



FOCUS KENYA

BRIEFS SEPTEMBER 2022

AUGUST- SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

Staff Updates

The gospel to First Years.

Act now, shape the Future.

Global impact to sister Movements.

Developing leaders, transforming lives.

National Leadership and Mentorship Summit.



Mr. Joseph Namutala, incoming DND.

The tenure of the current Deputy National Director, Mr. Ezekiel Baraza, comes to an end on 30th November 2022. For this reason, the National Governing Council (NGC) commissioned the Deputy National Director Search Process in April 2022. By God's grace, we are happy to announce that the process has been completed. We are therefore please to announce that Mr. Joseph Opanda Namutala as the next Deputy National Director. He will be taking over from 1stDecember 2022.

Joseph graduated with Bsc. Physics from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture

and Technology (JKUAT) in 2006. He is taking a Masters of Arts in Leadership at Pan Africa Christian University, currently working on his Thesis, having finished the course work.

He joined Short Term Experience in Ministry (STEM) in 2006 and was based at Njoro Campus of Egerton University. He thereafter went to Norway for ten months where he worked with Christian Students in one of the Universities. After coming back from Norway in June 2008, Joseph worked as a volunteer with the 2008 Commission Conference Desk until February 2009. He joined the staff team as a Campus Ministry Facilitator in April 2009. He has also worked as Short Term Missions Coordinator from 2009 – 2011 and Regional Coordinator 2012 to 2015. He was the Commission 2011 Conference Deputy Director. He has served in his current roles as Finance and Administration Director of FOCUS since 2016.

He is married to Ruth Muthoni and they have two sons. **May the Lord grant grace to Mr. Joseph Namutala as he takes up the new role.**

In the same vein, we remain ever so grateful to the outgoing DND, Mr. Ezekiel Baraza for his invaluable service in this Ministry both as DND and other previous capacities. **We pray that God will lead Ezekiel in his next assignment and refresh him for what lies ahead.**



EVERY FRESHER FOR JESUS

The Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service has enrolled 122,831 students to universities and 88,724 students to colleges (for diploma, craft, and artisan courses) between 2021/2022. We are glad to see new students join all the institutions we are working in.

Notably, there are many glaring snares and traps the fresh students can fall into in a new context with little accountability. As an intervention, we are running a targeted campaign of intentional evangelism to 100% of first-year students in 100 days between September and November 2022. The campaign is dubbed *EveryFresher4Jesus*. To achieve this, we are walking closely with the evangelism coordinators and teams to mobilize students to reach the first years with the gospel. Pray for the transformation of the new students by the gospel. **Pray also for more continuing students to graciously share the gospel and nurture the first years.**

Christian Unions have been running orientation programs during which they register the First Years and inviting them to join the CU. The CUs have also organized regular fellowships and other forums for interaction with First Years to share the gospel and guide them as they settle on campus. **Pray that the new students will stay in the CUs, grow in faith and bear visible fruit of their transformation.**



First-years' at Moi Annex CU listening to the gospel during their induction to the CU.



First-years' at JOOUST Bondo registering at the CU desk

GROUNDED FRESHMEN



Live audience (first-years and FOCUS staff) during the Anza Fyt Summit at Cooperative University (left) and session panelists (right).

FOCUS Kenya is committed to the discipleship of the first years who come to the CUs. This helps to support the students walk faithfully with God in their universities and colleges. We run a First Years' induction program called Anza Fyt (translates as starting well) for the first years as a place to teach the gospel and train them to live upright lives in the new environment and beyond. The program runs in the institutions with the support of FOCUS staff, associates, and faculty members.

This year, we launched the discipleship to first years with an Anza Fyt Summit on 24th October. The hybrid Summit themed *Thriving on Campus* brought together first years across the country for peer learning and encouragement. As the first years interacted, it was very evident that they shared the desire to honor God regardless of their anxieties of a new environment. **Pray that the Lord will preserve the first years by His grace and keep them from being swayed by the pressures around them.**



Groups of 1st years following the Anza Fyt Summit live from Chuka University CU (left) and Moi Main CU (right)

DEVELOPING LEADERS



STEM convocation highlights

The Short Term Experience in Ministry (STEM) program has been a flagship program in FOCUS Kenya since 1992. The program targets Fresh Graduates with a deep sense of calling for ministry to the students. The cohorts begin with a rigorous training before being sent to various stations where they serve for a year. During their time of service, they are mentored and kept accountable to further their training on life and ministry.

“Through the STEM program I have learned personal discipline, gained interpersonal skills and I have grown in my administrative and organizational skills. I have been stretched in different aspects but these pushed me to a journey of self-discovery and a reliance on God’s help to carry me though all circumstances. I know that ministry can only stream from a heart that has been with God and this made me treasure my personal devotions to be effective. Indeed, the Lord is faithful, to call and to make men as He desires. The time I have been in FOCUS Kenya has been worthwhile, to shape me to be a better person, useful in God’s kingdom as He leads.”- Sylvia Mutinda, former STEM staff. More STEM experiences have been featured in our [website](#).

This August, we held a convocation to celebrate the outgone STEM staff and commission them to be transformative leaders in the Church, the Society and places God allows them to serve.

We praise the Lord for a successful completion of service for the 44 outgone staff. As they trust God for direction, we pray that God will supply for their needs. We trust that they will be impactful and passionate leaders wherever they will go.



SOT Plenary session at the FOCUS Kenya hall



Separate session for STEM staff in their second term

Staff Orientation and Training (SOT) happens each time a new STEM cohort comes in. It serves to train the new staff on ministry operations and to affirm God's call to their lives. SOT 2022 took place from 28th August to 7th September 2022, bringing together 46 STEM staff and 44 long term staff gathered at FOCUS Center in Kasarani. We had a very refreshing time reflecting together on 'Courageous witness', drawing reflections from the life and ministry of Stephen (Acts 6-7).

During SOT, we had the chance to do more ministry and mentorship with each other. Staff care groups created room for vulnerability, mutual encouragement and accountability. The sessions exposed staff to the reflections of their strengths as well as their weakness, and the affirmed them of loving kindness of God in our lives and service. **We trust the Lord for fruitful ministry in this STEM year. Pray with us that the Lord will supply resources for the new team.**



Staff doing inductive Bible study in a small group



Candle-lit heart-to-heart session for staff in their care groups



Mr Alphonse sharing his testimony to the staff .



Mr. Masibo(EPSA Associate staff), Mrs. Kihara (STEM Coordinator) together with the international staff.

This September, we had the honor of hosting two staff from FOCUS South Sudan and one from ZAFES in Zambia. The 3 staff from our sister Movements got the opportunity to share their ministry experiences and to hear God’s work at FOCUS Kenya. Last year, an MOU was signed by FOCUS Kenya and FOCUS South Sudan, marking the beginning of a partnership where FOCUS Kenya committed to support a local staff in FOCUS South Sudan and send a Kenyan to work alongside them. By God’s grace, a staff recruited from South Sudan as Campus Ministry Director was oriented in Kenya for 4 weeks. We are humbled to see the zeal, energy and calling that Mr. Alphonse Andrew is bringing to the team. **Pray for him as he labors among students in South Sudan. Pray also for the successful implementation of the support phases to our sister Movement.**

We are also thankful for God’s work in ZAFES and the chance to interact with their staff Ms. Cecilia Mumbi. While she was with us, we received sad news that their headquarters office had burned down. **We pray for the provision towards ZAFES as they re-stock the office and engage in ministry. Pray for more breakthrough in the Students Ministry in Zambia.**



Ms Sonia (right) from FOCUS SS together with the Students Ministry Director Mr. Cephas(left)



Ms Cecelia (right) from ZAFES together with a STEM staff, Ms Regina (left)



Hatua construction milestones at Kasarani

The ministry of FOCUS is a journey of faith. By faith, we reach out to build our resource pool and by faith the Lord supplies what we need. Praise God from whom all blessings truly flow!

Hatua is our initiative to match ministry growth with infrastructure, aiming at acquisition of land and construction of students' centers in the Regions of FOCUS Kenya. As the name suggests, this project is an embodiment of faith to achieve step by step progress of the infrastructural vision and the ministry impact.

To create more awareness for Hatua, we are inviting students in Nairobi for a Hatua walk on Saturday, 5th November from Utalii to FOCUS Center in Kasarani. The mobilization campaign culminates in a Dinner targetting associates on Friday, 2nd December 2022 at Mercure Hotel (formerly Crown Plaza), Upper Hill. The walk and dinner will be platforms to celebrate the milestones, share God's story and mobilize more people to give towards shaping the future. **Pray for the successful accomplishment of the walk and dinner. Pray also for provision towards Hatua initiative.**

To register for the Hatua fundraising dinner use this [link](#).



Inside the construction (left) and setting up for the 3rd floor (right)

NLMS 2023

FOCUS Kenya aims at developing transformational and value based servant leaders for the universities and colleges, church and society. This is achieved through training, mentorship, and accountability among leaders. To achieve this goal, FOCUS Kenya organizes National Leadership and Mentorship Summits (NLMS) that bring together all top CU leaders across the nation, Student Unions leaders and youth leaders in churches.

NLMS 2023 will be the fourth Summit to be held since inception in 2009. The platform aims at raising all-rounded leaders who are competent, committed and whose character is consistent with scriptural teachings in a dynamic world. We hope to build the capacity of the leaders, especially the students, on practical leadership through the support of the mentors.

NLMS 2023 will be held from Monday 2nd - Friday 6th January 2023 at the Cooperative University of Kenya. The theme of the Summit is value based leadership for effective service. **Pray for successful mobilization and execution of the vision of NLMS. May the Lord be transform the hearts of the leaders and cause them to be effective in their service for as long as He calls them.**

GRADUATES FORA

FOCUS Kenya releases 8400 reached fresh graduates from the CUs each year. We have various structures to reconnect these fresh graduates to serve the students on campus like the associates branches and professional groups.

This August, we launched a national Fresh Graduates Forum for intentional mentorship of fresh graduates. The mentorship has been devolved to 7 towns among them Nairobi, Nakuru, Nyeri, Eldoret, Kisumu, Kisii, Mombasa and an online platform for fresh graduates in other towns.

We are currently recruiting more mentors from graduates from among mature believers who are willing to support fresh graduates. You can register to be a mentor [here](#). **Pray that this initiative will be successfull and that God will preserve the fresh graduates.**

Special Announcement: the Associates Easter Retreat 2023 is coming up from the 7th-10th April 2023 in Mombasa. Please Save the Date. Details on registration and payments will be duly shared in associates platforms.

CONTACTS & SUPPORT

COOP BANK

A/C 0112 8098 6335 00
Zimmerman
Branch

ABSA

A/C 0948 2074 00
Market
Branch

DIASPORA

give.ifesworld.org
Mpesa Wave Number
+254 702 909 982

STANDARD CHARTERED

A/C 0102 0730 83700
Harambee Avenue Branch

MPESA

payments.focuskenya.org
Pay Bill No: 412 412 | A/C Name: support



WR

Western Region (Kisumu)
0724 997 059

PR

Pwani Region (Mombasa)
0724 997 056

CR

Central Rift (Nakuru)
0724 997 057

NR

North Rift (Eldoret)
0724 997 058

MR

Mt. Kenya (Nyeri)
0728 067 067