



Changing Students, Transforming Society

JUNE 2017

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

## JINJA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

On 2-4 June, 77 student leaders of the Christian Union (CU) Fellowships in 9 Institutions in Jinja converged at Youth with a Mission (YWAM) camping and Training Center in Wairaka for a Leaders training conference. Associates in the Jinja Area were instrumental in the running of this conference.

The students were taught about the same issues that their counterparts in other Institutions struggle with ie servant leadership, the need to plan and budget well for CU activities, balancing CU work and Academics, Resource mobilization, having effective bible study, managing Relationships and sexual purity and dealing with cults. The students shared many testimonies of how very helpful they found the training to be. It was noted that students need a lot of training to help them become more effective in their roles as leaders.

## LIRA MISSIONS CONFERENCE

On 23-25 June, 150 students from – CU's in Lira met for their Annual Missions training conference at All Nation's Christian Care Hall.

Apio Rachael a student of Uganda Christian Institute for Professional Development shared: "Before attending this conference, I thought one had to have a senior position in the CU or church and had to have a lot of Bible knowledge to be involved in any kind of mission outreach. I never dared to share the gospel with anyone particularly Muslims. My hope was that one day God would visit the Muslims especially and they would become followers of Christ without any intervention from me.

It never occurred to me that one can talk about scripture with people who are not believers. I also had never been taught about the need and ways to do missions particularly from scripture. I have attended conferences before but emphasis was not put on studying the word of God but in a demonstration of miracles. After attending this conference, I now know that with God's help I too can share the gospel with others. I am motivated to learn more about what the Bible teaches so that I can share it with others. My goal is to start with one person and tell them about how much God loves them."



Students attending sessions at the Lira conference and in small group bible study

## MISSION TO NAMUTUMBA

From 4-9 June, 12 members (4 from Western Springs Baptist Church in USA, 2 FOCUS staff, and 6 students from different Campuses in Uganda) went to Namutumba district, Ivukula Sub County, Nangonde parish and Buwalira village, for a mission trip. The mission was hosted by Destiny Church Buwalira, which is pastored by Pastors Vincent and Eliot. Other Churches in the area were also involved in the mission.

No one ever knows quite what to expect when they go for a mission trip. The trip to Namutumba was not so long but involved meeting new people, new places and experiences. For some it was hard waking up so early every day and traveling long distances daily.

It is not easy adjusting to the conditions and poverty but surprisingly one does and adapts. It is hard to see some of the poor schools that the children attend and not everyone was pleased to interact with the team.

Every day was completely filled up with traveling, learning and serving. The first day was spent with church leaders learning about how to effectively study scripture and have quiet time so that believers are helped to grow. The next three days were spent visiting and sharing the gospel in 31 schools where a total of 4100 students and 75 Teachers received Christ in their lives. On the fourth day, the team visited a Prison and a hospital. 50 Inmates were visited in Kayiiti prison and when the gospel was shared, 34 received Christ in their lives. The team took and distributed a bar of soap to each prisoner and learned that many of the prisoners had not washed their clothes in over a month because they had no soap. In hospital, the team was divided into smaller groups of 3-4, to visit different wards in the community hospital, everyone was given a kilo of sugar and the people were so thankful. The small teams got to pray for the sick as well as share the gospel with them and 25 received Christ in their lives.

It was great working and interacting with the communities. When the gospel was shared in homes and with people in their work places, 200 received Christ. On one afternoon, a football match was arranged where members of the Mission team and some of the host church youth played against the Youth Area team and were beaten 1:0. After the game, the word was shared and 70 came to the Lord.

On mission you get a chance to think about Jesus and how His heart must be broken for people everywhere. Many people have never heard the chance of knowing about Jesus and His love for them. Many live in despair and darkness seems to surround their hearts and minds.

Being on mission makes one rely completely on God's strength to make it through each day, and with that dependency came the realization of how powerful and real God truly is.

During the trip, some on the team connected more with either a team member, a person in the host church, one of the people they shared the gospel with... and got to experience the value of one. One person, one smile, one life touched, one hug that showed love to someone who had forgotten love existed. True, one remembers the poor schools and the sick—but it was different. God wants us to look at the world as He does, and He sees more than just crowds of poor, dying people. Those people have faces, those faces have names and those names have souls. A difference was made in one life and that made a difference in theirs. Two of the team members had this to say about the mission:

*"The trip to Uganda was an amazing blessing and experience for me. I honestly had no idea what to expect, but God is faithful. Through His provision, I was grateful that no one was sick and that we were able to have such a positive impact on the community. I truly believe that we left more people who are hungry for God's grace and wisdom, but the work is not yet done. Please pray that education and counseling will be provided for the people of the villages and that we can continue to reach out to them. Thank you for the opportunity to go as it has blessed me as much as we were able to bless them."* Said Peter

*"This trip changed my perspective on the presence of God. The Lord works miracles and the Holy Spirit is moving. When you focus on spending a week in prayer, the word, and following God's will, the power of God shows up. As a team we prayed big prayers. We prayed for salvation of students, teachers, prisoners, soccer players, and patients at the hospital. The Lord showed up and many came into the kingdom of God. We prayed for the Holy Spirit to pour out all over us and give us words. The Holy Spirit showed up. We prayed for a baby to be delivered at the hospital because the mother was too weak to push the baby out. The power of God helped her and the baby was born while the team was there. God answered our big prayers and I saw the presence of God in a way that I have never seen before!"* Kaitlyn

Thank you for the prayers and finances which made it possible for the opportunity to see and do what was done.

### *Scenes from the mission in Namutumba*





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