



Youthworx East Africa News Letter

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Water, Electricity, Potholes and Politics.....



We have way too little of the first two and way too much of the second two!

James tells us that we should “consider it joy” when we face trials of many kinds as they will help us develop perseverance leading to maturity.

Hmm! This is a tough one. Especially when the ‘trials’ become normal life, day by day, week into month and so on.

But then when you look a bit further on at James 1:12 you realise that this is what he is talking about. On going trials that we have to persevere through, that stand as a test. He is not talking about the one off crisis. James is recognising here that life can be tough, it can drag you down, it can feel like running through quick sand. I guess I get a witness here from most of you?

And he is not saying “Don’t worry, be happy”. This joy is something much deeper, less external than that. It is the understanding in our soul that God is with us, is for us, will carry us through and is waiting for us at the end of the obstacle race of life on this planet. And no matter what is thrown at us we cannot be robbed of that joy.

Our small trials listed above are all an item for prayer: We still don’t have a water supply to the house and this has now exceeded 2 months. We are still searching for a solution.

Electricity is becoming a problem again and most evenings we are on load shedding (black out). Our crumbly, dusty city continues to crumble, taking its toll on suspension and patience.

The presidential elections are on 18th February. Campaigning has reached fever pitch all over the country. Please do pray that this will go smoothly, peacefully and that the election will be free and fair.



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When I wrote in January we were getting ready to go to Kigaya (Hoima) for the youth conference. This went very well and we were encouraged by the response. On the last day we challenged the youth firstly about their relationship with Christ and secondly about their willingness to be a living sacrifice. Almost all who attended made a response and we felt there was a genuine change of heart in many.

We are about to start a series of youth worker training workshops across the whole of Masindi district. These will take place deep in the villages. For those with maps, we will be in Butiaba, Kabango, Masindi town and Kiryandongo.

Meanwhile Collin will be in Masaka district meeting with the four Compassion International centres there to plan the work for this year. We aim to continue the partnership of helping them develop discipleship among the sponsored youth in that area.



The office is nearing completion as the photo hopefully shows. The door is on order and should go in at the end of the week. When the painting is finished we can get the work surfaces in then the electrics. We are optimistic that we will be up and running by early March.

Power of Worship with the VOW choir took place on 9th January. The team were just back from a tour of East Africa. They were first involved with a youth conference and concert in Mwanza in Tanzania, then on to Eldoret in Kenya for a concert there. By POW Uganda they must have been exhausted, but they did a great job. The evening was beautiful and the sense of worship was awesome. The team are now resting for a while before new auditions in early March. As a leadership team we are meeting and planning for how to best utilise VOW in ministry in the coming year.

On returning from Masindi district Prosper will be attending a 10 day leadership training. Pray that he finds this both helpful and a change from giving out all the time when running workshops.

We have interest from the pastor of Namwendwa Baptist church to help them develop youth discipleship. This is in the neighbouring village to Ian and Pat Dixon. We plan to follow up this invitation soon.

Welcome to Isaac (from the US) and Shadiq (from KBC) both new volunteers as they settle in and get an understanding of our work.

The current dry season is forecast to continue into April. Already it is very dry and exceptionally hot. There is a concern of drought and possible food shortages in the coming months.

We are trusting that the election period will be peaceful, but if there is any disturbance we may be a bit quiet for a while until 'political' dust settles. Please also note that sometimes phone and internet services within Uganda can be disrupted so if you cannot seem to get through to any of us during this period you know why.

I look forward to writing again in March.

God bless you.

Ian and the Youthworx Team.

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