen the generosity of our friends and supporters. Our **Door to Door Campaign**, which we commenced in August, also proved to be successful. Here in Nigeria, where gatemen control access to every area, the process of the door to door campaign appeared ineffective. However, we are pleased to report that we have received lots of clothes, shoes, books, and other used household items from this campaign, with people calling to donate weeks after we dropped them a leaflet. So, we hope that you too are reminded to trust in this promise, and ask, seek and knock. And as you are able, give too, for we know also that *givers never lack*.

What Next?

We are approaching the completion of the renovation of our Lekki Bungalow, which currently has a capacity for 12 children. We are looking to raise funding to increase capacity to 25, through the construction of an additional building in the same compound. We are also building our team of dedicated staff and volunteers, so if you would have caught the vision and are committed to our mission, please send your CVs and introductory letters in to fairlifeafrica@gmail.com. We also need benefactors to donate towards our good cause, so please share what you can and also spread the word. We welcome clothing and physical donations too. Please contact us on **08058711125** to arrange a pick up or drop off. We are committed to being an open and accountable organization for the people, and we look forward to updating you on our progress over the upcoming months. Have a blessed month ahead!



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