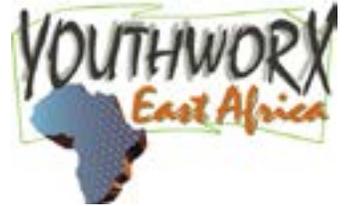


YOUTHWORX EAST AFRICA NEWSLETTER



The last few weeks have been characterised by team members taking long journeys (thats not really new though) A few weeks ago, Christoph Westercamp was here with us again. Today he shares with us his experience of the Kisoro trip that he took with Colin and King. And I will share with you the story of Obwapus Peter from Serere in Eastern Uganda. Eugene



At 7am Collin, King and I took the Post Bus to travel to Kisoro, a town in the hills near the border of Congo and Rwanda. Travelling along with us are passengers, post and five long boxes with squeaking chicken. After a 12 hour drive through beautiful landscape and on roads with countless turns we arrived in the town. We then met up with Richard, a YEA partner responsible for this region.

Richard had also organized the conference we are here for. As we walk down the road to see the church a small boy catches up with us, Robert.

Robert is one of the youthleaders attending the conference which was organised to equip the leaders from churches from around this area. Robert is only 13 years old but is responsible for the door to door evangelism of his church. I'm amazed that this young boy has responsibilities like this at his age.

This is very different from Europe, where churches try to please young people in every way to keep them involved.

During the three days we are there, we talked about different subjects like worship, leadership, knowing Jesus and the Holy Spirit, with the 25 youth who are there. Most of them between the age of 16 and 20.

All of them had their first time around the campfire,

we played wild and funny games and had good deep talks and time to pray for each other.

Its great to encourage and enrich youth like this, who all travel back to their homes with new motivation, new ideas, and new friends to stay in touch with.

Christoph

"I was born in Soroti town in 1990 I think. Am not really sure because my parents do not have a specific date. Over the years I have found myself in leadership positions and was never really sure that what I was doing WAS leadership.

I always thought people were just lazy and so would send most of their responsibilities down to me. It was when I joined high school at Teso Collage, Aloet that I started to understand that what I was doing was leading.

Unfortunately I led a strike or two as well and never got the chance to complete my high school. My father was very furious and decided that he wouldnt be wasting any money on me anymore. I was okay with that, didnt think school was for me-then. I do have a different opinion now. Life is boring nowadays.

Since I now had a lot of time on my hands, I started playing a lot of football back in the village. The football pitch is next to a church and sometimes they have free food so I played near the church a lot.

But around early this year, a group of people started visiting St. Francis regularly and would play some interesting games (One time, they used tomatoes!).

Two of them sounded like they came from Kampala and you know those Kampala people can be show-offs.

But these ones were not. During one of the games sessions, I kept being picked on by my friends to lead the team. Which I did. Our team didn't win anything but we tried.

Later on I was approached by Kavuma (Eugene). He wanted to know who I was and where I studied. So I told him my story. He said he would put it in a newspaper or something like that. I am waiting to see it next time he comes back here in Serere."

Peter is now one of the 15 young people that I meet with in Amuria. He doesnt go to school but is as intelligent as they come.

There is a lot of leadership potential here and I must say I am very excited about what is going to come out of him over the next few years. For some, the Christian principals are news (the good kind of news) And this is what brings joy to my heart when serving these young people. We truly are investing in young

Eugene



Soroti Town. photo credit sseki2010