

## Youth Relief for Life

On the 16th and 17th of January 2014, we organized an art workshop.  
We had 35-39 children in the age between 3 and 13.

On the 16th the main exercise for the children was to draw their dreams. We couldn't divide all the pictures into groups of their age, but at least all the pictures are combined into one:



When we have a closer look to all the pictures which were drawn, we realize very fast that even the young children think of a job! A job whereby they earn a lot of money. Their dreams are not to have a healthy, happy and worthwhile life. No. They want to become a bank manager, a card driver or they want to have a jet. Finally... a real children's dream! One or two drew a family, some a tv and a radio.

But most of them drew houses, churches and cars. Especially the picture where is written, that he wants to take care of the safe: "safe where they keep money"! Are young children really that much money minded? A dream could be to travel to Europe, to have a big house, a family, holidays,... But these children drew schools, churches, cars, jets, banks and so on... Some of them drew themselves: "My photograph in future". Also we can find some flowers, but most of the children drew other people who interact with each other, most of the time

houses are near those people, if not they are inside a house. So it's totally normal for them to be with people, to have a family and especially a house! Then they added banks, cars and jets. Wow. They really want to become very successful in life. WE WISH THEM OUR BEST!

What I realized while they were drawing: disorganized, crawling because of colours and noone could sit for 5 minutes on a chair concentrated drawing. But the elder sisters and brothers were helping the younger brothers and sisters. That was very nice to see.

These children come from a ghetto. They live there, they eat, they play. They do everything there. They see how the old people are suffering, they are happy when they have enough food and when they can go to school. Always and everywhere are people. Being alone? Not possible. Families have many children, they live so close to each other that they are surrounded by people everytime.

If we were staying there we also would wish ourselves in a better life, to work in a bank or to have a car. Why not a jet too?

For people who come from Europe such things are not understandable, but here it is! It is more than understandable. The problem is that they have no group feeling. Everyone is doing his or her own business. Everyone wants to be the best, the most rich and the winner.

It was a very interesting day, but to analyse the pictures is somehow difficult. The most important thing I realized is that all of them HAVE an imagination what they want to be in their future and what they want to have (material things).













On the 17th the children had another exercise. We wanted to make three groups. One group had the topic "nature", another one "traffic" and the last one "village, town". But the problem was, that they were drawing whatever they wanted to draw.

Here the picture of the groups, not divided into the topic groups, but divided into their ages.



Here some mixed ones combined into one:





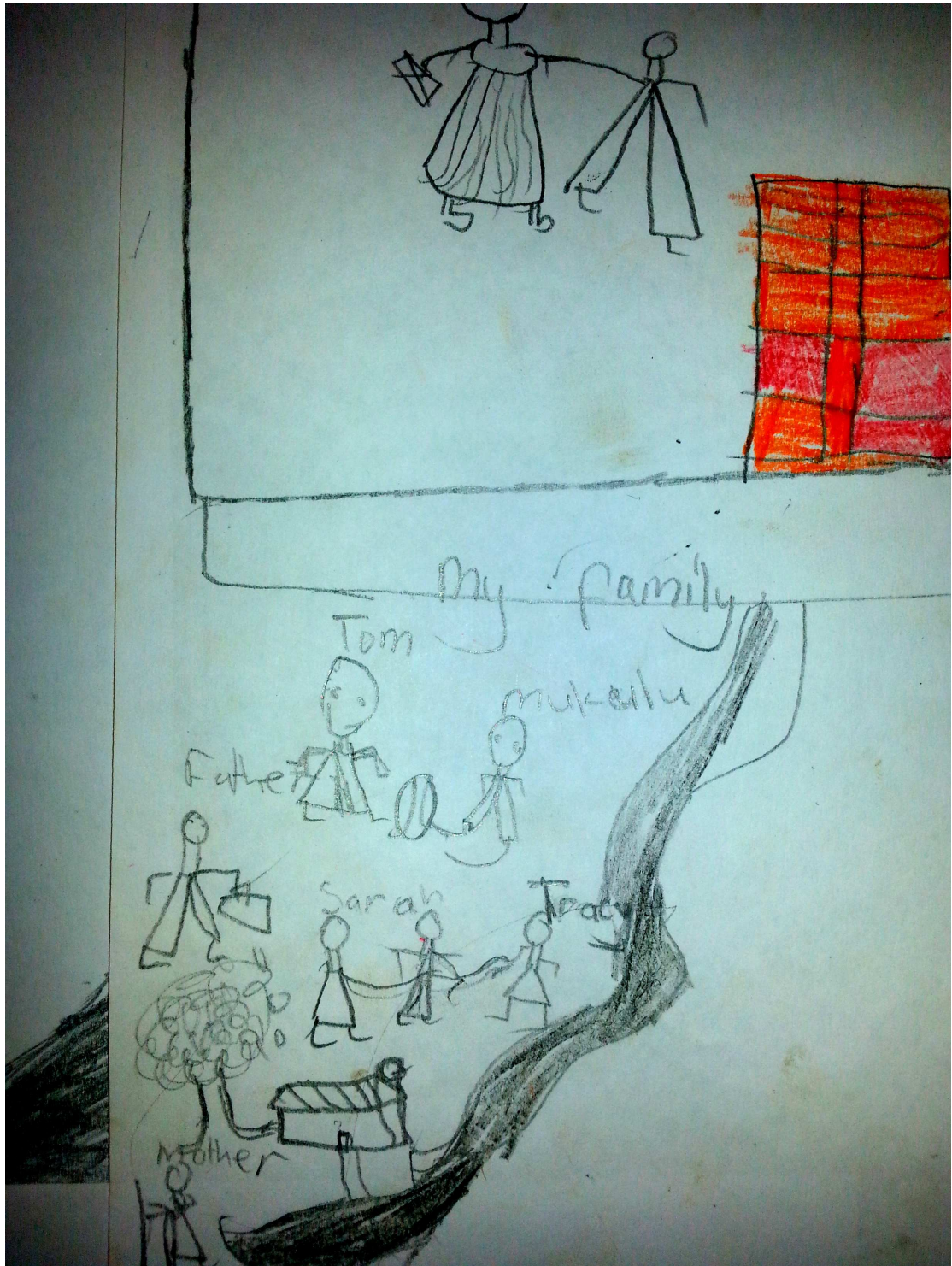
Something very normal.

In the right corner the third picture from above, there you find a family. With names like Tom, Sarah, Tracy, my father, mother,...

That shows us how important the family is in their lifes. Without them they couldn't survive. They know such things very well even if they are 3-8 years old.

Compared to Europe: There it is something so normal, that they don't even think of how it would be without mum or dad. For sure, maybe it's because they are confronted with the death many times in life in their childhood. Here in Africa people die. They die because of diseases, hunger or accidents. These are the main reasons. In Europe people die because of the same reasons apart from hunger. But not that often like here. Maybe some of them lost their daddy, I hear that most of the times. Or the dad stays in the village, so they don't see him and now they have to play the role of daddy.





Now we have a closer look to the pictures which are in association with the topic "village". They are somehow very interesting:





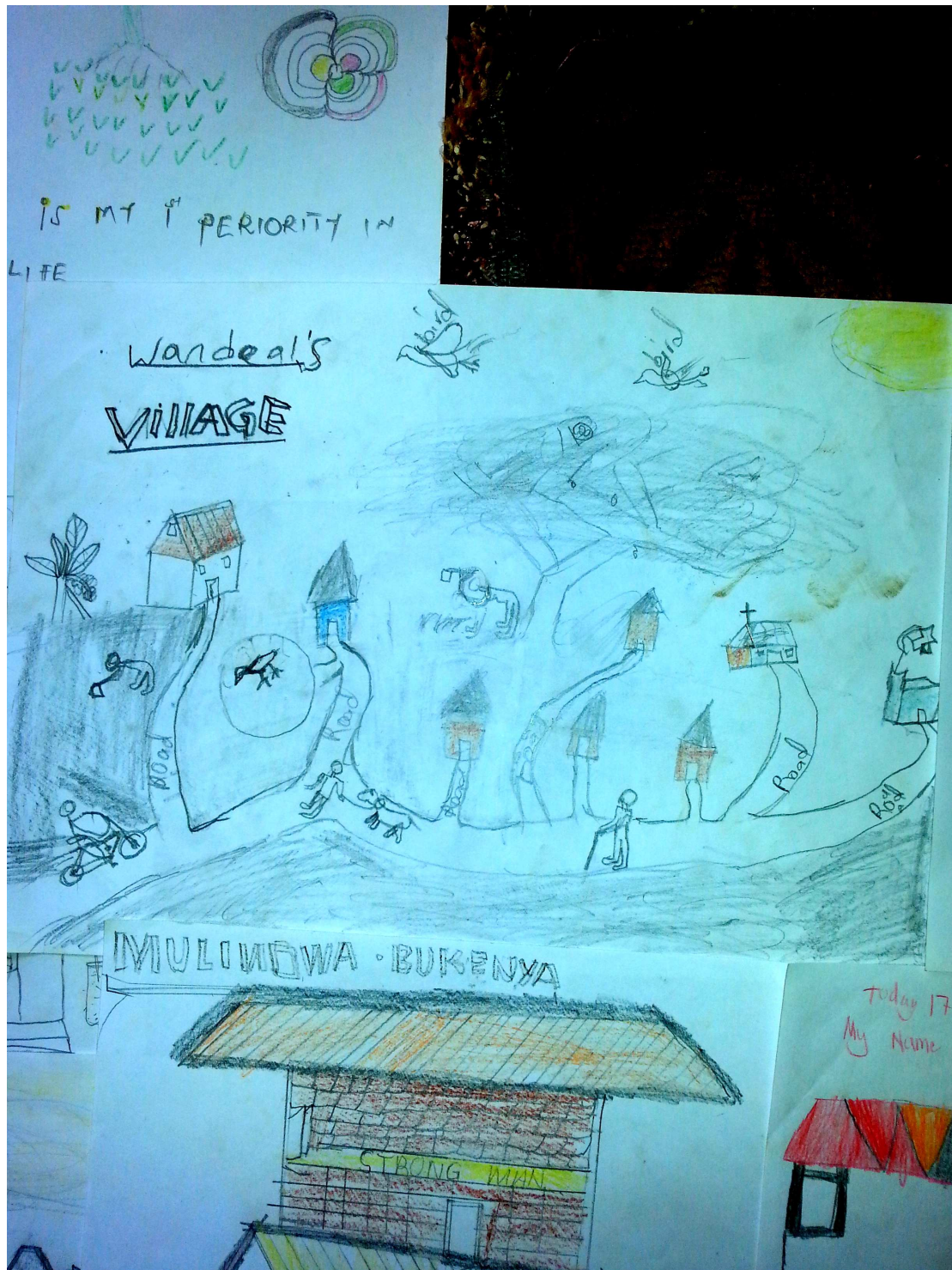
Very important: Over the drawn house is written "house". So that everyone gets to know that this is a HOUSE... The road is called "fedder road" and on this road are walkin...? What is walkin there? A duck? A chicken? I asked the child and she told me that its not a realistic thought of all her thoughts she has. These "things" are half people and half animals/ ducks. Why...? Maybe to show us how important animals for us humans are? Noone knows. There is not only gras, there is a word whereby she wants to tell us exactly that this is GRAS. Wow, she really wanted us to understand that picture. The sun is a SUN. Maybe these discriptions everywhere (you find them on many pictures) are because the children learn in the Kindergarten one important thing: "Write the date, your name and then I



draw something on your paper which you have to colour." That's what the teachers tell the students. But before they draw for example a cup, they write above the drawn thing "CUP".

So this could be a reason for the children to name everything they draw. Now we can decide by ourselves whether this is good or bad. Opinions are different.

Then I found this one. Very very interesting:



WANDEAL'S VILLAGE!

What comes at first in contact with our eye?

- the church
- the discription
- people
- houses
- streets
- nature
- animals
- a bicycle

He drew the typical village houses (in front), birds, sun, a tree and other animals.

He really drew a person with a dog on a string. This is rarely to be found here in Kampala. Even in the villages it's not normal, they rather play with dogs or chase them because they are wild and that means "dirty".

But when we have a closer look to the animals we can find out that they are in a cave. (The one in the middle). There is a circle. Maybe it's a small lake or it's a fence. Then this would mean that inside there is a chicken. It's typical in the villages that they make their business with animals like chicken, pigs or cows. Sometimes for business and sometimes for themselves. So they can be sure that they have enough to eat like eggs, chicken, meat, milk or pork.

Then the church. That really shows us how much these young children think. They draw everything they want with any intention but they never forget the church or at least a cross.

In the area of the "good" house we see someone digging. This child knows that people in the village have to dig. Sometimes for themselves (before they start building), sometimes for others to get money, but it's common in the village. Hard work for their bodies. On the "main road" we see an old man.

We see that he is old because of the stick he has, so that he can walk a bit better. Old man = stick. Stick = sick. Sick = village. Village = old people.

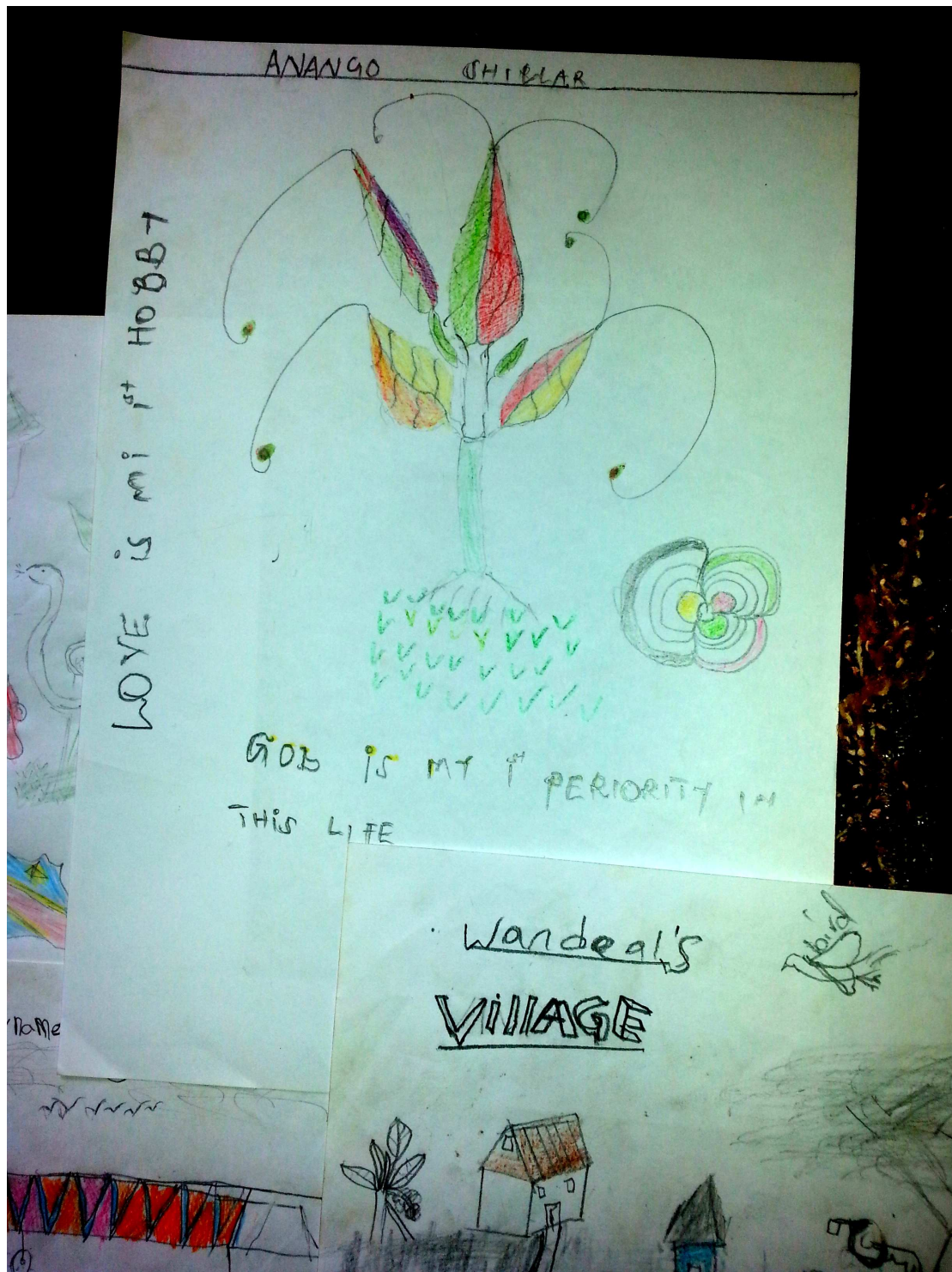




I LOVE ALL ARE POSSIBLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (impression about their english)

Another evidence. Everyone believes in god, in the good things in life, in a change, a better life, in LOVE. -> Hope.





GOD IS MY FIRST PRIORITY IN THIS LIFE

LOVE IS MY FIRST HOBBY

Again and again and again.





The children are very proud of their education. Especially when they are young they love showing others what they have learned. The best example is this picture with the alphabet.

We see a girl/ woman, a chair, a cup, flowers and a bird. These are the typical things they learn in the Kindergarten. They learn english by drawing easy things like this.

After their creative work we wanted to make something new with them. Some games they didn't know before.

So we had some "outside games". Chair running with music stop, Bag Jumping and balloon



blowing. It was very funny and lovely to look at them while having fun.



But when someone falled (after enough laughing) some children came to help...:





Noone of them knew such games, but all of them had fun! Even the parents:



In the Chair running game with music all of them were selfish. They wanted to win! So they didn't care about people falling down. The only thing which was in their mind was to sit on a chair, when they were sitting: No standing up until the next round goes on.



At the end we wanted to give them some sweets but this was more than horrible! Everyone wanted to be the first to get it. They came running, beating each other, soft beating the people who were giving out. They all saw something to EAT! It's like something deep down in their bodies was talking, but not their minds.





Now we show you some pictures taken during their creative work:











It was nice to see how concentrated they were at the beginning but at the end (after 1 hour) it became stressful and disorganized.

Small view through life in Katoogo:





All in all.... I don't want to make a conclusion because here is nothing more to say than "Sorry" or "You're welcome" for giving you an example of the thoughts of african children. Think about what you saw, what you read and what you as an individual person think about it. By the way, "Individual"... Do you think these children are ? Do you think they will be ? Do you think they all reach their goal or aim ? Why are they like this and why do most of them have the same thoughts (girls and boys) ?

We wish them the best for their future! Don't forget: THEY ARE OUR FUTURE! THEY ARE THE ONES WHO CHANGE OUR WORLD!

Thanks to Grace Nnanzu, Pascal Lachmann, Katoogo Community and the whole team of YRL !





WE MADE THEM SMILE, WE GAVE THEM A NICE TIME, WE GAVE THEM MEMORIES, WE MADE THEM LAUGH, WE MADE THEM THINK AND WE MADE THEM TO GET TO KNOW SOMETHING NEW!

Thank you, Grace !



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