



# Youthworx East Africa News Letter

[www.youthworx-ea.org.uk](http://www.youthworx-ea.org.uk)

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## Three forgotten gifts

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I was reading through Luke 16:1-13 today and I was reminded of three gifts in the Christian community that are definitely fading and no longer considered as gifts at all. The gift of helps is one of these. The Greek meaning of the word is "to take instead of," that is, taking on another's load yourself. This is exactly what Christ meant when he talked of true love. Laying your life for another, bearing each other's burdens, that's what true love for ones neighbor is all about. 1 Corinthians 14:12 encourages us to make greater use of those gifts that help build up the church. The more we are reminded of the basic truth that it is "more blessed to give than to receive", the more we will keep growing the church and our own ministry.

Likewise, the gift of mercy focuses on the needs of others though with an added dimension of actually doing something about these needs if you have the means to or are in position to. It goes passed being sympathetic to being empathetic. Mathew 25:31-46 offers a clear picture on how this works. Jesus clearly states in verse 40 that whatever acts of mercy you render to the least important or deserving, you render unto him. Emotional support may be what is required, however, a lot of times as the verses indicate; it will be material support that will be needed.

Last but definitely not least is the gift of giving. This gift not only refers to give tithe and offering but also providing for the financial and material needs of the church as a whole. While the gifts of service and helps deal more with giving self, the gift of giving clearly refers to giving material or financial support. Romans 12:8 goes further to specify the attitude we ought to have as we exercise this gift. It thus shows that God always has a higher standard for us. Just giving is not enough, generously giving is His expectation. Jesus mentions that we should give without expecting reward and with humility, lest we get our reward on earth. He clearly looks at our heart and intentions, that's why He considered the poor widow who gave a button a bigger giver than the rich Pharisee.

As we are going by our daily routines and work, my prayer this month is that we remember some of these gifts and their importance among us. Let us try to remember how best we can use them better to further the cause of Christ and to push our ministry forward. Amen

## This month's Notes:

1. YEA with the help of Vessels Of Worship (VOW), an affiliate choir and partner put up a three day worship training in Iganga. We put up the training at First Baptist Church after the invitation from Richard Ssemiti, a long standing partner of ours. The youth choir of the church needed training in contemporary worship and an exposition into the whole notion of worship. Our plan and desire is that we hold at least two more of the same in August and December for better results. The team was well hosted by the church with the support of the parented Compassion International project. More work is definitely arising in this area as the project has already booked us to speak at a cluster meeting that brings together over 20 projects on the 19th of July.



Left: VOW's Price Kwagala (right) during the worship training session. Right: Some of the participants in the training.

2. Ian and I went to Hoima to witness Godfrey Buru's Canonisation and Innocent's graduation from the theological college. Godfrey has been a long-time friend of YEA and the former Diocesan Secretary of the Hoima Diocese. Innocent on the other hand served for a while as the Diocesan Youth worker and helped organise a good number of YEA mission trips. We had a good experience and meal with the friends and used the opportunity to mark out dates with Nathan, the current youth worker for the next youth worker trainings in the area.
3. We also visited the team from Masindi where we planned with Henry the next mission trips in the area. We will be holding a series in the late August holidays period. We talked with Ronnie, another youth worker responsible for the team of youth that we hosted in May. As the Diocesan Bible Study coordinator, we looked at ways in which we can support each other's work. We decided it best to hold a training workshop in August geared at training the Bible study leaders from thy leaders' diocese itself.
4. The manual is in its last stages of compilation and the work with KIC is all going on perfectly at the moment. Eugene is also brushing up the final copy of a short film about YEA work and Discipleship.