



FOCUS BRIEFS

OCTOBER 2019

Starting Campus life with Jesus



CU Orientation during the first years Registration in MMUST

Joining a new institution has never been a walk in the park for anyone! While it is exciting to join an institution of higher learning, especially at a time when few students qualified for university, first years are not exempted from anxiety associated with a new environment. Imagine the equivocal feelings of the over 150,000 students that joined college and universities early September 2019.

18,481

The number of first years who joined
Christian Unions in Kenya in 2019

Sometimes, parents and guardians are caught up in the ambivalence probably because of negative stories they hear about campus students or based on the hectic experience sometimes associated with the registration day. Such fears are not unmerited considering the new freedom in colleges and universities in comparison to high school life. However, the Christian Unions is a safe haven for the new students. The continuing students have over the years shown invaluable dedication in inducting and orienting the freshmen and women to the new life. With the support from FOCUS, the Christian Unions are already running the Anza FYT program, a first years orientation and induction program. We desire that through the CU effort, many of these first years will hear the gospel, turn to Christ as their personal savior, grow in faith and develop their leadership potential to become influencers in the society. Pray for the CU leaders and the members to be the blessed feet that take the Gospel to the first years



Machakos University Christian Union First years Retreat



Some of the first year students who received Christ during the orientation in Masinde Muliro Christian Union



Anza FYT class in session at Maseno University City Campus



First years from the University of Nairobi Upper Kabete in a Freshers Retreat

La CAFÉ free the Beauty!



“On matters drugs & substance abuse, try faith in Jesus because faith is the Substance.”

The National Creative Arts Festival (La CAFÉ)2019 themed “Free the Beauty” was the inaugural FOCUS-Kenya symposium for show-casing, celebrating and leveraging creative talent among university and college students, as a platform for engaging contemporary issues facing society. It focused on the value and power of art in “unveiling” the “goodness” that is often masked by the brokenness and ugliness we see in our society as the people succumb to various effects of mental health, drugs and substance abuse. The glamorous event held on 26th October 2019 saw students from 21 Institutions participate in Drama, Dance, Oral narrative, Poetry Graphic arts–painting and pencil art and Music.



Panel Discussion on personal Struggle with mental health



Students and Associates following the La Café event in amphitheatre of the University of Nairobi Main Campus



UON Main Campus Christian Union staging a Dance during LaCafé

CAN I CHANGE THE WORLD?

Not everyone thinks about their people at home when they are living in a first world. Hottensiah, a FOCUS Associate in the US like Nehemiah could not help thinking about her people back at home when in December 2003, together with the husband Ephantus Kimori travelled back to Kenya and were struck by the height of the HIV crisis in the country. They wondered how in the US many HIV positive patients managed to live without the stigma many at home experienced. They felt that they had very limited understanding of how to resolve the dilemma and decided to pursue studies and acquire better knowledge of health care. That would not only help them find meaningful work in the US but also to serve through medical missions back at home. It is in Urbana Missions convention, by Inter Varsity, which clarified the call to opportunities of integral missions which had been nurtured since they first heard the call in Commission 98.

The Kimoris would have not known that their first medical camp started in in upper Matasia Ngong, where Hottensiah grew up in, would be a journey to a great impact. Since then, they have had similar mission outreach in Oldonyonyokie, Kericho, Embu, Nakuru, Ndaragwa, Shamata, Ololetes among others. They have made use of this good opportunity to witness to waiting patients, clarifying that healing and salvation are the work of Christ. They have seen growth in the numbers of volunteers supporting this mission both from the US and in Kenya.

To read the full story click: <https://www.focuskenya.org/can-i-change-the-world/>



The Kimori's medical team and Moi university Medical school students



The Medical team works with a team of about 40 medics from Kenya. They Share the gospel and then offer assessments and treatments



25 University and College lecturers from the Northern Nairobi Region together with Ezekiel Baraza, the Deputy National Director FOCUS Kenya pose for a photo on the 5th October 2019 at BTL, Ruiru after an enriching engagement on the place of the Christian Faculty in influencing the Campus Community. The Annual event organized by FOCUS Kenya seeks to provide the Christian Faculty an environment for mutual support and encouragement, Capacity development and networking.

REGIONAL STUDENTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (RSEC) RETREATS



Western Region hosted by Maseno University on 11-13th October 2019



Northern Nairobi Region at FOCUS Centre Kasarani on 4-6th October 2019



Southern Nairobi at FOCUS Centre Kasarani on 11-13th October 2019



Mt. Kenya hosted in Embu University on 11-13th October 2019

FOCUS KENYA IN WORLD ASSEMBLY



FOCUS Kenya Students representatives in World Assembly



All FOCUS Kenya delegates in World Assembly

FOCUS Kenya is a member of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Student (IFES). World Assembly is an IFES gathering bringing together IFES Students, Faculty, Christian graduates and Board members from all over the globe. This years' gathering which took place on 3rd to 11th July 2019 in South Africa was special for FOCUS Kenya in many ways. Were honored to have Hon. Prof. Kibwana, the Governor Makueni County and Canon Rev. Wainaina, the provost All Saints Cathedral represent FOCUS Kenya in a special track for high level government and Church leaders. Margaret Muga a fourth year law student was appointed to join the IFES Board, Also in attendance was Dr. Lauren Maseno in a special track for Christian Faculty. Dr. Rachel Masake, FOCUS Trustee was also a guest at the World Assembly. We thank God for the IFES collective vision to further the Gospel mission in Universities and colleges across the world.

FOCUS KENYA ASSOCIATES IN THE DIASPORA



During the launch of FOCUS Associates Diaspora Chapter in UK in September 2019.



DEVELOPING LEADERS

When the leadership of FOCUS inaugurated the STEM Program in 1992, they may have never known what was in store for God's people through the program. We are grateful to God for the provision of at least 550 willing men and women who have faithfully served students and transformed lives. Through the support of partners like you, the STEM Program continues to be a ministry pillar in FOCUS hence acting as a conveyor belt of developing leaders as witnessed on the 27th July 2019 when we released 37 STEM staff after faithful service of one year and received 42 fresh graduates who have since then been trained and posted in different campuses across the country. Today, you can make a difference by supporting one of the STEM staff. To support click: payments.focuskenya.org



2018-19 Short Term Missionaries in Norway making a presentation during the STEM Convocation



2018-19 STEM Staff staging a play during the STEM Convocation based on their experiences in Student Ministry



George Ogalo, National Director FOCUS Kenya paying a courtesy call to the senior Pastor Karura Community Church Ngari Kariithi to explore ministry partnership opportunities on the 8th October 2019



Mr. Ogalo, Phyllis Gitumbi visiting Japhet Muthomi, the Chief Public Communications Officer M.PRSK at the Parliament Buildings for partnerships on 8th October 2019



During a FOCUS Connect event at FOCUS Centre in Kasarani on 12th October 2019, an event that brings together fresh graduates for mentorship, networking and capacity building for market place engagement.

For Financial Support

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Giving from the Diaspora, Log in to: give.ifesworld.org, then under IFES Gift Catalogue, click National Movement and search for Student Ministry in Kenya.

You can also send your support via Wave-Mpesa number +254 702 909 982

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