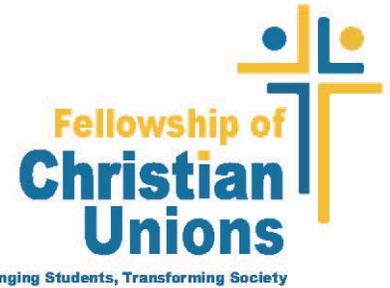


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APRIL 2017

Welcome to our April News Edition with highlights of the month.

News Briefs

Reaching Karamoja Sub-Region: The Karamoja sub-region in Northern Uganda has 3 Institutions that do not have Christian Unions (CUs). Transport to this area is limited and it took three days from Lira town to reach the three Colleges each located in a different District i.e. Abim Technical Institute in Abim, Kotido Technical Institute in Kotido and Kaabong Technical Institute in Kaabong. There are limited accommodation facilities in the area here therefore having Associates open up their homes to staff was an invaluable blessing more so because they live far from the schools and have prayed long and earnestly that student work would extend to this region. Our special thanks go to Dr. Calvin Eretu in Kotido and Mrs. Aati Elizabeth in Kaabong for their generosity and hospitality. The Christian students on the campuses are so excited at the opportunity to have fellowships started in their colleges and the ground work for this to happen has already started. Please pray for workers in this part of the country and for a harvest of souls.

Missions training conferences: 186 students attended the Missions training conference at Kabale University where 27 of them got born again. 141 students attended the Missions training conference at African College of Commerce and Technology and 17 students got born again. The two conferences happened on 7-9th April at their respective campuses. The chaplaincies of National Teacher's College (NTC) and Kabale Institute of Health Sciences (KIHS) also held a missions training conferences on the same weekend. The conference was attended by 113 students and 23 of them got born again and was held at KIHS.

Bible conference: 20 CU leaders from Lira and 60 CU leaders from around Gulu had a one day Bible seminar on how to study scripture. The training was held at Gulu University with Facilitators from Living Word on 22nd April 2017.

Leadership changes: FOCUS saw off old leadership as leadership transitions happened in many CUs across the country as the Academic year comes to an end. Training for some of the new leaders has started but most will be done next semester.

Associates: We remain very thankful to the teams of Associates in Jinja, Mbarara, Kabale, Mbale and Kampala who continue to play a key role in either directly participating in discipling students or financially supporting the work faithfully each month. We can't do this without you all.

Training on Missions



Student ministry mostly happens on the campus and it is here that we want to see transformation and lives shaped by the gospel. It remains the work of FOCUS to train students for Ministry to students and to involve graduates (Associates) of these institutions for the same purpose. In a bid to do that we have this month arranged a number of missions training conferences.

Mbarara

From 1st-2nd April, 174 students from 14 institutions around Mbarara and 1 institution from Kabale attended the missions training conference at Global College of Business Studies-Mbarara. More than 40 students were commissioned to go and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in their institutions and beyond.

Taremwa Joshua the chairperson Nyamitanga Technical Institute CU said, *“I used to think that I am not worthy to be sent by God. I thought that I was not good enough to preach the gospel. I want to thank God that I came for this conference. By the time this conference ended, I was convinced that I too can preach to other people and win them to Christ”.*

“Bible Study helped me to understand that salvation is by faith not works. I was bought up knowing that when you behave well towards people, you are righteous with God. But from the Bible study, I learnt that salvation is only through faith in Christ Jesus. I have learnt that as I do missionary work, there is my responsibility and God’s responsibility. I am therefore deciding to start looking up to God and begin speaking to God as an individual.”



Students in Mbarara pray that God will guide them to share the gospel with others

Mbale

The 2017 Eastern Regional Missions’ Conference was a two day program held on the 14th and 15th April at Mbale School of Hygiene, for 219 students. The conference attracted students from 10 CUs.

The conference started with a session of hearty Praise and Worship from the students and opening remarks from the Training Secretary and the Patron of School of Hygiene CU. Most of the participants were from schools in the Mbale area, Kumi and Soroti.

Kampala

The Greater Kampala Area conference happened from 13-16th April at the FOCUS Training and camping center in Gerenge. It attracted 210 students from 7 Campuses.

Some of the impact stories

Peter

"I am a student of Ndejje University. I have been born again for six months. Sometime back I had offered myself to serve Jesus without enough knowledge. I had the following issues;

- *I had filled myself with wrong doctrine from television*
- *I had no Bible but rather a smart phone copy*
- *I thought that Christianity only stops in church and only among the believers but now I know better*
- *I thought that I was always right and my listening skills were very low.*

What I have learned from this Easter camp;

- *Read your Bible and pray every day helps to keep a solid Christian.*
 - *Mission is me not someone else. I have a role to play as a disciple of Jesus Christ.*
 - *I have learnt the basic principles of Christianity and not spiritualizing everything in life.*
- Special thanks to the, FOCUS team and the food support staff.*

Pr. Peter Oyugi: "that man of God is well rooted and I give part of my thanks and love to him. He has shaped my understanding of Christianity. May God open more doors for you."

Agatha.

"I want to thank God for FOCUS, which has made me who I am today. I have been a leader and I now love leading. I bless the Lord for Pr. Peter Oyugi. He taught me how to sing good songs that have meaning, how to be humble because the ministry we are in is for God so one should own it but pass on the ball. I also loved Samuel Opolot, because he has taught



Students listening with rapt attention in the Mbale conference



me how to know what it means by healing people and how to do evangelism, not just telling the lame that I want to lay hands on them but teaching the word and letting God to take control"

"Pr. Julius Twongyeirwe taught me that there are many people who are suffering in the nations so we should not fight in churches around the city but go deep to suffering places"

Pr. Norman Acedri taught me how to talk to Muslims and love them. I thank God for all the FOCUS Team. God bless you for leading us. Your ministry to the Lord is not in vain. I will live to serve the Lord. "

Rodgers

"This camp has put a burden on my heart to speak to all who are around me about Christ. I have learnt that God had a reason why He put me where I am and it is to bring all those people to Christ. The camp has challenged me to love Christ so that I look not only at my life but also to the life of my neighbors. This causes us to search out for the needing areas where we have to take Christ.

I have learnt that there are many ethnic groups that have not had an opportunity to know the gospel yet our church is being taken up by money and only preaching prosperity messages. I have learned that there is a very big gap in the world needing the gospel and we should lay strategies on how to take mission to such areas even at campus and we need not to repeat the same things each day and expect different results and also we can touch needs of the society in order to reach out to them and also missions and discipleship should be taken to personal basis such that we ensure quality and affirmation of people who came to Christ such that we don't stop at making converts but we go on and make disciples as Christ said.

I request that this opportunity is extended to very many students because I feel all students need this, I wish we can make it on individual campuses to be like mission week."

Hope

"The Bible exposition by Pr. PETER OYUGI of the book of Acts basically centering around the life of Paul just presented so many things that I have so many times over looked. I have spent so much time blaming Satan for some things that I have caused to befall on me; or some challenges that were meant to strengthen me, I deliberately allowed them to put me down and thinking that maybe God is not concerned about me.

So much is going on around us but we tend to close our eyes to them thinking that God has called us to far places. Mission starts right where I am in my room, my class, my non- believing friends and all people that I interact with. Before I start devising means of addressing the supposedly spiritual needs of others; why not consider their physical distress that could be hindering them from taking up the gospel message?

Most of the problems and experiences in today's church are because we lack knowledge of the role of discipleship. Things just happen by chance and it is wrong. If we adopt discipleship, many of our challenges will be sorted; it will be easier to study and share God's word, equipping each one of us to be a missionary to fulfill God's mission.

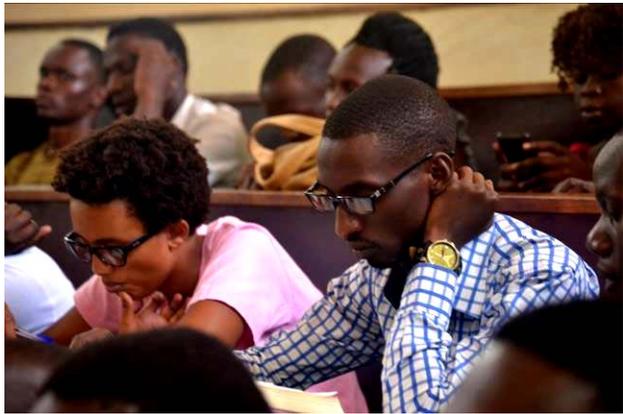
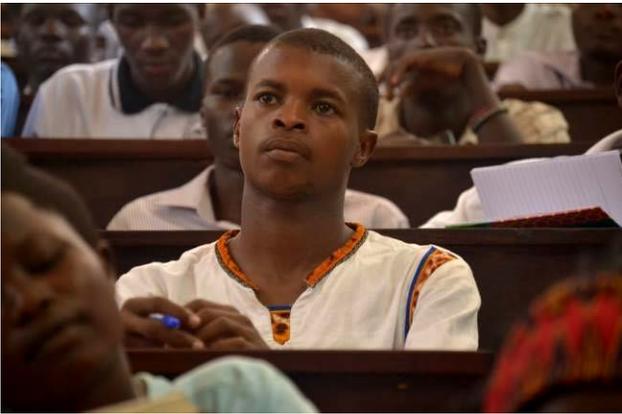
Partnership is important in fulfilling God's mission, bringing others to Christ among many other things. I have always asked myself on and on what in the world am I living for? Now I know. God has a reason for why things have happened the way they have. I just have to awaken and see things through God's eyes, work at my profession as a psychologist for him. Understand and know my position and stand it, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide me through it all

THANK YOU FOCUS God richly Bless you"

MBALE CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Sessions of Praise and Worship were followed with intense Prayer



Students engrossed during the teaching Sessions



The Sessions were lively and interactive enhancing students' participation

Until next time;
FOCUS Communications
0788582852