



Youthworx East Africa News Letter

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This month, I have been reminded of the power of prayer. God gave us a direct line of communication where we can bring all our cares and burdens straight to the Creator. The interesting bit that I have been thinking about is how we don't have to preach our way to His heart. He knows our deepest desires even before we think of them. "And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him (Math 6:7-8). All David said after Nathan rebuked him is, 'I have sinned against the Lord'. And Nathan replied, 'The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die'.

The Lord searches our hearts and he knows our every thought. Never the less, He tells us to pray unceasingly. His word says that the reason why we don't have is because we've not asked. "For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened" (Math 5:8).



A few years ago, I led a mission team to Lwetamu in Masaka. We run a four day conference which had about 150 youths. I had a privileged of meeting a young boy called Mark Ssewanyana. Mark, who came from a rich family according to Ugandan standards, did not seem to care much about the conference. He was simply there to please his devoted, church-going parents. As I engaged Mark in conversation, I realised a very deep sadness and stranger anger towards life. Well, on the last day of the conference, Mark called me aside and revealed a very shocking secret. He told me that as a child, at the age of seven, his

parents had sacrificed him to ancestral spirits. Though Christians, his parents also believed in the power of traditional witchcraft. And they had been told by a traditional doctor that their source of prosperity is their last born son, Mark.

So, Mark was to act as a medium to the Spirits and as surely as the devil has powers, they accumulated quit an amount along the way.

I asked Mark how I can be of help. With tears rolling down his dark babyish cheeks, he simply said, "pray for me. Pray that I may get the courage to face my parents and tell them that what they did is wrong and that they need to correct it". I told Mark that I will do better than praying for him, I prayed with Him. We said a short prayer and in a few hours, we on the road back to Kampala.

At the beginning of this month, I found five missed calls on my phone. On calling back, I heard a frantic voice shouting,

'Prosper, prosper, It is Mark, from Lwetamu'. Mark went on to tell me about the different things that have been happening in his life. And at the end if the conversation, as if as a by-the-way, Mark casually mention, that his parents had accepted Christ. "My father gave away all his property to the church and he's now an elder. We've never been happier at home. You remember that prayer we said, God heard us."

As we pray this month, let us keep these three categories of people in mind:

“Is any of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective”. (James 5: 14-16)

Let us remember to pray for the sick and weary among us, the elderly and the weak at heart. Let us pray that God restores their health and gives them a new inner strength so as to soar as high as kites.

“Now, my son, the Lord be with you and may you have success and build the house of the Lord your God, as He said you would. May the Lord give you discretion and understanding... so that you may keep the law of the Lord your God”. (I Chronicles 22:11-12)

Let us remember to pray for the children and youth of this world. The world is going down a very steep slope spiritually and I believe that it is only the future generation that can turn this trend round. We pray for all the youths YEA comes in contact with. Let their hearts be open to the transformational word of God.



Let them be forever changed to impact their societies at large.

In the light of James 1:5, let us all pray for ourselves and each other that the Lord of heavens gives us all wisdom that takes us through this world to his palace. We specifically need to pray for the B.O.D, B.O.T, and the rest of the YEA team back in Uganda. Journey mercies should be a constant prayer with all the up-country trips that go on round the year.

Notes: Collin has been in Dar-el-salaam where he attended a conference and also got to meet a few of the youth workers in the area. Let's pray that the realisation of a youth worker's network comes to pass in this region. Let's pray also for the creation of new long-lasting relationships in this Muslim majority area.

I have been talking to people in Masaka and Mityana. These are areas with a lot of work potential that had come to a temporary halt. With renewed and new partnerships, let's pray that the move forward comes with favour and ease.

We still need to keep the Bible raising mission in mind. It will help the work of God to go on easier if the people have a Bible for their personal reference. Thanx

“As a dream comes when there are many cares, so the speech of a fool when there are many words.” (Ecc 5:3).

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