

leader information



monkey

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Welcome To My Neighbourhood In Kenya!

“Habari! Ninaitwa Victoria. Nimefurahi kukujua!” This traditional Swahili exchange can be translated to “Hello! My name is Victoria. I am pleased to know you!” We at CBM are so excited to welcome all of you to Kenya for this year’s mission education curriculum. It’s going to be a wonderful journey!

Just think of it! Safaris, mountains, savannahs, deserts and volcanoes. Kenya is a diverse country with so much to explore and learn that we’ve had trouble picking just a few features to share with you!

Each day, your group will meet a Kenyan child who will share a little about what their life is like. You will also get the opportunity to learn more about how you can help children and families in need through CBM and our partner churches in Kenya. There are also Kenyan inspired crafts, activities, games, snacks and songs to help keep you and your VBS crew in a Kenyan spirit.

If you are going to use this material for a camp or VBS, we’ve divided the materials into stations. These stations are: field camp (human), stories (zebra), Bible application (bird), crafts and activities (camel), games (lion) and snacks (elephant). Each of these stations has at least 5 options for you to choose from, allowing you to customize your VBS to your group’s needs. You will also note that some of the materials have an age designation beside them – this was done to allow us to reach a broader range of children, without either having activities that are either too complicated or too simple. To help run your rotations, we suggest that you have a volunteer run each station, and then have “Safari Guides” who walk with your children as they move through their day. Please see the “Rotation Schedule,” included in this package, for ideas on how this can be done.

If you are using this material in other ways, please feel free to pick and pull stories and their corresponding Bible Studies, and pick and choose from the variety of games, crafts, activities and snacks in order to best suit your needs.

You may reproduce all of the activities. We’ve also included a poster, letter for parents, evaluation and return envelope, and fundraising ideas. Please take the time to review all of these materials, and feel free to contact your regional CBM office and/or CBM’s Communications and Resource Development team at 905.821.3533 for more assistance.

Enjoy your trip!

Decorating Ideas

By decorating your VBS space you are helping your children to “travel” to Kenya in this year’s “Welcome To My Neighbourhood.” Kenya is geographically rich, providing you with many decorating opportunities. Please note that each day your VBS starts and ends at “Field Camp”. This is a great starting point for your decorating. Field camps are part of a safari, your lodging each night. Think tents, campfires, camels, and any “typical” camping accessories.

Finally, to help identify each station, copy the title page of each packet on bright coloured paper, and post on the room door. Or, make your own signs and/or arrows to help participants navigate your space. Search the internet or library for pictures of Kenya and get decorating! The only limit is your imagination!

Field Camp: Set up a tent, build a camp fire, string up a clothes line, have an outdoor kitchen, and use sleeping bags to help bring your field camp to life. You may even wish to spread sand or sand-coloured material to bring the desert into your VBS.

Safari Sunsets: Paint a large mural to hang as a backdrop to your field camp. By typing in “Kenyan Sunsets” into any search engine, you’ll find many inspirational pictures to help set the mood. Here’s one idea from www.flickr.com:



Mount Kilimanjaro: This breath-taking mountain, with three volcanic cones, passes through Kenya. Again, use it as your inspiration for a backdrop to your field camp. A simple online search will provide you with countless pictures to get you started, like this one from www.extreme-safari.com:



Animals on Safari: Think of all of the amazing creatures native to Kenya: zebras, lions, elephants, giraffes, ostriches, pythons, leopards, chimpanzees ... the list is endless. Find stuffed animals or pictures of these amazing animals, or even make life-size cut-out silhouettes. Use at your field camp and throughout your VBS rooms to help bring Kenya to Canada!

Natural Beauty: Kenya is home to many bright, beautiful and exotic flowers. Use tissue paper, construction paper or paint to help bring the colour of Kenya to your VBS. Make large and exotic butterflies and other bugs to hang among the flowers and vines! You can also add toy/rubber snakes and insects.

Rotation Schedule

In response to your feedback, we've included a Rotation Schedule. Here are some helpful reasons why this schedule may assist you.

- **Ease of Securing Volunteers:** volunteers will have a specific, limited job to commit to.
- **Ease of Preparation:** share the labour and responsibilities; by delegating specific jobs to each volunteer, everyone will know exactly what they need to do to prepare for their activity.
- **Increase in Energy:** volunteers will be able to do what they love and do best – whether it is relationship-building, preparing snacks or running games.
- **Adaptability:** the schedule can be adapted to suit a variety of group sizes, spaces and demographics.

Rotation Schedule: For each “station” we recommend you have one volunteer leader (i.e. Snack Leader, Games Leader, etc.). For each group of participants, have a tour guide. The tour guide’s responsibility is to build relationships with their group while moving with them from station to station each day of the week. Below is a listing of 3 options on how to use the rotation schedule to best suit the needs of your VBS.

Option 1: Break your VBS participants into six groups, based on age. All of the participants meet as a large group at the start and end of the VBS for Base Camp (10 minutes). After base camp at the start of each day, the groups then begin their day at one of the stations – i.e. group 1 starts at Bible stories and moves onto games, while group 2 starts at games and moves onto crafts, etc. Each group spends 20 minutes at each station, and has 2 minutes to change stations. To signal when it is time to rotate, you could use a bell, whistle or intercom.

Option 2: If you have a smaller number of participants, you can keep all of them together (i.e. do not divide into groups based on age). You can then rotate as a whole to each of the stations as above.

Option 3: Similar to option 2, except here the group stays in one spot and the station leaders come to them to run the events.

Groups

As suggested previously, if you are planning on using these materials in a camp or VBS setting, we strongly suggest following the rotation schedule, dividing your group into smaller groups and having “Safari Guides” for each group. There are many ways to divide your participants, however, for ease in crafts, games and lesson planning the easiest would be to divide your groups by age.

Once your groups are divided, you may wish to give each group a “mascot” – an animal sticker placed on their name tags is an easy way to do this. This will help you and the participants find their Safari Guides or other group members if they ever get separated.

Fundraising Ideas

“Mission” is a complex concept to try to introduce to children. Many think that it is something that happens in another country and has little to do with them. To help bring the idea of mission home for your participants, we have created two fundraising opportunities that relate to this year’s VBS.

Emergency Relief – Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced within Kenya since December 2007’s presidential election threw the country into a tumultuous and violent political crisis. Relief workers are especially concerned about the growing hunger problem and acts of violence by youth. “This crisis is so complex that no individual partners have the capacity to cope. The relief work, as well as rehabilitation phase (including resettlement, economic empowerment, peace and reconciliation, psychosocial issues) will require a concerted, coordinated effort,” recently noted Laura Ward, Heath Specialist for The Sharing Way. A consortium of church-based development organizations has started to meet in Kenya, and CBM will play a supportive role. CBM has also committed to providing funding for ongoing relief, to help with: food, security, education, medical care and emergency counseling. By raising funds, your children can help Kenyan children and better see how they can make a difference. For more background about the conflict in Kenya, see the Spring 2008 issue of *mosaic* (receive your free copy by calling 905.821.3533 or view it online at www.cbmin.org).

Guardians of Hope – Guardians of Hope is a movement of people in Africa and Canada who are breaking the silence, erasing the stigma, and helping those most impacted by HIV and AIDS. They are people who share a deep faith in God’s love and a conviction that we must work together. Guardians of Hope was created by CBM to help strengthen and expand the ministries started by our African church partners in response to this pandemic. We are positioned to make an incredible impact in the fight against AIDS. Your funds will go towards meeting our ongoing goals of: prevention and education, pastoral care for AIDS-affected families, care and support for orphans and their guardians, and long-term development to reduce community vulnerability to AIDS and to alleviate its impact. Learn more at www.cbmin.org

The following fundraising activities are suggestions only – please do not feel bound or limited by them. Incorporating fundraising into the daily activities of your VBS will help you introduce children to the concept of tithing/giving as worship, while also encouraging them to actively participate in global mission work. We suggest that the fundraising aspect of your VBS take place during the Field Camp time at the start and end of your day/lesson. Introduce your challenge at the close of each day/lesson and collect the funds for the challenge at the start of each following day/lesson. Try and encourage discussion, so children may share how they found the challenge and what they’ve learned.

The stories for this year’s VBS relate to each of the projects noted above. By setting a monetary goal for your VBS and tracking the success of your participants, you are providing a great visual means of illustrating how their contributions work together to make a big difference in the lives of others. Finally, please use the enclosed letter as a guide to be provided to the parents/guardians when they register for your VBS – this will introduce them to the fundraising initiative, and help them be prepared for the challenges their child(ren) bring(s) home each day.

WELL Worth It!

Water can be a scarce commodity in Kenya. Children and women often have to walk long distances at least twice daily in order to get enough water for the day's needs. This walk is tiring and can even be dangerous at times. Place an empty water cooler water jug out at the entrance to your "Field Camp" and encourage participants and their parents/guardians to fill this jug with change (from pennies up to toonies) throughout your week together.

A Quarter For Your Thoughts?

Kenya is a country that faces the daily challenges of poverty. While primary education is now free, there are other costs of school (such as uniforms) that prevent many children from studying. Many have to drop out of school to help earn family income and/or to help take care of sick or dying family members. Further, due to the recent violence many children are either not able to attend school, or are going to schools that are well beyond maximum capacity, some with more than 100 students per class. Encourage children to bring in a quarter for every school subject they take.

Fresh Water

Water is essential to life; however, in Kenya water is often a scarce commodity. Each day, many women and children may walk long distances to get safe drinking water for their families. Challenge your children to count how many taps (indoor and outdoor) they have at home, and bring in a quarter for each tap. If the child has a swimming pool, encourage them to bring in an additional amount of money.

Food For Life!

Conflict is one of the issues that greatly impacts on the availability of food in a region. Crops, family businesses and infrastructure are damaged and destroyed. Many countries in Africa and around the world are in danger of a looming food crisis which in turn causes more conflict. You can help CBM and our African church partners build food security through our community development programs that include agricultural training and resources for improved crops, nutritious food, and environmental conservation; micro credit to build up farms and small business; fresh, local water sources; and more. Challenge your participants to in a dime for every snack (or every food group, such as meat, fruit, vegetable, dairy, etc.) that they have eaten in one day. Contact The Sharing Way, our relief and development department, at 905.821.3533, for more info and resources (or go online at www.cbmin.org)

Work for It!

Kenyan children know the value of hard work! Many children, due to poverty, have to leave school to help out at home and/or to earn family income for basic necessities. The lucky ones, those who can stay in school, still have a lot of work to do at home – fetching water, cooking and cleaning, taking care of the family farm/small farm animals, and watching over siblings. Challenge participants to think of chores they can do around their house, or jobs they might be willing to do for someone else. Then, encourage them to charge \$1 an hour for their work and donate this to your selected project. OR, if participants get a weekly or monthly allowance, encourage them to donate a portion.

Language Lessons

While English and Swahili are Kenya's two official languages, Kenya is home to many other languages and dialects. As a group, have your children think of all of the different language groups represented in your group or church (i.e. English, French, German, Italian, Mandarin, etc.). Encourage children to bring in a quarter for every language they can say "hello" in.

Move-a-Thon

Hand out pledge sheets at the start of your VBS and encourage participants to get sponsors for your very own Move-a-Thon. Then on Friday, after your VBS is over, have fun playing lots of music and keeping yourselves moving in all kinds of activities to fulfill your pledge. Or hold a Walk-a-Thon for a VBS follow-up event.

Please submit all funds raised to: **Canadian Baptist Ministries, 7185 Millcreek Dr., Mississauga ON L5N 5R4** (a return envelope has been enclosed for your convenience) and clearly note on your donation "Welcome to my Neighbourhood in Kenya" and the project you wish to support.

Sample Letter

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Thank you for sending (*name of child(ren)*) on a five-day journey of fun and discovery.

On this trip, your child(ren) and their friends at (*name of Church*) will explore what life is like for children in Kenya. Each day of our trip will introduce us to a new friend who will share his/her story with us. We will also meet interesting animals and learn more about Kenyan culture on our "safari".

As part of our activities, we will be giving children an opportunity to make a very real difference in the lives of Kenyan children through a special fundraiser (insert fundraising objective(s)).

Each day we will send children home with a fun challenge to help them collect funds and learn more about our project. We hope that you and your child(ren) will have some interesting conversations each day about what they have learned.

We believe that children can make a difference and be a big help in sharing God's love and care for all people. Thank you for your support! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions. You may also go online at www.cbmin.org for more information about these and other projects.

Many Blessings,

Welcome To My Neighbourhood In Kenya: Evaluation

We'd love to hear how your trip to Kenya went! You can help us improve the quality of our VBS material and better equip you in teaching about missions by taking a few minutes to fill out the following evaluation. Once completed, please return it, along with your donation raised through your fundraising activities, in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

1. I loved the material and look forward to seeing more of the same next year.

YES

NO

MAYBE

2. I found that there was enough variety in the material to suit the ages and interests of the group.

YES

NO

MAYBE

3. I found the rotation options helpful.

YES

NO

MAYBE

4. I appreciated the age divisions for the discussions and Bible applications.

YES

NO

MAYBE

5. I found the difficulty rating on crafts/activities useful for planning.

YES

NO

MAYBE

6. The feature I most appreciated was: _____

7. What I found most useful was: _____

8. What I found least useful was: _____

9. I would like to have more information or resources on: _____

10. If I had to improve something, it would be: _____

Additional comments:
