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AUGUST 2017

Welcome to our August News Edition. Most of the Universities and Colleges opened in August and many start off with 'freshers' orientation programs and Campus mission outreaches.

FOCUS continues to strengthen and establish existing Christian Unions (CUs). It equips the leaders of the CU with leadership skills and knowledge of how to do effective ministry to students and also brings together CUs from across the country. We asked a few students to share their experiences of being a part of a Christian Union fellowship.

"I Joined campus and found a student gathering called a *Christian Union (CU)*. I expected it to be like my local church at first but it was not quite the same. I was challenged to find student believers from different church back grounds which made me 'un learn' some of my past convictions about salvation and being Pentecostal. I have since enjoyed the 'unity of the faith' that allows us to have fellowship as one even though some of our fellow students refuse to be part of this union. We pray that we will grow in our unity."

E

"I was assigned a Care group when I joined the CU at my school. I had never been part of such a small group fellowship which is part of a bigger fellowship. At first, I was not consistent in attending our fellowship meetings as a care group but our leader insisted on always following up on me not only to attend but to see how I was. This had a big impact on my life. For one thing, I used to be so shy and even being asked to pray in this small group was a big deal, but I have overcome this shyness. I learnt to read, understand and apply scripture in the care group. At the same time, I learnt how to have personal bible study and time with God alone. I would study the scripture portions for the study and would be so glad that others saw similar interpretations of the scripture. I am much closer to my care group members with whom I can share my challenges and joys than other CU members."

M

"I declined to take up the position when I was first asked to lead the CU fellowship. I had seen what a huge responsibility it was with the former Chair and I felt I was not up to the challenge. I also felt that there were many more capable leaders than I in our fellowship. Eventually, with much trepidation, I accepted the position and I am thankful to God that I did. I have learned to plan better. I thought I would rely only on other people's ideas to make decisions, but soon learned that others expected me to give structure and direction. I have had to learn more about problem solving as a necessity given the many cases that come up as members have challenges with each other and expect me to help them sort their

differences. I am thankful to God for the wisdom to handle this area so far. I have also grown as a believer as I have spent time to not only memorize scripture but also learn from it. My biggest challenges were with a few members who felt they were more spiritually informed than some of the leaders and would not submit to their leadership. Leading people who refuse to be led is complicated.”

C



“I am the Guild president and also Chair of the CU fellowship at our school. A number of leaders on the CU committee are also a part of the students Guild council. We have been given a great privilege to serve needs of students in different capacities which has been both interesting, and challenging.

Being a part of the CU has helped me in many ways. I have learnt how to pray and trust God more especially when I have gone through personally challenging experiences which I felt I could not share with anyone. I have made friends who have helped me grow in my walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. I work hard in school encouraged by the scripture ‘to work hard at all we do as working for the Lord not man.’

Our biggest challenge as a fellowship has been scriptural interpretation that is mostly done by our Patron and has made small group bible study very difficult. For instance, our patron is of the view that every member of the CU must first of all ‘speak in tongues’ because that is what is taught in his church. Some of the students have therefore felt disqualified to be part of the fellowship and in fact all the bible study meetings have stopped which grieves us deeply. More students of the CU started to attend this church and the fellowship became more chaotic.

I have found being CU chair more difficult because of doctrinal differences and our patron’s heavy influence over the CU. Leaders and CU members who go to our patron’s church do not relate peacefully with other members. It is like we are at war. Fellowship attendance has dropped drastically and many students now don’t show up for C.U programs.”

M

We are very thankful to all those who serve with FOCUS in different capacities and those who give of their resources to make what we do possible. We remain thankful to God who is at work among us. Again, thank you for your support.

Until next time;
FOCUS Communications