



Youthworx East Africa News Letter

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October | 2012

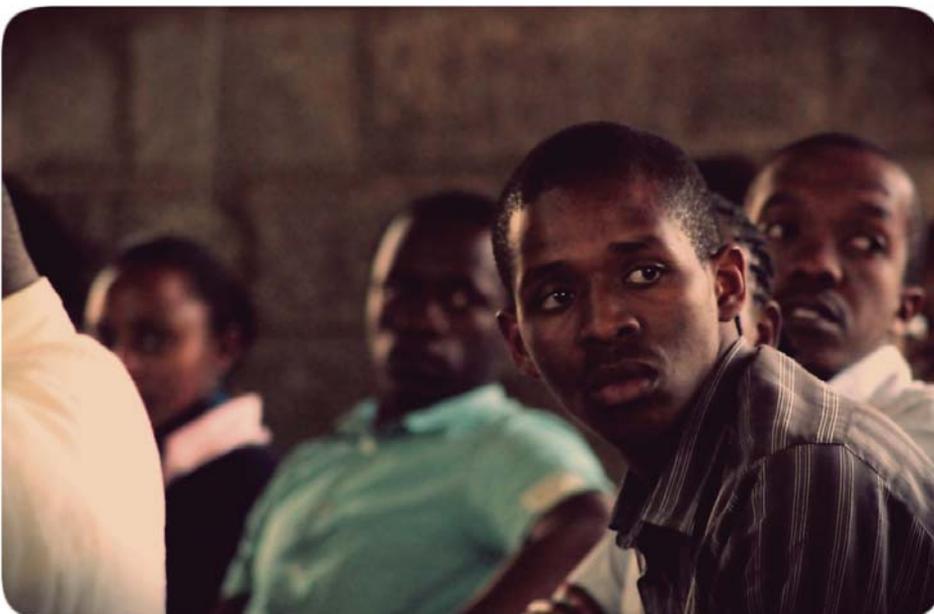
Elijah's phone beeped and showed a text message. The number was unfamiliar, but that didn't really matter, he was kind of exhausted and felt really sorry for the guy at the morgue who was about to have an influx of over 450 bodies from Kishon Valley. He was tired and excited, and amazed too. Not that he didn't believe that HE would do it, but being a witness to such magnificence was overwhelming man! He sat up from the bed he was lying on, still taking it all in, and picked the phone from the sideboard and clicked "read"

"May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."

The next thing he did was run. Run as fast and as far as he could go. He quickly grabbed his trousers and called to his servant and they set off through the back streets of Jezreel darting past beggars and vendors, Elijah ran until he could run no more. He found a tree at the end of the city park and sat down. Suddenly, he could feel his whole life flashing before him. So it's true what they say about dying people. Then he started having suicidal thoughts, asking for his life to be taken.

The mighty prophet reduced to a desperate fugitive.

Such is the length of time that our awareness of Gods goodness lasts. But He never tires, never sleeps, never slumbers. Sometimes in our work as youth workers we have periods of doubt, of despair, of being misunderstood or even under appreciated. And in those times, I like to read the amazing work of God among the doubtful; Elijah and Gideon (among others). This especially came into focus last month when I spent some time in Nairobi, Kenya with the NAYNET fellowship (Nairobi Area Youth worker Network).



I am sure that along the way, as the group developed from about four friends meeting to pray, to over 300 members who come together once a month to brainstorm ideas on how to keep going in youth ministry. It seems this has been a favorite topic and the conference was focused around this theme. One of the most highlighted coping mechanisms was reviewing what God has done in your ministry and realising that it is truly all about God and His work; and as long as that is kept at the forefront, then we

never need to run off when we meet obstacles that we can't explain or handle. Our default reaction should never be fight or flight but rather faith. I once read a book that said

"A tree must remain rooted in something greater than and other than itself if it is to grow and prosper"

As a christian, I have learnt to trust in a God greater than all and above all. And I pray everyday that if ever I meet with a situation such as Elijah, my response will be similar to that in Daniel 3:16-18

Be ye blessed to be a Blessing.

Eugene

Prayer Requests.

For the Youth worker networks in Kampala, Dar es Salaam and Bujumbura to continue to develop and have the impact of Naynet.

Upcoming "Engage" day in Kampala to discuss contemporary Ugandan youth culture and how as youth workers we should handle this cultural shift. This event is being organized by YEA as part of our own network group.

For Ian and Eugene as they lead the KIC youth hiking camp in Fort Portal next week.

For all of us on the team to keep in mind what God has done through YEA and move forward with confidence and faith in the work He wants us to do.

