

# 2009

## MUSIC AND ART CAMP

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Our 2009 music and art camp started at 10 am with approximately 65 children in attendance. Most of the children were under the age of ten, including babies and toddlers being cared for by “baby sitters” their older siblings.

These young “baby sitters” do not have the opportunity to go to school as they must stay home and take care of their younger siblings while their Mothers go about their daily chores.

Being able to attend this camp is very important to these children, as they get to sing, play games and create artwork with others their age.

Denise began each morning singing with the children for about one hour. They sang songs she had introduced to them over the past 2 years along with new ones and of course some of their favourite Sudanese songs.

They take turns sharing the small musical instruments that generous Londoners donate for our camp.

The second hour of camp was held outside the Church under a huge tree. Rows



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of small tree logs serve as chairs for the children.

This area is used as a classroom during the school year for preschoolers.

I enlisted the help of some folks from the St. Thomas YWCA to develop a game and craft program for the Sudanese children. They were eager to help and came up with some great ideas.

Over the 5 days of our camp the kids created butterflies from popsicle sticks, paper coffee filters and pipe cleaners. They made colourful eye glasses from pipe cleaners, and they created landscapes with pencil crayons, foam stars, and rubber stamp African animals.

We also supplied the children with stickers to decorate their artwork, however most of the stickers were placed on their clothes, arms and faces.

One game the children were very fond of is called over and under. The object of this game is to form a large circle and pass a beach ball over the first child's head to the next child who passes it through his legs. They repeat this over and over around the entire circle of children.

The goal is to go faster and faster without dropping the ball.

Our camp day would end with a few songs.

As Denise and I walked towards the Church for our last day of camp, we heard children singing. They were inside eagerly waiting for us. 95 children were in attendance that day.

Clean water, medicine, food, clothing and shelter are all important elements of our physical being, however, by opening up our hearts to others through music and art we can help promote, joy, laughter, peace and hope that all of us on this earth are entitled to.

Lucy Ogletree

## Canadian Aid for Southern Sudan



Canadian Aid for Southern Sudan (CASS) is working to help the people of southern Sudan rebuild their lives and communities after decades of brutal war.

<http://www.web.net/cass/>