

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR



Mr. Simon Kande, National Director FOCUS Kenya

The student movement has had a rich legacy of impact through many centuries across the globe. The impact ranges from localized revivals to the raising of cross-cultural missionaries. One of the key highlights of the student movement can be traced back to the Moravian revival that not only transformed the locality that the Moravians occupied but went ahead to transform the world through the sending out of missionaries. In fact, it is documented that this group of Christians were the first protestant group to send out missionaries. We must note that one of the key figures Count Zinzendorf, interacted with the Moravians while still a student. Despite his love for theology and the gospel, his familial duties tended to act as a derailment but not forever.

Zinzendorf would later reconnect with the Moravians, and they would together be agents of revival and missions to the world. This revival started with the call to prayer. Zinzendorf and the Moravians started a prayer chain that lasted for 100 years. As committed brothers and sisters, they prayed for God to increase labourers, cause His gospel to be known worldwide, and help them live lives that honour Him. God would end up answering these prayers by causing them to have the heart to Go and reach out to the nations.

In Kenya, we are blessed to have one of the world's largest student movement, FOCUS Kenya, which brings together over 52,000 students and over 15,000 associates. This provides us with the strategic niche to reach the world with the gospel of hope that brings change to individuals and society. I hope that as we serve together in this time, we shall be committed to this call of sharing the message of Christ and equipping students in the institutions of higher learning with the hope that many who will hold positions of influence in the future are changed and challenged to honour God and impact society.

In this context, I am glad for the opportunity to serve God at FOCUS as the National Director at such a time as this. I come with the hope and confidence that comes from God, knowing that He who started the good work will bring it to a good completion.



FOCUS Kenya Management Team posing for a photo

Finally, brothers and sisters, you may ask how we can do this better:

1. We must put our best foot forward in prayer. Pray for the work of Christ to advance and prosper among students and associates (graduates). Remember, prayer is work, and service is a collection of the result of prayer.
2. We must be ready to reach, equip and mentor students to be the agents of change in the Institutions of higher learning. . This Christian witness must also extend to our homes, in the workplaces and everywhere where our students and graduates (Associates) are. Our hearts must be fired up by the Word of God and with resolute hearts, we must make up our minds to light up the world around us for Christ.
3. We must be willing to support the work with our financial resources. This will help us to build a stable resource base that will be able to sustain the rapidly growing ministry needs. Remember, it all starts with a yearning to see God's purposes being established. Let's pray that God will burden our hearts and strengthen our hands for his work and at the same time deepen our pockets for ministry resourcing. All to the glory of His name.

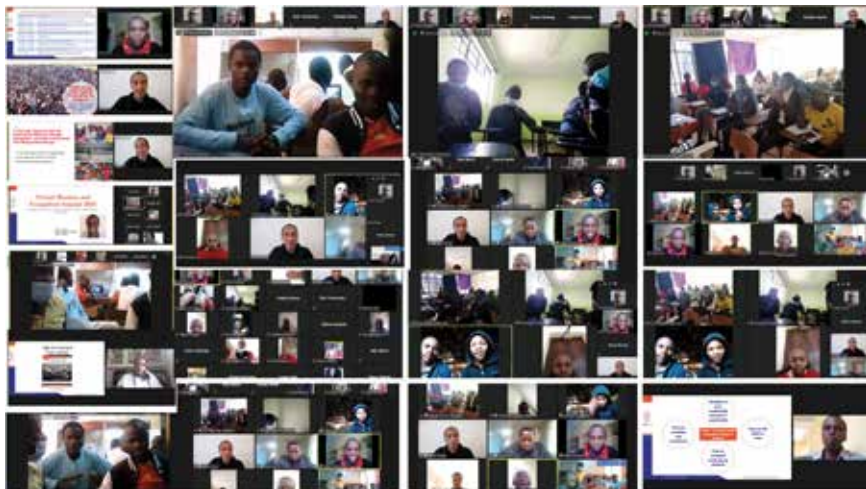


FOCUS Kenya Management Team praying together over the Hatua project



FOCUS Kenya Management Team meeting with the National Director

FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION: VEMS



In his book *The Mission of God*, Christopher Wright maintains an audacious claim that the bible is not only the basis of mission, but it is, in fact, the result of the mission of God. This bold claim stands to confront and challenge us today as we think about God's mission. It reorients our mindset, highlighting that the mission of God is not tied down to certain events but is a call to proclaim the truth of Christ to all.

Through the missions and evangelism department, FOCUS Kenya seeks to see that University Students and graduates through the Christian Unions and Associate Branches are well equipped to plugin into this great mission. To achieve this, FOCUS Kenya runs various programs such as the Missions and Evangelism Summit. This year's Summit was held virtually on 3rd July 2021. The Summit aims to bring together missions and evangelism coordinators from across the country to train them and provide a platform for strategizing on how to execute their tasks effectively.

This year's summit attracted 161 participants. The guest speaker Mr Peter Oyugi helped the participants appreciate that the call on every Christian is to present the truth of Christ and not manipulate unbelievers through threats, for the truth is what sets the sinner free. The summit also serves as a forerunner to the Commission Conference 2021, a mission's mobilization conference whose running theme is *As the Father has sent me, so I send you*.

Commission 21 is unique in many ways. First, it is a hybrid of physical and virtual. Secondly, the sessions are staggered from 14th October to 2nd November 2021, and thirdly it is the cheapest Commission conference ever. For more details on the sessions, speakers, and registration, check: <https://conferences.focuskenya.org/>.

REMINISCING THE LAST 6 MONTHS (STAFF MEETING)



FOCUS Staff from Nairobi regions gathered in small prayer groups during their in-person devotion

One of the great tragedies that faced the people of God in the Old Testament is forgetting. The OT helps us appreciate what God did in the past, his grace and power among his people. The New Testament people are encouraged to look at the cross and recount God's faithfulness as encouragement in tough times and as a source of praise.

Following the pattern of God's people, FOCUS Kenya staff held a mid-year staff meeting aimed at looking back to the past six months. It was a time to reminisce about what God has been doing, raising a song of praise, identifying where God is leading, and gathering prayer requests from the ministry engagements. The staff team is indeed grateful to God, for He has been good. We ask you to pray with the FOCUS Staff team in the following areas:

1. Wisdom to be consistently effective in ministry in these dynamic times where things keep changing due to pandemic and cultural shifts among varsity students
2. For their families' health, provision, and stability to avoid distractions from work.
3. You can also partner with a staff member financially via:
<https://payments.focuskenya.org/home>.



FOCUS Staff from Nairobi regions gathered in small prayer groups during their in-person devotion on 4th August 2021

TOWARDS A BETTER NATION: MY CONTRIBUTION MATTERS-ASSOCIATES CONFERENCE



Change does not just engulf an entire nation automatically. It is caused by the choices and the contribution of each individual. For this reason, and the acute awareness of God's call to believers in the public arena, FOCUS Kenya organized an Associates Conference dubbed "Towards a better Nation: My contribution Matters" on 10th July 2021. 386 people attended the conference. You can access the content via the FOCUS YouTube channel.

BUILDING AN AGENDA: - STEM PRESENTATIONS

Over the years, Leadership Development has been a key component for FOCUS Kenya. One of the ways that this has been achieved is through the STEM program. The program offers participants a chance to hone their leadership skills and be trained on using academia to set agendas in society. This is done by writing various kinds of papers ranging from full research papers to positional papers, followed by presentations by the STEM staff on the topics they chose. The 2021 cohort got to write positional papers. Among the topics covered were: Sports Evangelism, Inner Healing, Trinity, and Resurgence of African Traditional Religion(s), among others. The papers will soon be available on the FOCUS Website.



REGIONAL ROUND-UP

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Pwani Region held four leadership training in different CUs, including KCNP, TUM, TUM Kwale and KMTCC Mombasa. The leaders were equipped with the skills to lead effectively.



Kirinyaga University CU Leaders Training on 24th July 2021. This was an inaugural training by FOCUS Kenya in this CU. Seventy-three leaders attended the training. Currently, FOCUS Kenya is walking with the CU to help it become a member CU.

Egerton Njoro CU held a New Executive leadership training and debrief with the Outgone leaders at the Shalom Retreat Center. The event took place on 16th – 18th July.



Former executive committee posing for a photo after their AGM. The STEM Staff also joined them as they celebrated what the Lord had done in the past year.



Early in July, the University of Eldoret Christian Union had a Mid-term Leaders Training aimed at reigniting passions for leadership. 105 leaders attended.



Leadership training at Meru University happened on Saturday 24th July 2021. 91 leaders were trained



Moi University Main Christian Union in Leadership training



Utalii College Christian Union Leaders Training at FOCUS Center on 31st July 2021



Wote Technical Institute Student Union Training at FOCUS Center on 30th July 21st -1st August 2021



Kiambu Institute of Technology Christian Union Leaders Training at FOCUS Center on 30th July 2021-1st August 2021

DISCIPLESHIP

Western Region Scripture Engagement Forum

The Western Region held a Scripture Engagement Forum on 24th July, focusing on the issue of abortion. In an age where abortion 'rights' is creeping into our society, and many cases of harmful abortions are witnessed, there is a need to remind us about the sanctity of life. Pst. Peter Oyugi & Dr Jean Kagia helped over 100 participants appreciate the biblical and medical views on this matter. Additionally, Cecilia Mwangi from Pearls & Treasures provided practical initiatives that their organization offers to help ladies who have been involved in sexual assault or abortion in the past.



Seventy finalists attended attending a Vuka Fyt session at the University of Embu on. The focus of the program is to prepare them for life after Campus.

Egerton Nakuru town campus during their finalist retreat on the 24th of July. 20 finalists attended.



Laikipia University held a prayer retreat on 24th July. 41 students attended



EVANGELISM



The Moi University main campus Christian Union held evangelism and a crusade in MABS.



Moi University Main Christian Union Member reaching out to children

ASSOCIATES



FOCUS Associates- Naivasha branch, held a prayer breakfast. Mr Ngugi Kimani spoke on Associates in Student's Work. He emphasized mentorship and challenged associates to embrace mentorship as a tool for ministry. Around 25 Associates attended.



Kilifi Associates also held their first prayer breakfast since the year began. A total of 12 Associates attended the prayer breakfast. They fellowshiped, networked, and prayed for student ministry together.



National Director, Mr. Simon Kande addressing Ngong Road Associates Branch during the branch's breakfast meeting

On 5th June, 12 FOCUS staff and associates met and mentored 16 CU leaders drawn from different institutions within Kwale County, including KMTTC Msambweni, KMTTC Kwale, TUM Kwale Campus & Kenya School of Integrated Medicine.



FOCUS DAYS



North Rift Regional Coordinator, Everton Kataka doing FOCUS Awareness to the students in Moi University main campus Christian Union. Nearly 2400 students attended the event.



Associates attending FOCUS Day in Moi University Mani Campus



*Cooperative University
Christian Union Students
bowing down for prayer during
their FOCS Sunday held on 1st
August 2021.*

STAFF TRANSITIONS



The western staff team had their retreat at Sosa Cottages to bid farewell to 2 of their STEM staff transitioning from the STEM program.



Deputy National Director, Mr. Ezekiel Baraza, praying for the transiting STEM Staff during a physical devotion held in FOCUS Center Kasarani



FOCUS KENYA

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