



World Interfaith Harmony Week

Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbor.

Our Opportunity To Harmonize Our Religious Beliefs

IT IS BIBLE WRITTEN THAT
UNITED WE STAND AND
DIVIDED WE FALL

Just Like Martine Luther Jr., we also have a dream that one day man kind will leave in unity without any religious divide and boundary working together.

This week, Hope for the Marginalised International joins our brothers and sisters in the world to commemorate the partial fulfillment of this dream for the journey still continues to the end.



Report for
Hope For the Marginalised International
World Inter-faith Harmony Week Activities and
Celebrations 2015



A Glance
into the
activities and
celebrations





Who are they?



Innocent Ugandans Killed for what they believe in. The world now calls them Uganda martyrs. But we still witness people killing one another due to religious differences. It is possible that you or the people you know suffer the same circumstances if nothing is done.

What is the solution?

Inter-faith. Our society needs to be educated that despite their religious differences they can still live and work together in peace and harmony. This should be done from school as the first lesson in one's life.

It can also be done in awareness programs like activities done during the World Inter-Faith Harmony Week.

Brief insight about Uganda and religion

Uganda is a religious diverse nation with Christianity and Islam being the most wide professed religions. According to 2002 census 85.4% of the population is Christian while 12.1% of the population adheres to Islam (mainly Sunni) the Northern and the West Nile regions are dominated by Roman Catholics and Iganga district in the East of Uganda has the highest percentage of Muslims and 0.7 are categorized under other Christian religions.

Tradition religion which covers 1% at the moment had the most followers before thus the coming of the Muslim traders and Christian missionaries in the 1860s made people royal to different foreign religions. This paved way for teaching religious education which entails various religious beliefs at all levels of Uganda's education, aiming at improving the morals of people in the communities, this instead widely increased differences among people after acquiring knowledge of different religions. The country as a result has experienced various religious based civil unrest and warfare like the northern Uganda which has always been a victim of religious wars.

A lot of difference among people of different faiths are exposed through various aspects like dress codes, marriage, ceremonies, moral conduct e.t.c, these differences lead to denial to access of different services in the communities such as health, education and leisure therefore Hope for the Marginalized – H.O.M.I alongside the support from its friends like Samaritan Purse and Interchange for Peace through its activities such as sharing love during, before and after the World Inter-Faith Harmony Week, brings people of different faiths together with the help of religious leaders since they command respect in communities. In so doing, people benefit despite of their faiths, which we hope that it teaches them to live with one another in harmony, unity and peace.

Who is H.O.M.I?

H.O.M.I - Hope for the Marginalised International is an N.G.O based in Uganda. Whose core aim is to harmonised marginalised communities. Over time we have engaged in continuous activities to teach people, leaders, communities, societies and children how to harmonise with their differences in faiths. We have focused in the greater slum areas of Kampala the capital city where we have marginalised communities and the rural areas of the Eastern Uganda (Luuka District) which also has a greater percentage of marginalised children and adults.

What has exactly H.O.M.I done this year?



This year during the **World Inter-Faith Harmony week**, H.O.M.I with support from Samaritan Purse **shared love** with the Luuka Community in the Eastern Uganda. During the activity, H.O.M.I sensitised the community on doing the same to one another by not discriminating each other in cases like a common struggle in fighting illiteracy in the name of religious differences, norms and beliefs. Illiteracy does not discriminate only children for non Muslims or Christians but all who can not afford literacy. So people of different faiths should collectively work towards eradicating the common cause illiteracy among their communities and societies so that they can live in peace and harmony. Further more H.O.M.I reminded them of the dangers of judging one another by their respective faiths which at one time resulted into a disagreement between the Uganda martyrs and the King of Buganda at that time which led to their untimely deaths hence martyr hood. Boxes containing gifts like scholastic materials, sweets, cloths, Colgate, dolls, toys, soap, shampoo, combs, prayer books of varying faiths to mention but a few were donated.



Sarah a team member from Interchange for peace and a volunteer with H.O.M.I handing over a box of gifts to a child from Luuka community.

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Secondly, in region training in conflict management was sited significant to bringing people together despite of their religious differences. Thanks to Sarah of Interchange for peace from Canada who volunteered to train adults on how to manage conflicts within their families and to promote togetherness within their region and have the same goals towards fighting poverty in their area. Sarah strongly emphasized on conflicts resulting from religious differences and requested the locals to respect one another's religious beliefs so that they can live together in peace a harmony and therefore promoting unity in families and society. A united society is the backbone of social and economic developments in the region she concluded.

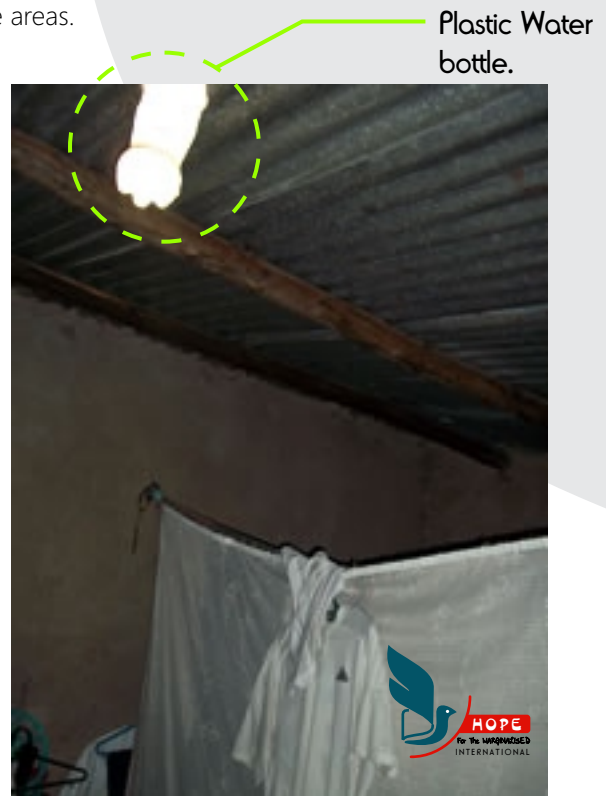


above is a picture of Sarah training the adults.

PLASTIC SOLAR BOTTLE BULB

Was that all for the week?

No, in the greater slums of the capital city Kampala where the population growth is high and characterized by high poverty levels, H.O.M.I introduced plastic solar bottle bulb technology in 1/3 of households who could hardly afford to pay for electricity bills. H.O.M.I in this case opted for a suitable indoor use, affordable and effective solar bottle bulb technology which was also first adopted in Brazil and in one of the biggest slum in Kenya. This empowered the locals to save more and spend the little they earn on other needs like feeding and treatment hence promoting a better life across people of different faiths and hence reducing religious differences among the people in these areas.



Why promote Inter-Faith Activities?

To teach people of different faiths that they are stronger and achieve more when they unite against common problems than when they are divided across religious beliefs which highly hinders social and economic growth.

Why commemorate the Harmony Week?

H.O.M.I - wants to use the opportunity of each day of the gazetted harmony week to teach, showcase and demonstrate to the communities and societies of Uganda how to embrace harmony within their livelihood so that they can live in harmony.



Our aim is that one day a larger community like the world will not only celebrate a week, month and a year but a life time of living in harmony despite differences in our Faiths.

What next for H.O.M.I?

The struggle continues, we have a month to month strategy laid out throughout the year of spreading the same gospel across various communities in Uganda with high concentration of people with different Faiths and putting more emphasis to marginalised societies of Uganda. One of our target communities are the prisons in Uganda which do not have a clear laid out strategy in handling inmates of varying Faiths yet they all share the same rooms and time table to everything which is allowed. We want to introduce Inter-Faith as a way of promoting unity and harmony within the inmates or rather prisoners so that when they are finally set free they are good members of the society and can also be able to spread the same gospel.

We have also secured another donation from our friends the Samaritan Purse of pray books for children. We intend to use them to the same effect of promoting Inter-Faith in schools as a tool that fuels harmonious living among communities and societies.

Conclusion

We urge all able members of the greater community (the world) either team up, support and join us, or other Inter-Faith causes like the UN-World Interfaith Harmony week to promote harmony among our societies so that earth becomes a better place to live.

Appreciation

Our sincere appreciation goes out to UN and Jordan community both organizing the World Interfaith Harmony week and also allowing us to participate.

We also extend gratitude to Samaritan Purse through their partners streams of Life Church and Interchange for Peace Organizations for their extensive support to our programs in marginalised communities.

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