

## Rekindling Hope in the Hearts of Children

The Nursery class at the small Christian Development Project School in Korogocho slums of Nairobi is a lively place. A microcosmic representation of the human society, it is bustling with the promising life of a new beginning.

Mary Akoth is most visible. She seems to be the heart of the party. She is talkative, is never short of answers for any question, and frequently answers for others. "I have learnt the alphabet," boasts Akoth, her loud voice carrying throughout the room. "There are twenty-six letters in the alphabet."

Despite her vivacious personality, Akoth lost her mom way back. "We are four siblings. Dad earns money by washing cars in Buruburu," she adds.

There are many other children in the room. There

are all here to learn, courtesy of Rev Capt Aggrey Otieno. "This is my seed project," says the man, seated in his unlit two-square metres of office in the middle of the slum village. Here there is no electricity and no running water. The houses are made of cardboard boxes and hard earthen floors. Many residents do not have enough to eat and one does not need to be a World Bank economist to tell that this is a life of dire poverty. Even with free Government education, most of the children do not go to school mainly because they cannot afford the uniform or books required. Generations of this community have lived with the vicious cycle of poverty.

Capt Aggrey had been helplessly aware of the level of deprivation families in Korogocho live in. All that changed after he attended a Samaritan's Strategy training class conducted by the Centre of Urban Mission Programme of the Carlile College. The Samaritan's Strategy is a discipleship programme that trains pastors and church leaders working



HOPE IN NEED: Akoth, Adhiambo and Nellie

in informal settlements "to begin right where they are, with what they have."

To work with Aggrey are a number of teachers, each conscious of the heavy responsibility they have taken up. Teacher Ephraim Ndungu is a volunteer. "I learnt that some children do not do their homework because they

do not have lamps in their homes," he says. "Others do not return to school after going home for the lunch break because they do not find food at home." Aggrey is sold to reversing both the physical and spiritual poverty so evident in this place through his Christian Childhood Development Project.

Together with other workers and volunteers they are making the difference in the community, transforming lives with the gospel of Jesus Christ in a way that is practical and compassionate.

**PRAY: That God may provide resources to multiply this project and through these children, their parents would know Him.**

Ω



# The Link

The Church Army Africa Newsletter

January-April 2006



From the General Secretary's Desk.

### A more hands-on Army of Officers

It is a new century in a world that is changing at tremendous speeds. Church Army Africa, recognising that old modes of evangelising are quickly running the risk of obsolescence, is reengineering its approach to missions and to delivering the Gospel of Jesus Christ our LORD, more effectively and relevantly than it has done before.

For the first time in its history, the Society is this year going to deploy officers directly into the mission field rather than only through Dioceses. We have consistently received requests from bishops that missionaries be sent to remote parts of the unreached world. And the missionary we are sending out has a new approach to making Christ known. While the Pulpit-and-Pew mode on the one hand and crusade on the other have their place, the state of the world calls for something much more radical: a missionary who influences the world for Christ by being integrated into the life of a community.

The new Church Army officer is going to be an entrepreneur, a church-planter, a cross-cultural missionary and a social transformation agent. He/She is going to engage the community in creative ways of making Christ known, influencing more by what he does than by what he says. The new Church Army Africa is meant to stimulate radical social transformation in communities across Africa in spiritual, economic, health and social areas. We ask you to work with us, supporting us through prayer, gifts and your own availability as we strive to be bolder and more hands-on for the cause of Christ our Saviour.

**Rev. Stovo Malna Mwangi**  
General Secretary

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## Bringing Christ to an Ignored World

Two men travelling different roads are unknowingly led to a common rendezvous through a confluence of circumstances that suggest divine guidance. The result is something other than ordinary – the Matatu Ministry.



Kamau next to a matatu during a Sunday Service

Every Sunday at exactly eight o'clock in the morning, Moses Karanja and Peter Kamau punctually converge in the middle of Banana market centre to conduct an open-air Sunday Service for operators of matatus. The service runs for a precise one hour to allow matatu guys to run back to their business of carrying passengers.

"Having to attend college means that we are not able to meet with these people as regularly as we used to. Over time, the number of dedicated attendants has gone down," says Karanja.

Karanja and Kamau are students at the Carlile College, founded by the Church Army society. Operations of matatus, the most common means of public transport in Kenya, were for many years associated with uncivilised, lawless behaviour.

**PRAY: For enough funds to buy a matatu needed for this ministry**

The ministry on which Karanja and Kamau have embarked is therefore extra-ordinary. "I was a tout for a while and did those things that they do," Kamau says. He met Christ and was transformed. Moses wanted to be a doctor. He met Christ in high school. Under the tutelage of a radical and revolutionary evangelist, Pastor Susan Ndungu, Moses participated in the founding of the Matatu Ministry. She went to be with the LORD in 2004 following a road accident.

The two hope to be commissioned, at graduation, to work in the matatu industry. Right now they are raising funds to purchase a matatu to use both as a "tent-making" project and as a forum to tell the others about God's love.

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### Officers in One-day Meeting to Strategise



Rev Sister Kuria came from Kajjado

Church Army Officers held a day-long meeting at the Church Army Africa headquarters Friday, February 10, 2006. Over twenty officers held dialogue over the need to re-brand the organisation, network among themselves, start a savings and credit organisation, and preparations for the

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# The Towering Grace of God to Fallible Humans



VETERAN: Rev Capt Ndoo

When Paul wrote and said he had run the race and fought the good fight, and now looked forward to a crown of glory, which the Lord had in store for him, he did sound like a tired man who had witnessed the fruit of his labour in the most trying circumstances.

The body grows weak and sometimes the desire for the glory of winning wars wanes. Still something higher than all the promises of this life beckons and the champion finds that extra vestige of strength to do just that little more that makes it all so extraordinary. One senses something of this in talking with Rev Capt Gideon Ndoo Njuraita.

For 33 of his 58 years on earth he has served the course of Christ in ministry. He has borne Herculean challenges. Sometimes the doubts have come, which have only served to authenticate his faith, for, to paraphrase CS Lewis, a faith which does not doubt is a faith to be doubted. But if he has plumbed the depths of doubt, he has also experienced tremendous heights of faith.

His moments of questions have sometimes come because of his family responsibilities.

"With children in school and a family to take care of, finances have been a challenging aspect of my ministry." Rev Ndoo was also recently transferred from Mandera to Kerwa in Meru, making a difficult transition.

"The time I have spent with my family is the time I have been on leave i.e. one month in a year," Ndoo writes in a brief autobiography of his life as a missionary.

These are sacrifices he has made always knowing that the God who asked them of him would in the end make it all worthwhile. "I have revelled in the support of my family for my ministry," he says. But he saves his warmest feelings for his lifelong partner, his wife. "When I was not able to

adequately provide for the family, she stood in the gap, support us through her own efforts. She has been an amazing source of encouragement."

Since his commissioning as a Church Army officer on November 24, 1973, Ndoo has served in twenty-eight parishes. From 1979 to 1981 he served in Marsabit. He seems amused by the fact that for all those years he led just one Muslim to Christ. It also seems amazing that many

**PRAY: That God may prosper him and his family as he starts ministry in Kerwa, Meru**

people who answer the call to go into ministry often

have to contend with strange teachings and practices that, while not out rightly anti-biblical, present hidden dangers to the faith, such as the *dos* and *donts* which St Paul battles in his Epistle to the Galatians. A strange one when Ndoo entered Marsabit was that only Muslims slaughtered animals for food on Christmas Day. Frustrated by their rigidity, he went ahead and slaughtered an animal. As if on cue, everyone else soon joined in and a meaningless tradition that had 'imprisoned' the Christians.

As Ndoo sees the successes and the challenges, he finds towering above them all God's grace that He should use so fallible humans like we. Ω

## Calendar of Events

- April 28-30: Officers' Conference, Mombasa
- May 12: Annual General Meeting
- August 5-13: Soul Nairobi
- July 19-26: Church Army International Leaders Conference, Canada

## Officers in One-day Strategy Meeting... (cont'd)

forth-coming Church Army Officers Conference to be held in Mombasa April 28-30, 2006.

A participant, Rev Sr Mary Kuria from Kajjado described the meeting as informative, constructive and necessary. "We did not agree over everything but it was a major starting point on addressing various issues of interest to us," she said after the meeting.

Among the agreed upon issues was the necessity to start a savings and credit society to help boost the finances of the officers. Registration will be done with

Kshs. 200 for every individual and then an agreed amount remitted every month. They also agreed that to help facilitate communication there will be a co-ordinator in every diocese.

The issue of Re-branding was also discussed extensively but no conclusions were drawn.

The officers, with the support of the Secretariat, will also be pursuing further education as opportunities allow. The meeting also resolved that the dioceses will participate in helping identify

potential students from their regions to be admitted to the college.

One other major topic was the development of better communication between the officers in the field and the Church Army headquarters. "The greatest support we can get from the head office is visitation to know how we are doing," Mrs Kuria said.

At the end of it, all were agreed that the meeting was a great start to providing a good run-up to the Mombasa Conference. Ω

## School Bus Project

Efforts to purchase a School Bus for the Church Army Academy continue. The school is in need of a bus to assist the students both to commute between home and school, as well as to make academic field trips for purposes of learning.

These efforts have recently gained a new pace after a team comprising staff members of Church Army Africa, including teachers at the Academy, together with a team of friend from the Christ Church, Herne Bay, UK climbed Mt Kilimanjaro to help raise money for the project.

**Praise God for the funds raised so far & continue praying for success towards purchasing the bus.**

**Praise the Lord or Martin Bovingdon, who committed his life to Him as a result of the climb**



The Team on their way to conquer the Mt. Kilimanjaro

The Mt Kilimanjaro Expedition went well, with ten of the eleven climbers making it to the top of Africa's tallest mountain, some 6,000 metres. Among them were, from the UK, Simon Hilton, Louise Tam, Paul Flintoft, Martin Bovingdon and Nigel Panter. The Kenyan members of the team were Steve Maina, Zeph Ananda, Alex Kagunda (the Academy headteacher), Moses Karuri, Emma Gathango, Anne

Steve Maina and Zeph Ananda at the peak of Mt Kilimanjaro

Mugambi and the leader of the expedition, Canute Waswa. The UK climbers had arrived February 23. The whole team returned from their conquest of Mt Kilimanjaro on March 3. The guests appreciated their stay with the staff who hosted them as they tasted a little bit of the authentic Kenyan world.

The School Bus project is vital to the operations of the Academy. We need to raise Kshs. 3 million towards the bus chase. Any contributions towards it would be much appreciated. Ω

## Profile: Kibuga Karlithi Board Chairman



**1. How did you come to be associated with Church Army (CA)?**  
My association with Church Army began in Alliance High School when I committed my life to Jesus Christ while in Form 1. My Bible Study partner became a man called Karanja Mwangi. From then on it came to be that I would be vice-chairman of whatever Karanja was chairman of. It happened throughout our time in school. I was invited to be Board Treasurer when he became Church Army's Missioner-General because of my passion for the Anglican Church..

**2. Why did you join the CA board?**  
When Karanja Mwangi came in he found that Church Army needed support and clarification in certain areas. There was need for improved systems and strategic plans. The biggest challenge of the organisation was the "How do we get there?" type. It was understood that it was a community of Anglicans positively transforming Africa. I was, and still are, passionate about facilitating the Anglican Church through Church Army to realise this objective.

**3. What is CA's role in today's society?**  
Africa is the centre of the world's Anglicanism. 70% of the world's Anglicans live in Africa. But there is a mental mindset on the part of Africans, that has to be transformed. Even though we are bigger than any other gathering of Anglicans, we are still dependent on the West. The role of Church Army is to help Africa find herself. We want to turn Africa's large population into something of concrete benefit.

## Fact File

**Born:** 1963  
**Other occupations outside of Church Army Africa**  
Chief Executive of Ashbu Securities, a stockbroker member of the Nairobi Stock Exchange;  
Chairman, Advisory Board of the University of Nairobi, Finance Students Association.

**Family- Wife:** Wanjiru; **Children:** Wangeci, 9; Karlithi, 7; Wagura, 5

**Education**  
MBA from York University, Toronto, Canada;  
Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers

**Positions held in the past**  
Chief Executive of Nairobi Stock Exchange  
Corporate Finance Director, Barclays Bank of Kenya

**Personal Christian testimony**  
I came to faith when I was young. I was walking with my brother when suddenly everything changed. Everything looked beautiful. I walked after my brother and asked him, "How does one receive Jesus?" Years later, in Alliance High, I merely confirmed what had already taken place.