



MARCH 2017

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

CARING FOR COMMUNITY

130 students from 9 Institutions in Mbarara in conjunction with Kakoba Division offices in Mbarara Municipality participated in a city cleanup project on 4th March at different sections of the Town. The Division offices provided the truck, spades and wheel barrows to collect the garbage while Companies like DFCU and Coca-Cola along with some Associates provided the other logistics making the exercise a success.

One of the objectives of FOCUS is *Mission and Social Action* which seeks to teach students in CUs service. Taking part in a service project to help others can be a life-changing event. It enables us to experience what it means to help people not because we want to be “nice,” or because we expect to “get something back in return,” but because of a genuine connection we feel to others as God’s children.

Why a city Clean up? The city needs help from its constitutes and according to James Turyamureeba the Principal Assistant Town Clerk in Kakoba Division Mbarara Municipality, garbage collection takes the largest expenditure on their budget and the cost remains on the increase. According to him, this is because the citizens have become more irresponsible thinking that the government will do the cleaning of the town. A result of having a dirty town has been an increase in diseases and a strain on resource allocation to the city and drug purchase for hospitals.



Being a part of the cleanup exercise allowed students to demonstrate good neighborliness; develop relationships with the companies that supported their effort and the activity helped keep the public place clean and safe for everyone.

After the exercise, the Kakoba Division leadership appreciated the students for their efforts. The Mbarara Health Inspector said, *“You have collected a lot of garbage which would have taken us a long time and a lot of money to collect. Thank you so much”*

From that incident, Bishop Stuart University CU leadership mobilized donations of books and pens for the school next door to the University campus. On 6th March, members of the CU donated pens and books to 117 pupils of Primary 6 and 7 of Bishop Stuart Demonstration Primary School. The Head Prefect of the school thanked the CU members for what they did. In his speech he said, *“I did not have an extra book for my revision and homework. I would write at the back of my science book but now since I have received this book, I will use it to do my revision. Thank you so much.”*

LIRA FINALISTS CONFERENCE

To prepare students for the transition from being student to graduate, a number of conferences will be organized to address some of the expectations and issues faced in life after campus. Much as a one day conference does not address all the joys and trials that graduation brings, at least it provides an opportunity for preparation and networking.

On 25th March, 131 final year students from 13 institutions converged at Uganda Christian Institute School of Nursing and Midwifery Gweng-abara in Lira for a Finalists’ conference. Peter Okello Epila the deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Amolatar District Local Government talked about the transition of students into Associates’ life; Alenga B.Koma an accountant at Human Technical colleges Lira handled the subject on work opportunities and challenges; the Rev Dr. Richard Ego shared about Singleness and purity. Among those that shared about their involvement with FOCUS as students first and now Associates was Rev Richard Milton Ochola the chaplain at Canon Lawrence PTC Boroboro who has been a FOCUS Associate for 40 years.

CU LEADERS TRAINING IN KABALE

On Saturday 18th March, 187 student leaders of the Christian Union (CU) Fellowships in 12 Institutions in Kabale converged at Uganda College of Commerce (UCC) for a day long Leaders training conference.

Paul Rubarema the Patron of the CU fellowship at UCC talked about the importance of leadership training in his opening session and he also committed the time of learning in God’s hands.

Robert Katebareirwe, a long time FOCUS Associate, who is passionate about student ministry and is currently the Head Teacher of Nyaruhanga Secondary School spoke about “Servant Leadership”. This greatly spoken about but rarely modeled concept in leadership was discussed in-depth. It admittedly needs human qualities we do not see every day and demands and expression of integrity, selflessness and dedication on a daily basis in order to exhibit authentic servant leadership.

Florence Bamwerinde another long time FOCUS Associate who is a Teacher and very involved in student work spoke about “Relationships and the sexual life of a leader”.

Sight Orishaba who was once a staff worker in the Kabale Area and now works with Muhabura Diocese in the Children’s Program talked about how to ‘Balance Academics with CU work.”

The goal of the leadership conference was to equip student leaders with skills and knowledge about the fundamentals of leadership so that Christian Unions are run more effectively.

“We are happy to meet here with students from sister schools. It gives us an opportunity to interact and learn from each other.” remarked Atukunzire Catherine - the Prayer Secretary at African College of Commerce and Technology

“FOCUS conferences are special. Students from different walks of life and denominations meet and learn together. This practice enhances unity.” commented Ninsiima Grace who is a member of the chapel committee at Rugarama School of Nursing

“This conference has increased my understanding on relationships and servant hood.” said Tumusiime Jonah- the bible study leader at Shalom Fashioners Training Institute.

Nambaje Hope a student at Kabale Early Childhood education said, *“I wish such conferences were weekly. We have learnt much today and are refreshed. The topic on ‘Balancing ministry activities and Academics’ was a key area to address.”*

MISSIONS

Students remained active in evangelistic outreaches. At the beginning of March, two mission teams from Makerere University CU went out for missions in different places. One group went to Mpigi - Mitala-Maria; while another went to Mbarara. They preached in homes, on streets, at crusade grounds and in churches. 250 people gave their lives to Christ.



Makerere CU students on Mission

From 12th -19th March, Kyambogo University CU in partnership with St Kakumba chapel had outreach to their community where 400 people gave their lives to Christ. One of the exciting things about this mission was the increase in participation of CU members to over 150 this time while in the past it was usually 80 or less.



Mission scenes at Kyambogo University

OTHER NEWS BRIEFS

- On 11th March at Jinja School of Nursing and Midwifery, 80 students had an opportunity to have their questions answered on the issues of relationships, sex, marriage and love. Through their CU chairman, questions were submitted to the Area Training Secretary Daphine Nayebare for answers. Pastor John Molenzi a youth pastor and Teacher of Theology at ATKAM Theology School joined Daphine in answering the said questions.
- The FOCUS AGM was held on 26th March at the National office where Arthur Kezala who has faithfully served as Treasurer since 2012 was replaced by Marina Baganizi.
- With help of a books donation from All Soul's church in London, 8 University and College CU libraries received bible study materials to help with their student discipleship.

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