

# HARAMBE

A Quarterly Foundation Newsletter

**Harambe** is an African word which means “working together.” It is also the foundation’s slogan and name of one of Mrs. Rita Marley’s most popular tunes. Available through our website quarterly, this newsletter will be a vital vehicle to inform you of our foundation’s endeavors, events and accomplishments; importantly, we eagerly anticipate “working together” with you, through your contributions and feedback. So with One Love we could nurture Harambe into a constructive newsletter.



## RMF Caring and Sharing

In early November we traveled to Aburi, Ghana for a celebration held to commemorate the Chief’s 30th anniversary. Nana Afua Adobea 1, Rita Marley, is the Queen of Development there. For this reason, her presence was essential. The event ran from early morning to early evening on the lawns of the well manicured Aburi Gardens.



The entire community seemed present. Everyone decked in their most fetching attire. It was the most important event in Ghana on that day. An army of African Royalty (Chiefs and Queen mothers) garbed in multicoloured Kente and fine gold jewelry turned up for this affair. Shaded beneath oversized red suede umbrellas, the royals looked serene, stately and stunning. Guardsmen clad in traditional African wear stooped or stood before and beside the royal contingent.

Drummers shaded by the branches of a large green tree, lashed their skillful hands on the faces of tall drums creating an enticing rhythm. This whole experience evoked images of ancient and legendary Africa. In all her power,

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February – April 2009

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"AFRICA AWAITS ITS CREATORS / AFRICA AWAITING ITS CREATORS / AFRICA, YOU'RE MY FOREFATHER CORNERSTONE / UNITE FOR THE AFRICANS ABROAD / UNITE FOR THE AFRICANS A YARD / AFRICA, UNITE" – **Bob Marley**

# St. Tekle Haimanot Basic School Needs Your Help!

There are no doors and just one awning window; recently installed. Three class rooms, two toilets, two teachers, the principal and a cook serve the sixty-nine students of the St. Tekle Haimanot Basic School in the heart of Bull Bay. It is a low income community on the outskirts of Harbour View in Kingston, Jamaica.

“My students are so intelligent” Ms. Knight, who is the school’s principal, tells us. “We only need help” she added.

The cook must be commended. I wandered how she was able to open the old oven door in that incredibly tiny cubicle where students’ meals are prepared. “More food is needed to feed the kids.” The principal stated.

The school is without a playground. St. Tekle Hamimanot’s pupils ate snacks at their desks.

The space outside could be transformed into a safe recreational area. However, the terrain has to be leveled and made free of gravel, stones, bricks and other dangerous debris. The compound also needs a decent fence. The haphazard rusty zinc galvanize sheets are not right.


Today the Rita Marley Foundation presented a cheque to the school. This would assist with the purchase of windows. We have joined Empress, a well known media personality in Jamaica who has initiated a campaign to raise much needed funds for the school.

We encourage you to come on board and assist in any way possible to make the St. Tekle Haimanot Basic School a safe, comfortable and enjoyable learning institution.

Donations could be sent to the following account for the



school:

Account Name: St. Tekle Haimanot Basic school  
Branch: Any Victoria Mutual Building Society (VMBS)  
Savings Account #: 234 415 20 



# RMF Caring *(continued from page 1)*

honour, glory. Officials and representatives from various organizations came to the festival to celebrate with the Chief. They delivered speeches; some Chiefs and Queen mothers paid homage in dance. The Rita Marley Foundation was one of those who contributed through financial donation to assist the Chief in his efforts to provide infrastructural development for Aburi.

At the Konkonuru Junior High School we taught reading and vocabulary. The students are fluent in two languages: English and Twi. The latter is the native tongue of the Aburi people. The experience was enlightening. They were enthusiastic and disciplined pupils. We taught them reading and vocabulary; they taught us of their traditions; including “Borgoroo”: an ancient custom in which females were obligated to remain virgins until marriage. It involved strict procedures and practices. Many students expressed that “Borgoroo” should be reinstated to prevent HIV/AIDS.

At the end of the class, Prince, a confident and well-mannered young man, informed us of his aspirations to be a soccer (football) star. He asked that we assist with some soccer (football) gear.

On December 16, the laughter of merry children echoed throughout the quite rural Konkonuru community in Aburi, Ghana. It was the last day of the school term. News spread swiftly among the excited 5-7 year old students of the Konkonuru Basic School that Nana Rita Marley and others from the Rita Marley Foundation arrived with treats in hand. Teachers neatly sat almost one hundred little boys and girls into a tiny concrete class room. Their ebony faces and yellow uniforms mirroring the magnificent Aburi sunshine.

Ms. Emma, one of their grade teachers addressed the pupils stating that Rita Marley Foundation had come to present Christmas gifts. Welcome! They shouted, before serenading us with popular Christmas carols.

The students beamed with joy as they received crayons, pencils,

exercise books, t-shirts and toys. They munched on cakes, cookies,



chocolates and sipped assorted fruits juices.

At the Community Center, approximately three hundred students of the Konkonuru Primary and Junior High Schools eagerly awaited us. The venue was a gift from the Rita Marley Foundation to the town. The previous week the community center’s parameter walls had been re-painted in royal blue by student and teacher volunteers of the Lincoln International School. The institution often collaborates with the Rita Marley Foundation to carry out community projects.

“Akwaaba (welcome)!” They shrilled as we drove through its front gates. Their gathering was more of a party setting. They chatted in high pitched tones and walked about the compound while feasting on chicken and rice. Reggae music from the Foundation’s pick-up van filled the air.

The students also received school stationary. Special prizes were awarded to outstanding academic performers.

Today the Foundation delivered some football gear to Prince. He was elated.

The Rita Marley Foundation also funded the construction of a concrete perimeter wall for the Konkonuru Primary School. This will shield the student population from outside noise and distraction caused by human, animal and vehicular traffic. The wall will also put an end to trespassers who have taken up night time residence in the classrooms for their illicit pleasures.

As the sun’s light gradually faded signaling the arrival of the moon sky, the Christmas treat came to a close. Before departing for home, the students, teachers and principal thanked the Rita Marley Foundation for ushering a wonderful start to the festive season and a memorable close to the school year. 🇰🇪



# Postponement of Youth Symposium and Africa Unite Concert

## Friends and Supporters

The Bob and Rita Marley Foundations regretfully announce the postponement of our 5th International Youth Symposium and our Annual Africa Unite Concert. 2009 has hit us with a bang and we want to make the most of it. The postponement means you will have to wait until the end of July to mid August as we plan to celebrate the birthdays of our founders, our Black philosophers and our Revolutionaries in this year of the historical inauguration of The President of the USA.

Keep in touch and watch for the new dates.

We would like also to acknowledge the donations that we have been receiving towards our continued involvement in Africa as well as those persons who already stated their intent to help us with the Symposium. Your help is the reality that makes us able to do what we are doing. Give Thanks and Jah Bless!!!

***One God, One Aim, One Destiny!***