

Malindi, 12 november 2018

'Together for good'

*Jambo nieuwsbrieflezers,
Habari? ('Hoe gaat het?')*

Fester, Mariama en Yaro en ik verheugen ons erop om de laatste maand van dit jaar weer in Nederland te zijn. We nodigen u van harte uit voor één van de eindejaarsbijeenkomsten die we op 3 locaties in Nederland verzorgen.

Dit zijn de data en locaties:

Vrijdag 7 december a.s. | Putten | 18.30-20.30 uur

Wagyu Boerderij, Schremmersteeg 14, Putten
inclusief een proeverij van het Wagyu vlees

Dinsdag 11 december a.s. | Oudega | 19:30-21:30 uur

De Hûskeamer, Sânbuorren 36a, Oudega (Smallingerland)

Zaterdag 22 december a.s. | Hoofddorp | 14.00-16.00 uur

De Lichtkring, Lunenburgdreef 70, Hoofddorp

Deze bijeenkomsten staan in het teken van wat 2018 Blessed Generation heeft gebracht en wat onze dromen zijn voor 2019. En natuurlijk is het fijn om elkaar weer te zien en bij te praten.

Breng gerust iemand mee naar de bijeenkomst. Bijvoorbeeld een vriend, collega of familielid die meer willen weten en misschien iets kan betekenen.

Wilt u laten weten bij welke bijeenkomst u aanwezig wilt zijn. U kunt zich hier aanmelden:
<https://goo.gl/forms/tgVGP9C6UmhlbBvx2>.

Mocht dit om wat voor reden dan ook niet lukken dan kunt u zich ook via de mail aanmelden: riamed43@gmail.com

Dan wil ik u nu graag een van de studenten die aan de universiteit studeert aan het woord laten. Hij deelt met u zijn levensverhaal en hij heeft ook een kerstboodschap voor ons. Het is in het Engels, ik geef het hieronder maar gewoon zo weer zoals hij het heeft opgeschreven.

Veel leesplezier!

Graag tot ziens,

Ria en het Blessed Generation-team

STORY OF MY LIFE (BY: DANIEL)

LIFE BEFORE BG

My life before I joined Blessed Generation was one of the hardest things that I have ever experienced in life that I wouldn't want to go back to. The memories that I hold up to date keep me going and make me work hard and even harder by the day so as not to go back to that life.

After my Mom passed on I was forced to leave with my aunt who as well had her own kids and although she would have loved to give me a better life it was nearly impossible to even get food every day on the table. Life was that bad such that going to school consecutively for a whole month without being chased out of school due to fees would be a miracle then. English as a language itself was like hearing gibberish let alone speaking it that time. Getting basic needs back in the village was a hustle; I remember vividly how I used to have a counted number of clothes. We could only get a new pair of clothes from Christmas to Christmas, I mean a whole year without getting a pair of clothes or shoes and when we do, that would then be the happiest time of our lives.

The community I lived in also had a big influence in the youth in the surrounding environment. What I mean by this is that my eyes plus every other child's eyes were closed then and hence we couldn't see any far than what the community thought was fit. For instance going to school then was majorly for the purpose of passing time and even after being determined to get the best out of it the community wouldn't relent but occasionally say "why are you struggling with education when you clearly see no one makes it past class eight."

It was really discouraging then and I think I as well got brainwashed then since I never got to understand how bright I was until when I joined Blessed Generation. I used to become one of the last students in class not because I couldn't do better but it's because the surrounding had already closed the gates that I wasn't going anywhere with education and personally saw no reason to bother myself with the same. I would hear many villagers tell their sons to start learning Italian and afterwards start getting inducted into the life of Beach boys, who would really mostly rely on Italian tourists who are well known to have flooded the coastal region especially Malindi. I am more than sure that if it were not for the chance I got at Blessed Generation then I would have ended on the same road which doesn't lead anywhere far. Basically that's how things were before I got a chance to see life from a different angle while in Blessed Generation.

LIFE IN BG

Opportunity knocks once on a man's door some great philosopher once said but Milton Berle rephrased it and said "*If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door*". In conjunction to that I remember vividly when my aunt tried all she could to get me a spot in Blessed Generation which by then had only operated for only some few months and with a capacity of 14 children. My aunt didn't even have fare then to get public transport to the place and

hence we had to walk all the way there with me crying at the top of my voice since I was reluctant to go. My being reluctant then was merely because my peers had joked around telling me that I was going to be taken away for good and many other stupid jokes. If it weren't for my aunt then who didn't pay attention to my crying but instead got a cane and dared me to make another single sound and she would get me stroked, I really wouldn't have gotten to the heaven I was to see. Many villagers then still had the fear of interacting with the white guys then but I came to understand later that it all goes to the root problem which is lack of education. Civilization comes from getting educated and for my counterparts back in the village had neither of that.

Taken under the wing of Blessed Generation was one of the best things that has ever happened in my life. I got to make brothers and sisters and get all the basic needs that a normal child with a family should have. Previously I used to get a pair of clothes in a whole year and there I was with Mama Ria, Mama Gladys and Papa Fester welcoming me to a heaven with good food and a bunch of clothes at once. I really felt like there is this mystery about this place that I had to solve.

What mystery was it again; it was the mystery of getting a sense of belonging. The math was almost getting completed since family love was being reignited once more. More and more children started joining and hence the Blessed Generation family started growing. Previously we used to school outside the institute until the Blessed Generation Primary school was built and we now had less hustle of going far for education. It is then that I started taking my education very seriously and it was not long before I mastered the English language. I unlocked my potential and got to know how education can be so powerful even in the outside world.

Life got better with time as we strived to get to know the other cultures that were out there, for instance I remember getting to interact with most of the well-wishers who used to come and spend time with us from Netherlands. I got to know a lot about the culture, the weather as well as the seasons such as winter, fall, autumn and spring. I got to understand more and more clearly how help towards those in need is a noble course to do once the outreach programme was started in Blessed Generation.

THE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

I personally got a chance to go to one of the outreach visiting programme which was then conducted after every fortnight. Believe you me the condition of guys outside there after fitting myself into their shoes I really felt like I should do more but I really had no power then to change anything. It is now that after getting the right help from Blessed Generation and being elevated from a point of full dependence to a point of no dependence that I will be able to go back to the same institution to offer the help that I couldn't provide then. That I will fulfill when the right time comes. I would as well say that the outreach programme was a smart move the since it made sure that people still got help even from their homes rather than having everyone come straight to the institute.

TRANSFORMATION

Blessed Generation Children's Care and the fraternity at large has really transformed my life greatly from a nobody in the community to someone recognized in my own country. It really

takes great courage for Mum Ria and her team to do what they do and I do believe the greatest tool they can arm with the rest of the children is education and only education. It is in this conjunction that Blessed generation has over the years strived to get better learning environments for the kids and to which if I were in the same position I would start by doing the same. Education is the only tool that can chase poverty from the community around. This goes hand in hand with the great saying that says ***Give a man Fish and feed him for a day but teach the man how to fish and feed him for a lifetime.***

MY PRAYER

My prayer is that people will not forget the good the name of Blessed Generation as well as not forget the benefit it has to the community and in regards to that everyone will join hands so as to see the chain of benefits received since the institute began continue for the longest time possible.

END.

TOGETHER FOR GOOD.