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No. 267

Hery's Story-from Madagascar

March-April 2008

FOURTH WORLD MOVEMENT

7600 Willow Hill Drive, Landover, MD 20785-4658

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TAPORI is a worldwide network of children whose motto is:

"WE WANT ALL CHILDREN TO HAVE THE SAME CHANCES."

The name Tapori was chosen by Joseph Wresinski as a sign of solidarity with the poorest children. Joseph Wresinski, founder of the Fourth World Movement, grew up in poverty. While traveling in India, he met very poor children called Taporis living in train stations and caring for each other. He later wrote to other children: **"You are like the Taporis when you look out for others. You can find ways to make the world a better place and get rid of poverty."**

Through Tapori groups and a bi-monthly newsletter, designed mainly for children ages 7 to 13, children from diverse backgrounds become friends and do projects to learn about children whose daily lives are very different from their own.

Tapori exists in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

Check out Tapori online! www.tapori.org

TAPORI



No. 267

Fourth World Movement

March-April 2008

Meet Hery, a boy from Madagascar!



Madagascar is a big island country off the southeast coast of Africa. In the past, rice paddies surrounded the capital city of Antananarivo. Families who had hard lives went there looking for work and other opportunities. They constructed little wooden huts. This is where Hery lives.



The neighborhood where Hery and his family live.

Hery is 11 years old. For several years now, he has participated in the Street Library* with Noro, a volunteer organizer, and Niry, one of the mothers in the neighborhood. Every week Niry leaves the small vegetable stand she owns and goes to tell stories and play traditional games for a few hours with the children during Street Library.

Last year, Hery's life changed. His mother died, and he and his four brothers and sisters went to live with their grandmother. Their grandmother had already taken in three of her other grandchildren who were orphans, but she didn't hesitate to welcome Hery and his siblings into her home. She is a woman with a big heart.

While she takes care of the littlest children, Hery's grandmother crochets tablecloths to sell. But this is not enough to take care of the whole family's needs. The three oldest, including Hery, help out a lot. Joseph, who is 16, sells *vanan'omby* (bits of meat from a cow's mouth, which are cooked and cut into small pieces). Elisena, who is 14, crushes peanuts to make a dough that can be cooked in sauce. Everything they make is sold in the little market close by.

One day at the Street Library, Hery was sitting on the mat with the



Hery's Grandmother

***Street Library:** Danyell from New Orleans, USA, describes Street Library like this: "We sit on rugs and blankets outside. We read books, look at photos and true stories about other children. And we do creative activities and send them to others, and they send things back to us, too!" Street Libraries around the world are part of the Tapori network of friendship.

other children. They were just about to start the story when a woman came in and said, "Come, Hery, I need you!"

Hery really wanted hear the day's story, but he quickly got up without saying a word.

"Where is he going?" asked one of the kids.

"He has to go to work," responded another. "That was his boss, Mrs. Rasoa, calling him."



The street library in Hery's neighborhood



A lemur

Hery followed Mrs. Rasoa back to the place where she sold coffee and *mofogasy* (small Malagasy cakes) close to her home. All the *timbales* (metal coffee cups) were dirty and Hery had to wash them. To make things go faster, he hummed nursery rhymes he had learned at the Street Library.

When that work was done, he said, "I've finished, Mrs. Rasoa. Can I go back to look at the books?"

"But you can see there is no more sugar!" said Mrs. Rasoa. "Quick, go get me some!"

Hery didn't complain. He knew that his grandmother would be happy. So he got the sugar and then ran fast, back to the Street Library. His desire to hear the next part of the story gave him wings!



The *timbales* Hery washes.



Hery making *mofogasy* with Mrs. Rasoa.

"Everything's fine, I made it back!" Hery's his eyes were sparkling with joy as they met Noro's. With a really big smile, he rejoined the group on the mat and listened while she finished the story.

A little bit later, one of the mothers came calling for her daughter. "Mitia, come do your homework!"

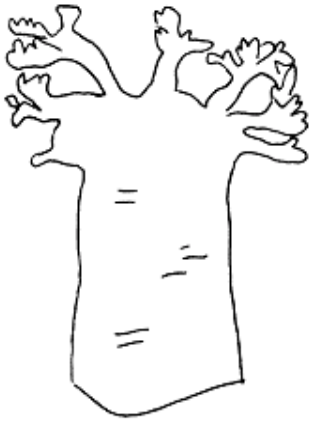
Mitia pouted. "But, Mom! Please, can I stay here until the end of the story?"

"Well, alright," her mom said, "but don't hang around afterward. Come straight home."

Hery thought about his mom. If she were still alive, he would be able to listen to the whole story every time. Thinking this made him sad. But at the same time, his heart was happy because he knew that his grandmother and little brothers and sisters counted on him. Thanks to the work that he and his brothers did this year, Elisena was able to stay in school. Hery had to stop going after his mom died. But Elisena kept going and was awarded his Elementary School Diploma.



A chameleon



Baobab Tree

The other kids saw how Hery never wanted to miss the Street Library. So, one day, Niry decided to visit Mrs. Raso.

“Hello, Mrs. Raso. I wanted to talk with you about Hery.”

“Oh yes, Hery is a good worker. I am happy to be able to give him work,” Mrs. Raso continued, “because I know his grandmother, and I realize how much she needs money for the family.”

“That’s true,” Niry agreed. “Hery really does need this job.

But he also really loves books!

Is it possible to give him some free time on the day of the Street Library?” she asked.



A candy stand at the market.

Mrs. Raso thought a moment. “I need him to work every day, but he doesn’t have to stay with me all day long. I’m more than happy to let him leave once his work is finished on Street Library days.”



Families live, work, and build in Hery’s neighborhood.

From then on Hery knew that Mrs. Raso not only appreciated his work, but that he could keep going to read books, as well. Now he tries to wash all the *timbales* and find sugar before the Street Library starts. And when Ms. Raso doesn’t have very many customers, Hery even has time to stay after Street Library to play with the other kids. And on those days, Hery’s smile is so big, it shines!



To think about...

Many children like Hery have to work in order to help support their families. They know that if they don’t, the family will not survive. For the World Day Against Child Labor, some children wrote messages to Tapori:

“Our parents are suffocated by life, so we bring them a breath of air by finding water for others, by washing dishes in hotels, by carrying packages, by taking small jobs. If our parents had enough resources to do their jobs, we wouldn’t have to work. It’s our parents who people should help.”

“We kids, and also our parents, are against child labor, but because of poverty, we don’t have a choice.”

To tell us what you think and do, turn to the Activity Page!

TAPORI NEWS PAGE

CONCERN FOR BUKAVU, CONGO:



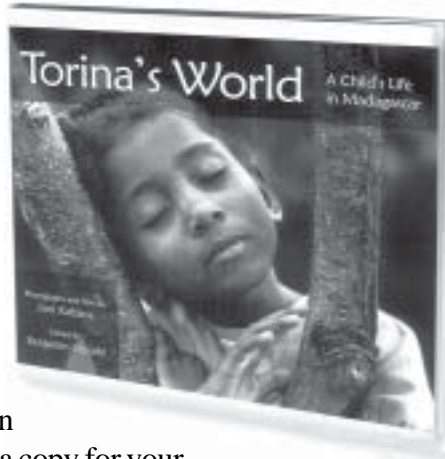
Ono, Rene, and the Star Kids group in the Democratic Republic of Congo--whose true story of friendship launched the Tapori Silhouette Campaign--went through an earthquake in February. Many homes in their city of Bukavu were destroyed. As they work together to rebuild, we Tapori friends from around the world send them wishes for hope, courage, and strength. Do you have something you want to say to the children in Bukavu, or elsewhere in the world? Write to Tapori using the Activity Page, or the Tapori website.



ADULTS , Enter . . .

and learn more about **Madagascar** while supporting Tapori projects there!

Photographer and author Joni Kabana is generously donating royalties from the sale her wonderful book, *Torina's World: A Child's Life in Madagascar* to support Tapori and other educational projects in Madagascar. Consider buying a copy for your own family or as a gift. Also think about donating a copy to your local library! www.torinasworld.com.



Longtime Tapori lover Lisa tells us why she enjoys the book so much:

Torina's World is such a wonderful book to read with children. The photographs are gorgeous and joyful, and I think most kids will really enjoy learning about a new child and her community. But what I love most about it is what I'd call its "Tapori spirit." The text that accompanies the photos is simple and straightforward, and it encourages children to reflect on the ways that their lives are actually quite similar to Torina's.

Tapori thanks Joni, Torina, and everyone who acts to make a fairer world, where respect and friendship win out over poverty!



Welcome to New Members!!!

The Tapori newsletter comes out in English, French, Spanish and other languages. Children, groups, and schools around the world receive it! They sign up through the mail or on the website www.tapori.org. We want to say hello and welcome:

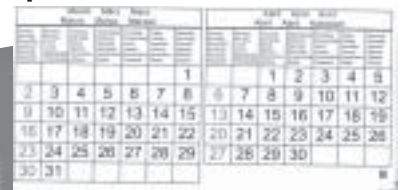
- Alex** in Broadbeach Waters, Australia;
- Amrita** in Howrah, India;
- Ciara** in Brooklyn, New York;
- Girl Scout Troop 1873** in Caledonia, Michigan;
- Eglise Jean XXIII** in Arlington, Virginia;
- Imani** in New Orleans, Louisiana;
- Joy Charity** in Njoro, Kenya;
- Leonor** in Lisbon, Portugal;
- and **Nakyschia** in Brooklyn, New York.

And Thank You...

...Joy, Lisa, Danyell, and Mikasha for help with this newsletter!!



Did you get your Tapori Silhouette Calendar?



Near the start of 2008, Tapori sent out a color calendar with messages in six languages and pictures of silhouettes from around the world. **Did you receive yours?** If not, or if you want more copies, write to Tapori. (If you can send some postage, that helps.)

Activity Page

In this newsletter you have read the true story of Hery, a boy from Madagascar. Write to tell us what you think about this story. You can also draw a picture of your favorite part. Tell us about kids you know who, like Hery, do many things to support their families. You can also write a message to the families in Bukavu, Congo, who are rebuilding after an earthquake. We can share some of your messages with others in a future newsletter.

My name is _____ This is what I have to say and/or draw:

Send your thoughts and drawing to: TAPORI, 7600 Willow Hill Drive, Landover, MD 20785

About Receiving Tapori:

Yes, I want to receive the *Tapori* newsletter. **No**. Please remove me from the Tapori mailing list.

My Name: _____ **Age:** _____

Address: _____

About Sharing Tapori:

Would you like a friend or relative to receive Tapori? We would be happy to send a newsletter and message!

Person's Name: _____ **Age:** _____ **Relationship to me:** _____

Their address: _____

My Message to the person: _____

* Suggested subscription price: \$10.00/year Solidarity subscription: \$20.00/year