



Julie and Rino Solberg with some of the needy children at the Child Africa international school in Kabale. The need to eradicate poverty through educating poor and vulnerable children is intended to make them good role models. PHOTO BY ROBERT MUHEREZA

NGO gives hope to Kabale's needy

ROBERT MUHEREZA

Despite their poor background, about 34 pupils with disabilities have hope for a better future after Child Africa, a local NGO operating in Kabale District connected them to foster parents living in both Asian and European countries to sponsor their education until they complete university level.

'Many children in rural schools where teaching in vernacular has been done illegally always fail examinations because they fail to understand the questions since they're are written in English.'

Julie Solberg
Child Africa founder

The Child Africa founder, Julie Solberg says that besides giving education to pupils with disabilities, she has also managed to get sponsors for about 300 needy children currently undergoing primary school education at a Child Africa international school based in Kekubo, Kabale town.

"Our mission is to eradicate poverty through educating poor and vulnerable children. We also build honesty and integrity among Ugandan children especially those in our school and in future

these children will save our country from corruption," Solberg says.

She adds that they have purchased about 11 acres of land in Kabale on which to build a permanent complex to house the school because as of now they are renting.

Solberg says that her organisation is building another branch at the equator line in Masaka District to accommodate over 300 needy children and also in northern Uganda at Pakwach where over 150 children have already been enrolled.

She also revealed that Child Africa plans to construct secondary and vocational schools to absorb all its children who complete primary education in their school to ensure close behavioural monitoring.

Solberg says poor health is the biggest challenge as they recruit needy children into their school but the provision of free breakfast and medical attention has helped them speak good English.

She opposed the idea of the Ministry of Education and Sports teaching primary school children in their local languages saying that it is wrong because English is the national language and should be taught to children right from nursery to university.

"Many children in rural schools where teaching in vernacular has been done illegally always fail examinations because they fail to understand the questions since they're are written in English," Solberg says.

The chief executive officer for Child Africa and Better Globe Group in Kenya Mr Rino Solberg says besides promoting

education among the needy they have plans to begin planting trees in Kenya and Uganda as a way of conserving the environment to prevent the likelihood of desertification and global warming.

Rino says a component of micro-finance has been established where by over 4,000 members of Better Globe Group have pledged to contribute about one and a half Euro every month to help the local people come out of poverty.

"Our mission is to become the biggest tree planting company and biggest micro-finance for the poor in the world in the next 10 years," Rino says.

The state Minister for Tourism, Serapio Rukundo says that he is grateful to the founders of Child Africa because they have absorbed some children who have been living on the streets without hope many had resorted to smoking *bhang* and pick pocketing to earn a living.

Mr Rukundo said: "I am happy with the founders of Child Africa for their brilliant ideas of supplementing government efforts on free primary education and the development of micro-finance for poverty eradication. I pledge total commitment to supporting this organisation so that its vision and mission is accomplished as planned."

He advised the founders of Child Africa to exhibit maximum value for money so that money received from donors is put to right use thus avoiding corruption tendencies.

He also asked them to offer quality primary education so that the needy children under their care can be useful citizens in the near future.

* Succeeding

By Ethan Musolini



How to live on purpose

I saw a gentleman carrying a ruck sack on Jinja road walking towards me with a lot of vigour. He was wearing a black T-shirt with words on his chest that caught my eye. One of the things that fascinates me is the writings of what people have on their T-shirts because sometimes they tell a lot about personalities.

The writing? "Why am I here on earth?" It grabbed my attention. I said "hi" with a huge smile on my face attempting to catch his attention. "So, indeed why are you on planet earth?" I asked. He responded with a lot of energy. "And that's the big question" while walking away from me. I was hoping he would stop to share his purpose. Alas not. I noticed on the back, there was Rick Warren's name, the author of *The Purpose Driven Life*.

10 years ago, I was fortunate enough to read a book by Myles Munroe, *The Power of Purpose*. In it I discovered for the first time that I have a reason as to why I was created and living on planet earth. Purpose is your reason for living on planet earth. You may be wondering in your mind "How do I find out what it is?" I love your question.

First, what are you good at that comes so naturally to you? Hint. Have you ever been involved in an activity that seemed almost child's play while your friends were struggling with the same challenge? Or they even ask you - "How do you do that" and you respond "I don't know. I just do it". That's a hint as to what you could be wired to do.

Second, what do you really enjoy doing? For me, it's speaking to people. Inspiring them to realise their dreams. That's why I am chatting with you right now. That's why I do motivational speaking. What is that when you are doing it, time doesn't seem to matter? You know those things which you do only to find that four hours have gone by and yet in your mind you feel like it was just 15 minutes?

Third, if you ever struggle to find out what your purpose is, then talk to your creator. In workshops, I usually stress, "A manufacturer knows the ultimate purpose of his creation. In the same vein, God who created you knows the ultimate purpose. When in doubt, pray and you will surely get an answer."

Fourth, your purpose is meant to be in line with adding value to the world. In the end, you are meant to live this world a better place than how you found it. Live your own life though. You are unique and therefore you are meant to do something unique for this world, not to be a copy cat of somebody's life that you admire. As one author put it, be an original, don't die a copy.

Living on purpose makes the world a better place because you lived. When you don't, the world is robbed of your gift forever. Life is meant to be fun. Not drudgery. It's a real struggle when you spend most of your time doing things you are not strong at and don't enjoy. When you align your life in terms of what you are really good at (read talent and strength) and enjoy at the same time, then it's fun. To add value to the world in a way that you enjoy and comes naturally to you is to have lived a fulfilled life.

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