Karim Abdel-Wadood

Service Journal Entry #2

It was nearly the end of the second quarter and I had already gone to FACLC a few times. I had become acquainted with a lot of the kids that were there and they seemed cool. I had learned about how to better teach them, per sé, and to make my communication more effective, especially since the Arabic language barrier that the rest of my peers were affected by didn’t affect me. One day I had gone to the school and found that Mrs. Lantz was teaching them math.

While there were problems, there was a lot of success. Math seemed to include concepts that they grasped faster and more easily than any English or scientific concepts. The maximum amount of time we spent on one math concept was about 5-10 minutes which, to be honest, is quite fast. Mrs. Lantz had assigned me to a small group of 4 boys, two of which I cannot remember. The other two were called Boss Peter and Doss Peter; they were brothers. I taught the four of them such things as absolute value and we went over and revised such things as long division, long multiplication, addition and subtraction. Again, they had nearly no trouble with this and finished the exercises I gave them quite quickly, even the final test at the end of the day went quite smoothly.

However, there still were some small problems. Two of the students seemed to not feel like learning and I had no idea what to do to motivate them. They did the work and everything but they were just reluctant to learn and were distracted by other things. This makes it harder to teach them and they’ll obviously learn a lot slower but it wasn’t too serious so hopefully ill be able to work that out later.

Today and the few days before made me feel like things are looking up, per sé. I was happy that my effort actually mattered as the kids seem to be both warming up to me and getting a better feel for the language, especially since they can get help from someone who speaks their native tongue. I’m still determined to help them enhance their English usage and I am quite confident that the students I am teaching will be able to speak English as well as some of the older Sudanese kids.