



Youthworx East Africa News Letter

www.youthworx-ea.org.uk

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I find myself writing for March and yet I feel like Christmas was yesterday!! This year is going too fast and it is now just a short time till I come over to Europe in early June. It will be great to see many of you in this time. I hope in April news to include a rough itinerary of where I will be when so we can begin to plan how to link up.

Several people have commented that I keep mentioning clinics and they need more explanation. We have not started medical work all of a sudden. We are using this as an analogy.

The clinic diagnoses any sickness or disease in the Youth Ministry.

The Training is the treatment

The resources are the ongoing medication needed for the Youth Ministry to remain healthy.

So what happens during a clinic?

Most of our partners are up country, often quite deep in the villages of Uganda. We travel to these places and arrange to spend a few hours with the key youth workers in the area. Initially we discuss the demographics of the youth in the area. Who are they, what are they doing, what issues affect them? Then we look at who is working with them, is this effective, what local partnerships are developing?



All this begins to give us an indication of where we can help and who we should be working with. Next we discuss specific challenges the youth workers are facing in the local area. Often this becomes a lengthy discussion and a lot of advice is given how to be more effective, how to develop a better team etc. Finally we talk about training needs and begin to plan where and how we can do training workshops in the area.

So what are we finding out as we travel?

- Many church leaders are still judgmental and unwelcoming to youth. They find the church irrelevant to them and often outdated. The programs run for them are very often missing the mark and not meeting their needs as youth. Discipleship is still very limited in most places and young people

do not feel they have someone walking alongside them and being a mentor to them

- A very high % of young people are out of work. There is a desperate need for jobs and small business start-up. Also any input into entrepreneurship training would be valuable. Many young people have no effective means to sustain themselves.
- Resources for youth activities are almost non-existent. In many areas there is not even a football pitch and ball. Up country youth Pastors are concerned that youth end up in local bars in search of any form of entertainment as they have no alternative place to hang out.



- Drug and alcohol abuse is on the rise in young people. This is especially the case in Kampala.
- Many young people hop from church to church in search of social life and the next event or conference but they do not put down roots anywhere. This makes effective discipleship difficult for the youth workers.
- Health, wealth and prosperity gospel is quite widespread and appeals to the youth as it looks from a distance like an easy step out of poverty.

Please pray with us how we can best impact these very real needs among our partners and maximize the use of our resources over such a big area.

Other prayer points:

- Please pray for peace in Kenya after the recent elections.
- Leadership of KIC as they consider the way forward for the youth ministry. Wisdom about how and who should lead the youth into the future.
- Pray that we are able to continue our move towards local financial sustainability.
- That for each of us working on the YEA team, that our personal walk will be an example to the young people we meet and disciple.

I look forward to chatting again in April. May God bless you as you pray for us.

Ian and the YEA team.