



Youthworx East Africa News Letter

www.youthworx-ea.org.uk

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I hope you have enjoyed the 2 month break from my writing! Prosper will be back to talk with you again soon, but for this month I am putting my fingers back on the keys.

We were looking at Isaiah 61: 1-3 in team time last week. This Messianic prophecy was referred to by Jesus in relation to his ministry on earth, check Luke 4: 16-20, and therefore by default becomes a responsibility for us. In Ephesians 5:1 we are challenged to be imitators of Christ. A similar sentiment is seen in Philippians 2: 1-7. Our attitude should be that of Christ Jesus.

What a responsibility? To imitate Christ. To try to live a life that demonstrates His love, compassion and purpose. But we have been anointed, through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. Through Him we have the power to be His hands, feet and voice among the young people we seek to serve. Please pray that we can measure up to the task.

We often make reference to the youth worker network we are encouraging to develop in Kampala. This is modeled on a very effective network in Nairobi which over the years has brought thousands of Kenyan youth pastors and youth workers into unity with shared purpose and vision for the youth.

Recently we had a visit from some of the key Kenyan youth pastors who founded NAYNET. They stayed with us and shared with our fledgling Kampala group about how they have seen this work grow and impact young people in Nairobi.

Our network has met to plan and talk together. The unique challenges of doing youth ministry in Kampala are great. We have an overpopulated city with about 60% youth. They are being bombarded with western moral standards, internet, pornography etc, much of which has come in suddenly over recent years. The older generation don't understand the youth and feel helpless to challenge and confront what is happening to their children.



As youth workers it is essential that we have a united voice to the youth. Not one of judgment, but of understanding, where we gain a platform for guiding our youth through the moral maze of making the right decisions. Most important of all is for us to have a relevant message for the youth of how an authentic relationship with Christ will bring transformation.

Just recently I was counseling a young guy, 16, brought up in Kampala, who has given his life to Christ, but is still being

dragged off track by the pressures and urges of everything the modern city has to offer.

Please pray for our city youth, that they can stand firm against the pressures and mixed messages they face daily.

Please pray for us, the youth workers from churches all over this crazy city, for wisdom, for patience, for a voice into the lives of our young people before we lose them.



An exciting new partnership is developing to build a new campsite and outdoor pursuits centre for young people beside Lake Victoria. Our current land lease on the YEA site is nearly ended and this looks like God's timing for a new venture. I will be going to Kenya later this month to look at two centres there and meet with a friend who has designed and built similar projects. Please pray as we move forward on this.



Land for the new campsite

Plans for running 3 training workshops in Zimbabwe in October/November are coming together. Please pray for the resources and travel for this work.

We are in the middle of a heavy rainy season. Roads are in bad condition and some areas of the country are suffering flooding and landslides. Here in the city sewage is getting mixed with water run off and the risk of water borne diseases is high in many areas. The road outside our house and office is only just passable.

The electricity supply is very limited and we have just been warned of an increase in power cuts from next week. This makes work difficult and costly, especially at a time when the Ugandan economy appears to be in free fall.

In all these inconveniences please pray that we continue to effectively achieve our work and keep positive. At times morale can drop as we face daily challenges, but we need to keep our focus.

God bless, happy reading and I look forward to writing again in October.

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