

Youthworx East Africa News Letter

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Please take some time to read Joshua 3 & 4 with me. I am preaching on these chapters next week and have felt very challenged by it. In simple terms: Make sure you are ready, take huge faith steps, and don't forget how God brings you through.

Are we in tune with the Holy Spirit? Are we watching for Gods next direction, focused on Him and not our own "good ideas".

When the time comes to step forward in faith, are we willing to take big ones. The priests did not wait for the waters to part, they stepped right in with the most valuable and important religious relic of the time, the ark of the covenant and dwelling place of Gods glory..... in to the river in flood..... with the whole nation of Israel following, children, women, livestock. GOD CAME THROUGH FOR THEM.

Then do we forget? Well yes we often do, but Joshua set up a memorial, lest time takes away the memory of Gods awesome power.

My prayer is to be like Joshua, and as pastor to the YEA team, that I am able to take them with me. To be closer in step with the Holy Spirit, prepared to take major steps of faith, and ensure we never forget His power. Please pray I match up to this challenge.

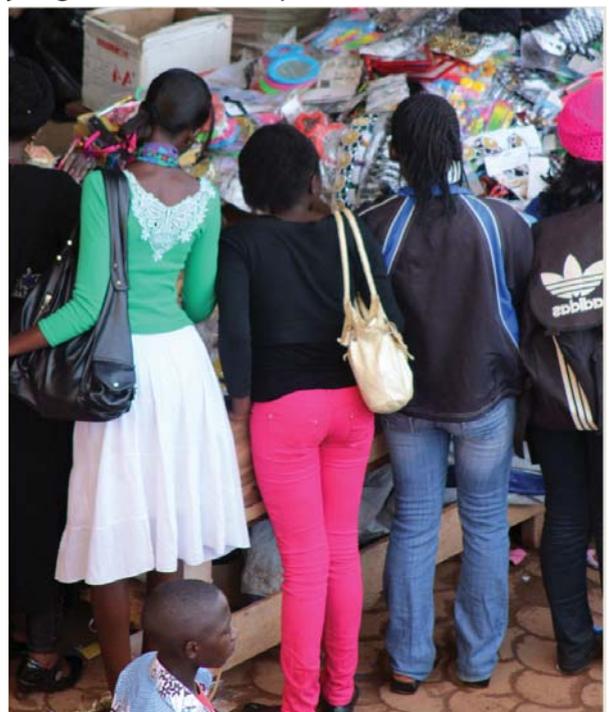
I am finding my focus and concern at present is on the disconnect between the rapidly changing youth culture in Kampala and the way in which youth ministry is run.



Often attention is put on condemning the peripheral issues of fashion, nightlife, habits and failing to show compassion and understanding.

Collin and Eugene are heading off to Nairobi in a few days to join the NAYNET youth leaders conference. This is timely as youth ministry in Nairobi is well ahead in its thinking to Kampala and I am sure they will be challenged by this event.

On the whole churches have an "in house" mentality that caters well for the good kids but fails to reach the rest. Many youth feel judged and unacceptable to the church.



In the meantime I am putting together a forum for our own network to sit down for a day and discuss these issues and map out the right way forward for a more compassionate and relevant way of connecting with contemporary urban youth here in Uganda.



Please pray with us as we consider Prosper's replacement as he gets ready to head to Germany for his Masters. For now we do not want to recruit as all our team members have come relationally. We have some good casual volunteers available and we are praying for guidance as to the right person/people to fill the gap in our work up country.

We are also looking at the best way to encourage volunteers from outside of Uganda to join the team. Again, this needs to be the right person, not just available.

We hope soon to begin income generation through video editing and production of short videos for NGO's and church groups etc. Eugene is to head this up with the initial aim to produce his own salary then to expand to develop an income source for YEA that is sustainable. He is looking and praying for a suitable apprentice to work with. We would love to become job creators as this new idea takes off.

September and October are deliberately quieter from the point of view of up country training and youth conferences. The past 3 months have been especially busy and have taken their toll on all the team. We want to use this time to get back on track personally and as an organization before the November to February period which is always packed.

Thank you for taking the time to read about us and pray for us.
God bless
Ian.