CURRENT EVENTS THAT BRING US ALL TOGETHER

Buffalo, NY, Tuesday, July 28, 2010

Free!

By Global Gang

Congo, Africa - Jonathan, 10, lives on the streets of Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a country in central Africa. Jonathan's parents split up and no longer care for him, which is why he lives out on the streets.

Jonathan is called a 'wheelbarrow boy' because he survives off a little bit of money he gets from clearing garbage in the marketplace.

'I sleep here in the marketplace,' says Jonathan. 'I want to go to school, but I must work. I help one of the market sellers - a cook named Teresa - who comes to prepare food for the other market sellers. She cooks beans, rice and cassava leaves and chicken. I draw water for her and she gives me food.'

'I fetch the water from a water pipe that's close by. I carry it in a bucket. It holds 20 litres (about 5 gallons). I don't find it difficult - I'm strong. I fetch two or three a day. I also help take the rubbish away from the marketplace. I get 200-300 Congolese francs (35-50 cents). I do it on Saturdays. I use some to buy food, and some for clothes.'

The most difficult thing about being a street kid is sleeping on the ground,' he says. 'I have a cloth I use as a sheet. When it rains we shelter at the railway station. There are a lot of us who sleep together. Rain and cold are the worst. I feel safe, though sometimes men threaten us at night and take any money we have.'

Here's Jonathan (left) with his friend Craus. 'I like Craus because he shares food with me from time to time and we play football together. He's kind,' says Jonathan.

I feel the happiest when I'm at a party. The last one I went to was at New Year. I enjoyed myself. A good woman gave me new clothes. I put on my new clothes and I danced. It was here in the marketplace. There were many people - also children from homes who joined us. The music was playing loudly from some place close by.

I want to go to school, but I must work.

I have batteries and I'm planning to buy a radio. They sell them in the marketplace. They're about 3,000 Congolese francs (about five dollars). I want to listen to music on my radio. I like pop music best.'

The Cool Firefly

By Chitra Padmanabhan

Firefly is just a name. They are actually very cool insects. And they are not even flies, they are beetles. They have a way of sending out light signals every now and then. If you see them at night on a tree, you might think it is brightly lit Christmas tree. That is the kind of light these beetles produce.

But the light they send out does not have heat, like the bulbs we use. The firefly's light is cold. Actually these beetles could be the most efficient bulbs if only we knew how to use them. For almost all the energy they produce gets changed into bright light - cool light.

How do they do it? The back portion of their abdomen are transparent. There are cells of crystals or chemical substances inside which get broken down by enzymes. Some energy is released in the form of light.

Identifying the Parts of a Newspaper

Newspapers are designed so that people can easily identify the name of the paper, the different headlines and articles, and pictures that help tell the story. The most important recent event is the top story, presented above the fold of the newspaper. Below are a few parts of the newspaper's frontpage. Other parts of the paper include: Advertisements are designed to make you want to buy something. Editorials are articles that present a person's opinion on something that happened. Newspapers are also organized into different sections, such as world news, national news, regional news, sports news, news about music, theater and art, comics...