



## VISION PEOPLES NEWS

### A magazine of Vision Peoples in Mission

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### MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022

Christmas is the season of love, harmony, and celebration. This is a particular time to celebrate Jesus Christ's birth. Being a festival for Christians also, this festival is celebrated by everybody with great enthusiasm as well as joy.



We light our homes with candles, decorations, and Christmas trees, which is a must for symbolizing Christ. Christmas Carols are some of the best things or can be said as the best charm of this festival, which are sung in the churches to welcome the occasion festivities. It is essentially Christmas that reminds us that we should stick to the essential aspects of humanity. In other words, during the celebration, we will share, offer the less fortunate, spend time with loved ones, and have a good view of

We often hear it said that the greatest joy in life is the birth of a child. It is something extraordinary and it changes everything. That is what Christmas is: the birth of Jesus is the newness that enables us to be reborn each year and to find, in him, the strength needed to face every trial. Isaiah prophesied. *"For unto us is born this day a Saviour"* Isaiah 9:6 .

God always loves us with a greater love than we have for ourselves. This is his secret for entering our hearts. God knows that the only way to save us, to heal us from within, is by loving us: there is no other way. He knows that we become better only by accepting his unending love, an unchanging love that changes us. Only the love of Jesus can transform our life, heal our deepest hurts and set us free from the vicious circles of disappointment, anger and constant complaining.



But at such times of joy, we should remember about those who are much less fortunate than us. Amidst all the shopping for gifts, we should also remember to make a voluntary contribution to uplift this society. So this Christmas, you might just be the Santa Claus for someone who really needs help, a gift as small as a blanket or warm food might cheer them up more than one can imagine. You can make someone happy just by talking to them and cheering them up.

And I am sure everyone has at least one needy person living across the road or maybe around the corner of the street. As a part of this festive season, we should also remember about everyone in the community. HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022 TO ALL OUR FRIENDS,SUPPORTERS AND MINISTRIES.GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

### **VPM KOROGOCHO**

Korogocho is one of the largest slums in Nairobi. And is made up of nine villages. The area is characterized by poor living standards and high levels of crime. Korogocho is different from other well known informal settlements in Kenya such as Kibera and Mathare. It has been found to have high levels of poverty and low levels of infrastructure compared to the rest. Most organizations fear the area because of crime, in contrast to other informal settlements where residents are perceived to be more entrepreneurial. In terms of development projects, most are perceived to be initiated by NGO's with the government chipping in in some way. However, the locals believe that the government is not doing enough for them in as much as project development is concerned

The situation in Korogocho is heartbreaking because most children raised in the slums end up in the streets being involved in crime and drugs. Some run away from school into the street life because that is all that they have experienced since they were born.

In Kenya , we were all affected by the hit of COVID-19 pandemic but the most affected were those people living in the slums. Most of them survive on daily wages which are no longer available.

Nairobi is one of the counties that was on lockdown for a very long time. Since most of our projects are based in Korogocho, we were equally affected. The lockdown from the government has led to very many people losing their jobs and those in businesses are no longer able to trade. This means that most people no longer have a stable source of income. The situation is worst for the families living in the slums of Korogocho and the innocent children.

### **HAVEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Every end has a new beginning. The end of the year has finally arrived, which marks the end of the school term. This comes with a lot of joy and gratitude. As we come to a close, we proudly reflect upon the wonderful effort put in by each and every class with their efforts to have a rewarding and productive term both academically and spiritually. Teachers and staff have put in a lot of effort to make the term a success. Hard work and determination from the staff is something that we are proud of. We thank God for our staff and their dedication.



***The head teacher Haven primary School  
Mrs. Jane Abong'o in her office***

They not only teach the pupils in class but also give guidance to the pupils. They have continuously dedicated their time to ensure that we have well-rounded pupils. Their efforts cannot go unrewarded.



***Teacher Mrs. Esther Onyango in Grade II class***

At the end of the term, every little encounter and experience that our pupils get from school enriches them to be better people in the society. The environment at Haven Primary school is one of the best for learning. The staff are welcoming and helpful which encourages every pupil to strive to be the best version of themselves.



***Teacher Mr. Peter Akumu in Grade 4 class***

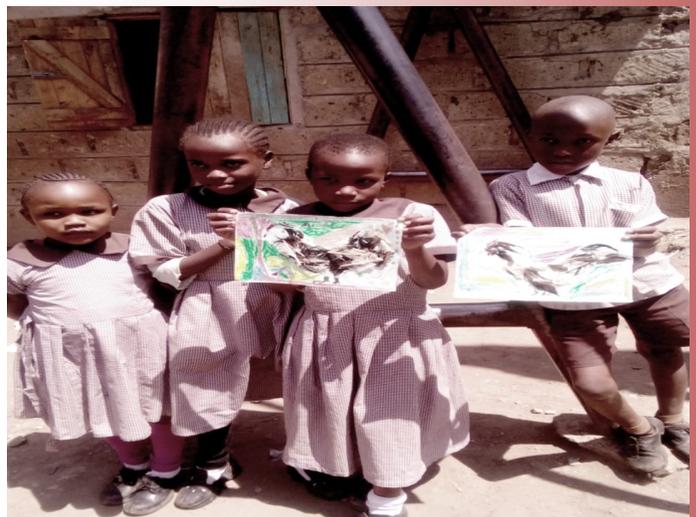
The best thing about our school is that every child is treated equally and we do not judge by the scores in the grade sheets. The aim of all these is to provide practical knowledge for our pupils.

We have implemented the recently introduced curriculum in Kenya—Competency Based Curriculum. The seven core competencies are; communication and collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving, imagination and creativity, citizenship, learning to learn, self efficacy and digital literacy. These competencies are embodied in all the learning areas at all levels. Our teachers have received the necessary training for smooth implementation



***Teacher Mr. Kennedy in class 5 class***

We however need more learning materials for the new education system hence as the VPM community we need to pull resources together and ensure that learning goes on smoothly at Haven Primary School. We are therefore requesting for your support to purchase the new learning materials.



***Pupils holding a painting they made in class***

We received a hand-washing gadget donation from the Tuko Pamoja organization. The organization is out to reinforce COVID-19 behaviour change in informal settlements. We were lucky to be among the beneficiaries of their project.



*One of the pupils washing his hand before lunch using the hand washing gadget*

### **SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM**

Our school feeding program is targeted to benefit both educational as well as health related challenges to the vulnerable children. A large number of pupils are unable to attend school because they do not have access to a proper meal for healthy growth. Some are even forced to do odd jobs in the slums despite their young age in order to get money for just a single meal. Our feeding program has therefore attracted more children to Haven Primary School as it ensures that every child that comes to school gets a meal. This has also kept many children in school hence reducing the rate of drop outs.

With an increase in the number of pupils completing their primary level education, In the long run the community experiences an improvement in the economy.

The program is costly, but we thank God that we are able to sustain it since He has called us to do that. We are so grateful to the few donors who fund the project but the need for enough food is still not met yet. We had reached a point where some children would cry after meals because they were not satisfied, they needed more food.



*A section of Pupils enjoying their lunch in the dining hall*

We are hoping and praying that we can be able to expand our infrastructure and build a bigger dining room to accommodate all the pupils. Some pupils take their lunch to the classroom because the dining room is not big enough.



*Food being served in the kitchen*

## THE ORPHANAGE

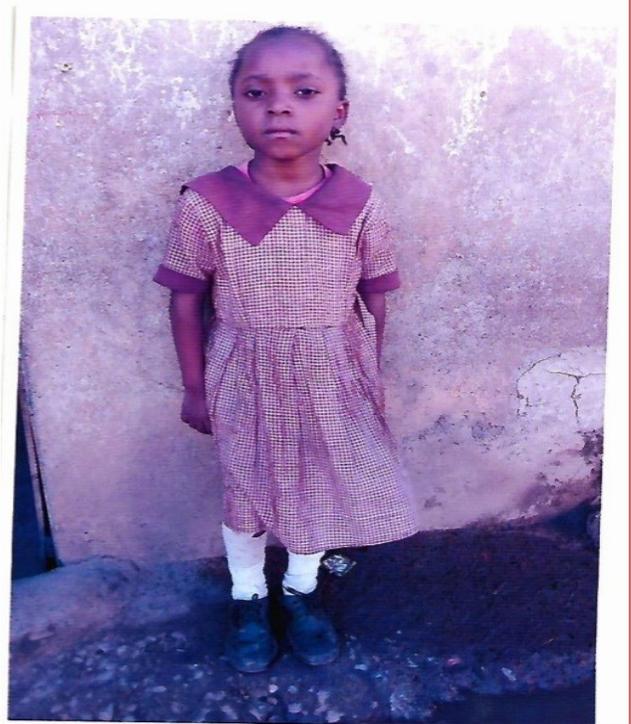
We care for the vulnerable children by giving them shelter, food, education and medical attention which are the biggest issues at the orphanage. We have twenty (20) children at the orphanage. Ten boys and ten girls. Education is key for us because the needy children can get food in the streets, clothes and even shelter but not education hence our focus is to give them the best education. If we do not provide the best education, then we are not giving them an opportunity to live a normal life in the near future.

God has instructed us to love unconditionally and one way of showing love is by taking care of these children. Indeed loving people is difficult. Yet this is what the Bible commands. As an orphanage, we look for sponsors in order to link the children then taken to foster families.

We thank God that despite the tough COVID-19 economic times, where there has been shortage of sponsors, Filumena Nanjala is very lucky to have gotten a sponsor. This very brilliant 8 year old orphan at our Haven Primary School has gotten a sponsor from the UK, Mrs. Pauline Moore from Epsom Baptist church England.

Filumena Nanjala now moves from the orphanage to a foster home. We want to thank Mrs. Pauline Moore for the sponsorship and would also encourage other friends of VPM to sponsor a child from Korogocho slum dwellers.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ during this Christmas season, let us remember our brothers and sisters who lack. We ought to give them a message of hope and a reason to smile and be happy. It is the season of spreading love in abundance and receiving



*Filumena Nanjala outside her class*

## VPM MEDICAL CLINIC

The Kenyan population is increasing at an alarming rate. This creates several health problems; the provision of health facilities in Nairobi, and even more in the informal settlements, Korogocho being one of them.

The major health issues for patients at the clinic are coughs, abdominal pain, and headache for both genders. The most frequent diagnoses are acute respiratory infections, malaria, typhoid and gastric infections.

The slum environment can have a major influence on health status and the health condition of the slum dwellers. Therefore, environmental improvements are important in the improvement of health status. A very high prevalence of respiratory complaints and stomach problems signify that improvements in air pollution reduction, drinking water provision, and waste management in slums can lead to sustainable improvements in health status.



***Nurse Mrs. Millicent Musethi attending to a patient at the clinic***

Moreover, we need to expand the clinic in order to accommodate the growing number of needy patients coming in. We will need three more wards at the clinic; the maternity and woman's ward, the pediatric wards for the children and the men's wards. In order to make our medical staff comfortable, we will also need a staff room for them to cool down after a long day of work as they prepare for their shifts.

We invite our supporters to help VPM to stabilize our minimal free medical services to the poor children and women who cannot afford our subsidized charges.



***Pastor Bruno Zimmerili Senior and Pastor Bruno Zimmerili Junior at the clinic during their visit***

Your support goes a long way in providing these medical services to the Korogocho community at large, for free or at an affordable charge.

**PASTOR BRUNO ZIMMERILI AND SON VISIT TO VPM**

We were honored to have pastor Bruno Zimmerili Senior from Switzerland and his son Pastor Bruno Zimmerili Junior from Germany visiting VPM Korogocho on 15th October 2021. They came bearing gifts of pens and Gideon Bibles that they distributed to Haven Primary School children during the school assembly.



***Pastor Bruno Zimmerili Senior distributing Gideon Bibles to Haven Primary School pupils***

They prayed for the sick in the Vision Health clinic ward. They also went through the classrooms during lessons and visited the Bishop's residence later on.



## **VISION MISSIONARY CHURCH**

For very many years, Vision Missionary Church has been the backbone of gospel ministry in Korogocho. We thank God for the growth and the grace to be able to minister to many families living in the slums.

Our church remains alive and vibrant to all Bishop Franklyn Otwoma and the church council.

We are pleased to announce that Revd. Franklyn Otwoma was consecrated as Bishop of the church on 5th September 2021. The consecration was a beautiful ceremony and we thank God for the success of the event.



### **BISHOP FRANKLYN OTWOMA**

We continue to give thanks to our Bishop Franklyn Otwoma for his continued support and love for VPM. Most people would agree that this has been a difficult year but the virtue of gratitude remains in everything that we do.

We are blessed to have received a 0.156 Hectares of land donation for the building of a church in Maseno. The architectural plan for the church has been drawn already and we have the title deeds.

The piece of land is located at West Bunyore / Ekwanda in Maseno. The work of the church at Maseno has started by the completion of the water well which is 85-feet deep. The water will be used to build the proposed church and serve the community by selling to get some income since there is no water well around the area.

Ground breaking has already been done and we are trusting in God that we will begin building His place of worship .



## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **A Eulogy for Mr. Kenneth Gill from Bishop Franklyn Otwoma of 'Vision Peoples in Mission', Korogocho, Nairobi, Kenya**

I first met Kenneth when I was working in the CMS Nairobi Office from 1995 to 1997, before I ever visited the UK. In 1998 I was invited to attend the Pre-Lambeth Conference at Canterbury but there was a problem over granting me a visa. Kenneth kindly appealed on my behalf to the General Secretary of CMS in London and eventually the problem was resolved. On my arrival, Ken and Hazel generously hosted me and introduced me to various Anglican Churches, especially in Epsom. On another visit to the UK, Ken introduced me to the Director of 'Christians Abroad' which led most helpfully to several volunteers visiting the ministry at Korogocho and Maseno, thus strengthening the work and raising its profile.

Over the years, Ken greatly championed our work and helped to organise many visits by me to Churches to present details of the ministry at VPM on my occasional visits to the UK. That included St. Augustine's in Bromley, and we are so grateful for the prayer and vital financial assistance provided over many years. This was all due to Ken's love and compassion for some of the world's poorest people. Then on October 8<sup>th</sup> I received the sad news of Kenneth's death. I was devastated as I mourned for my dear friend of many years. I have really wished that it might have been possible for me to attend Ken's funeral and give this eulogy in person, but sadly that has not been possible. I encourage Hazel and Mark to be strong as they go through this trying and difficult time.



*The late Kenneth Gill, his wife Hazel Gill, Violet Omollo and Mark Gill outside Gill's residence in Bromley, the photo was taken by Bishop Franklyn Otwoma during his visit in September 2012*

**FROM THE DIRECTORS DESK— BISHOP FRANKLYN OTWOMA**

Greetings and blessings of Christmas to everyone. Indeed this has not been the easiest year for VPM but we continue to give gratitude to God for keeping us. Most of our tenants at Lucky Summer and Maseno lost their jobs and had to vacate the houses. This meant that we were not generating any money from the houses. Those who remained could barely pay. At some point paying our staff was a challenge because we did not have any

source of revenue. We were unable to pay water bills, electricity bills, medicine and medical supplies, till we called for intervention from supporters. We want to thank our donors for carrying us through the pandemic by chipping in when we needed them the most, we do not take it for granted. They stood with us when we thought we could not do it. Thank you for allowing God to use you as our spring board when we wanted to give up. Special thanks to Handley and Mary Hammond from Epson Baptist Church for their support every month and supporting me personally for all the 21 years of service.

I have served at VPM for 21 years now and I would love to leave at the end of the year. However, some people want me to stay. We will be having our Annual General VPM Committee Meeting on 31st December and voting will take place. Donors are also invited to vote and send their messages on what they think about it.

As we start another year, I wish you good health and may God open doors for you. Thank you for being such an important part of my life and VPM. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and the coming year is full of many blessings for you and your family.



**BISHOP FRANKLYN OTWOMA**

**MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR**

Kindness and love are what make the Christmas celebrations more fulfilling.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

