



Youthworx East Africa News Letter

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The un-forgiven Prodigal Daughter

We meet many young people in the course of our work. Sometimes their stories teach us lessons as we look for how we can help rebuild broken lives. Prosper writes:

Jessica sat on her bed that cold Friday morning and could not stop crying. She fell to her knees and moaned "Oh my God, Have you forsaken me too?"

A year earlier, after an argument with her parents, Jessica had quit school just before she sat her Senior 6 exams and run from home. Jessica's family was quite wealthy and all her siblings had gone through school already. But with all the sacrifices and hardships her family had gone through, Jessica had never felt accepted.

Therefore she did not think twice when she was offered the promise of all the fancy things and luxuries in life by a motorcycle taxi rider from the next town. Soon he was asking her to move in with her and with little to lose, she had run away with him to her parents' disapproval.



Tears kept rolling down her cheeks as she remembered all the mistakes she had made along the way. It hadn't been long before her boyfriend started bringing other women home and sooner than later she was replaced. With the little money she had on her, she had moved into a room in an old woman's house. The thought of the comfort of her parents home drove her crazy day by day.

A month back, Jessica had gone to a clinic for an HIV test after constant sickness. She had been given the sad news, she was HIV positive. With no friends and no one to turn to, Jessica had decided to call her parents and share her fateful news. Coming from a Christian family, Jessica had hoped for a

better reception of her news.

That Friday morning, Jessica's weak body shook uncontrollably as she heard her father's voice and words. He walked in without a Bible in his hands as he always did but something that she had least anticipated. She turned and looked to her right where the coffin was placed as she heard her father's towering voice saying, "My daughter, the wages of sin is death. There are your wages."

As we seek for His grace and forgiveness, is there someone we need to forgive first?

Matthew 6: 12 "and forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us 14-15 "if you forgive those who have sinned against you, your Heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Sadly in many of the churches we work with you will find an unforgiving attitude. As we train youth workers we always need to emphasize Gods grace, love and forgiveness and help them respond to the youth in their care with compassion.



Prayer points:

Much upcountry work has been postponed to later in the year. This poses a future problem of being over booked. With the current team size, we may end up spreading ourselves thin later in the year. May God guide us during this period.

As the school year winds up, this is a good time to spot potential volunteers as some will finish high school. We pray that God would bring the right people to us and that our eyes would be open. Max, KIC has already shown interest in our work and may be available for 6 months.

The cost of living in Uganda has increased alarmingly in the past 6 months. Without an increase in income, life and work can get difficult. On a positive side, it's been a blessing in disguise that the pound rate in comparison to the shilling is high. Please pray for provision and economic stability in the country.

We pray for Guidance as we think of the 'where/when/how of re-locating the camp site and building a youth workers' training centre.

For the general day to day on-going work, we ask for provision, strength and direction as we enter a new season.

Ian is now back in Uganda and in good health after falling sick in UK. Pray for good health for all the team as this rainy season can bring various health issues in Uganda.

We have our first load of 80 bibles to give to young people who need them and funds are still coming in for more. Thank you to all who have been part of this and pray for on going donations so that we can keep on re-stocking.

May we all experience the power of His spirit in our lives.

Amen.