

From research, I've learned that many of our orphanage visits and others across the country also have fond Christmas memories. Our orphanage visits celebrations and traditions often were better than the ones we experienced before.

The Africkiko foundation group arrived at Save The Children Alliance Orphanage at 9am on the 18th of December, 2021. We started the day with a clean-up campaign; we cleaned their environment and talked to them about the importance of cleanliness. It is very important to always make sure their environment is neat at all times, like the saying goes thus Cleanliness is next to Godliness. The light manual labour and clean-up campaign took us about 2hours after which we dived into the event proper of the day.

After the cleaning up campaign, we moved straight into the business of the day.

The kids started with prayers before we began with activities. The founder of Africkiko Mr. Ayompe Simon spoke to the children at the orphanage, he told them about the importance of being together especially during Christmas periods, they should always live together as one big family, to always remember that the orphanage is their home and they will always be loved by us and everyone around them. He talked with the kids and asked them to be focus and trust God. He spoke to them to cherish every moment with their brothers and sisters at the orphanage because they are one big family and it's very important for them to stay together during Christmas. The hall was very excited and we could see the joy on the faces of the children after the kind and soft words from the Africkiko CEO. The clapping and cheering clearly indicated it was a great talk with the kids and message well understood.

We later on talked to the kids about the significant of a Christmas tree and what it's all about. In Christianity, the Christmas tree symbolizes **the birth and resurrection of Jesus Christ**. The tree's branches and shrubs are viewed as an emblem of immortality and are said to symbolize the crown of thorns worn by Christ on the cross. Since it's a festive period, the good old Christmas tree is one of the most loved and popular symbols to represent this festival. And we're here to tell you just what the significance of this beautiful tradition is. When the talking about the Christmas tree was done, the hall was fixed so we can celebrate with the kids and share with them during the Christmas season and show them love and let them know we love them very much.

As the day was unfolding, the hall was prepared for the little celebration we had in mind with the kids. When the hall was ready, some volunteers and invitees were present at the orphanage and we proceeded with our little party. Prayers were said by one of the kids at the orphanage,

she blessed the meals before we ate. The party was fun since we shared a common meal with the children at the orphanage, danced with them and shared drinks with them equally. When the party ended, we presented gifts to the orphanage, such as food stuff, sanitary goods to the female kids most especially, beverages, kitchen utensils etc. Some invitees and volunteers donated in Cash to the coordinator of the orphanage and others provided goods as well. The kids and the director of the orphanage were very excited and happy. They appreciated and thanked us for the gifts, asked God to replenish the source abundantly. They were very grateful for all we provided to them.

Conclusively, after all the clean-up campaign, discussion about staying together when its Christmas, the significant of a Christmas tree and the party with the kids, we went ahead to take pictures with the kids, discussed with some older kids to find what they needed at the orphanage. We rounded up for the day with prayers from the children at the orphanage asking God to protect us all. After the prayers, they composed songs of praise and worship which they sang. At 6pm, the day was over at the orphanage. We all left very happy knowing we showed love to the kids and everyone at the orphanage was really happy and they expressed their feeling of seeing us again some other time.