

FOCUS BRIEFS

MARCH 2023



YEARS
OF

CHANGING NATIONS





50 YEARS OF CHANGING NATIONS

50 years of God's faithfulness! FOCUS Kenya has a long standing heritage that has grown 50 years stronger and firmer. The commitment and devotion of students and associates in the ministry over the years has profoundly enabled growth and achievement of great impact to FOCUS Kenya's stakeholders and beyond. We are honored to be part of God's great move in the institutions of higher learning.

It is 50 years since registration of FOCUS in Kenya. We celebrate the institutional growth and establishment and the contributors of that growth. FOCUS Kenya continues to impact students and associates for effective christian living to this day by God's grace.

We are documenting our history through a two-phase process involving the publication of a book and a video documentary. In preparation to launch the book, we conducted a fact verification workshop to ensure its accuracy. The verification workshop brought together key founders of programs, structures and ministry to students in Kenya.

A series of year long celebrations are embedded in our calendared events. We look forward to a reflective year that sets the agenda for the coming ones.



Representatives of associates during FOCUS @50 launch.



Students celebrating the launch of FOCUS @50 during NLMS



FOCUS forerunners discussing ministry milestones over the last 50 years.

HOW TO CELEBRATE WITH US



SHARE YOUR STORY

- How did you get to know FOCUS? How has FOCUS impacted you?
- Use the celebration hashtags on all social media platforms: #FOCUSat50 | #50YearsOfChangingNations
- To have your story featured, share it through communications@focuskenya.org



CONNECT AND RECONNECT

- We are happy to connect with like-minded people. Click [here](#) to join the movement and be part of the heritage.
- If you lost touch with us, we have missed you. Click [here](#) to reconnect and celebrate with us



TELL A FRIEND TO TELL A FRIEND

- Do not celebrate alone, tell one more person to celebrate God's faithfulness
- Tag them on your social media story
- Share the reconnection link with them
- Tag them along to the celebration events
- Tell us where your friends are and we shall invite them for the events.

[Click for More Details about the Celebrations](#)

JOIN IN
THE CELEBRATION EVENTS
LINED UP FOR YOU

7-10 APRIL

FOCUS Associates Retreat
Graduates | Venue: Mombasa

22ND APRIL

FOCUS AGM
Students and Associates | Venue: Nairobi

10 JUNE

Partner Forum
Partnering Organizations | @ FOCUS Center

17 TH JUNE

The Forerunners Forum
FOCUS Associates over 60 years old | @FOCUS Center

8TH JULY

Staff Alumni
Former and Current FOCUS Staff | @ FOCUS Center

29TH JULY

STEM Alumni
Former and Current STEM Staff | @ FOCUS Center

30TH SEPTEMBER

Grand Celebration
All FOCUS Stakeholders | @ FOCUS Center



STUDENT LEADERS MENTORSHIP

The New Year started with a bang at the Cooperative University of Kenya, where over 800 students gathered for the National Leadership and Mentorship Summit (NLMS). Despite it being in a festive season and the university's amphitheater was filled to capacity by youthful and vibrant leaders, including the CU leaders, Student Union Officials, Church Youth leaders, and even international leaders. The event marked the beginning of a new chapter in leadership for all who were present.

The plenaries, workshops, seminars, and interactive forums centered on the theme of value-based leadership for effective service. Delegates had unique opportunities to hear from experienced speakers, including former student leaders who have become influential figures in society. Based on the life of Samson, the presentations offered insightful perspectives on the current context of leadership and its challenges.

As observed from the life of Samson, external markers of successful leadership does not always mean transformational private lifestyles. In the words of the main expositor, Dr. Yaw Perbi, "God can use a crooked stick to draw a straight line and throw the stick away." This was profoundly elaborated during the sessions to emphasize the need to devote ourselves to growth in the seen and unseen parts of life. We had opportunities to pray together for the convictions gathered for living lives worth the calling we have received.

Thank God for the success of this Summit and pray that the Lord will enable these students to hold firm to Him and His Word as they navigate leadership issues.



Panel discussion and delegates following the plenary session



Leaders interested in readership



ASSOCIATES IN MENTORSHIP

Among the blessings FOCUS Kenya enjoys, is the pool of associates deeply burdened with commitment for direct Students' Ministry. In the 50 years of operation, associates have been eager to transfer their lessons from their experiences to their younger brothers and sisters. Each year, more associates plug in to impact students in institutions of higher learning for effective Christian living.

During NLMS, we had an opportunity for associates to mentor students directly. We had 140 associates creating mentorship relationships with the student leaders. In their round-table meetings with students, the associates had opportunities to engage ministry, lifestyle and leadership issues with the students. Associates' participation in the ministry is an affirmation of God's mission to the university and colleges, and the privilege FOCUS Kenya has enjoyed for 50 years.

We rejoice in the blessing of the associates in the ministry. You can also sign up to support ministry to students through this [link](#).



Moments from NLMS small group mentorship; associates and students engaging in life and ministry issues.



Elijah Mugana in NLMS 2023

Mentorship through Observation by Elijah Mugana

“I have been in FOCUS Mentorship since third year when I attended a leadership training hosted by our Christian Union.

During NLMS 2023 I heard testimonies of individuals who held on to their beliefs despite the deafening culture around demanding corruption. I was awed to see the joy and peace of mind they had despite the challenges they faced on the way up.

They inspired me to focus and stand for the faith regardless of the troubles the world will bring in my pilgrimage. The greatest benefit of the mentorship has been my spiritual growth. A leader must invite the team to imitate them as they imitate Christ. Therefore, I need wisdom and discernment, to not end up standing at the doorway and barring others’ entrance. Like Timothy, I hope to lead in my speech, in my conduct and in my purity.

I am grateful for the FOCUS staff who took the time to come and invest in us. I observed the way they facilitated sessions, collaboratively encouraging us to share ideas. I look forward to learning more so that I may be able to pass down these leadership skills. I am also hoping that more labourers would join FOCUS for the harvest is plentiful.” Elijah Muigana a fourth-year student at Karatina University Main Campus.

Elijah’s story of impact resonates with so many other students in the CUs. Pray for this fruit of NLMS to blossom in our country and beyond.



Prayers for student leaders after the expositions.



Delegates sharing light moments in a worship session

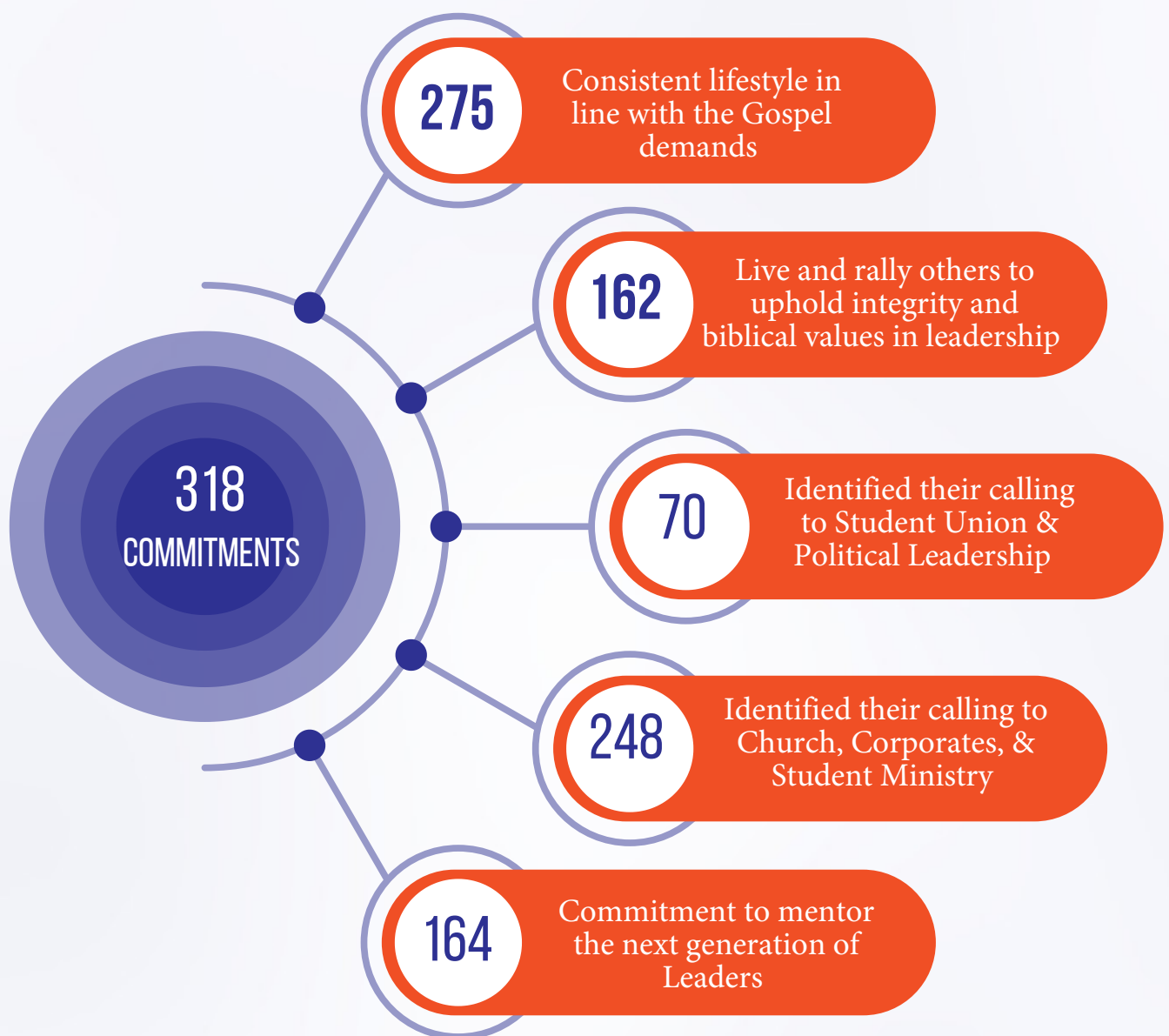


FOCUS Associates debriefing after the mentorship session



During a panel discussion on Leadership

NLMS 2023 IN NUMBERS



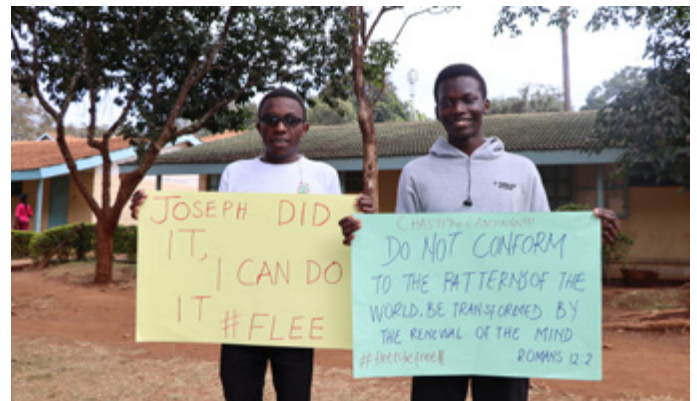
The student scene has evolved significantly over the last 50 years. In particular, chastity has become overshadowed by more untruths than God's truth. The current student is bombarded with hard postmodernism issues that are very scattered. The pressure to compromise is promoted in social media and trends, among others. Even then, our commitment to discipleship and sharing the truth can only grow stronger.

For the 8th year, we have had chastity campaigns running in the Christian Unions. This season is for the affirmation of the place of pursuing purity in a Christian's life. This year's campaigns are themed towards a *Hope for Restoration* for students who have fallen into sexual sin. We hope more students will find God's grace to say no to sexual immorality and live upright lives regardless of the dynamics of this time.

Students have taken on the streets for walks to advocate for purity among their schoolmates and their campus community. There have been many platforms to engage trends that divulge the truth in the CUs, regional and national fora. We have also been recruiting mentors who are interested to support the students struggling with sexual sin using this [link](#). Thank the Lord with us for the convictions on purity and chastity that our students are committing to. Pray for those that are struggling to find help and strength in their journeys, to honor God with the purity of their hearts and bodies.



Embu University CU chastity walk around the university and parts of the town.



Chastity Walk by students in Karatina University Main Campus CU.





Students in Machakos University CU during their chastity campaign walk.



Students in Technical University of Mombasa CU during the chastity walk.



Chasstity Walk by students in JKUAT Main Campus CU



Chastity Walk by students in Egerton University Town Campus CU

Chastity Walk by students in Tom Mboya University CU

REGIONAL COMMITTEES

The Chairpersons and Secretaries of CUs have had their first round-table of the year in the regional spaces. The forums are helpful for benchmarking, review of strategic plan implementation and decision making for way-forwards. The meetings dubbed Regional Students Executive Committees (RSECs) have also been platforms for capacity building and mentorship by staff and associates to the CU leaders. Culturally, the February meetings are also handover meetings where new leaders are nominated in each Region to represent them in the National Students Executive Committee (NASEC).

Praise the Lord for the success of RSEC! We surely trust God for effective leadership and growth in the Regional partnerships.



Highlights from Southern Nairobi RSEC held at FOCUS Center, Kasarani.



Northern Nairobi's RSEC officials in Kenyatta University



RSEC in Western Region held at Kisii University.



Pwani Region's RSEC held at KNCP Mombasa.

NOTICES

FOCUS EASTER RETREAT 2023

Theme: Building Communities for Impact



Mombasa Continental Resort



7th-10th April 2023



Rev. Dr. David Oginde

FOCUS Easter Retreat Theme Expositor
Building Communities of Professionals for Impact



Hon. Patrick Mariru

FOCUS Easter Retreat Panelist
Christian Engagement in Politics and Governance



Dr. Stanley Mukholwe

FOCUS Easter Retreat Speaker
Guarding our Families for Impact



Hon. Soipan Tuya

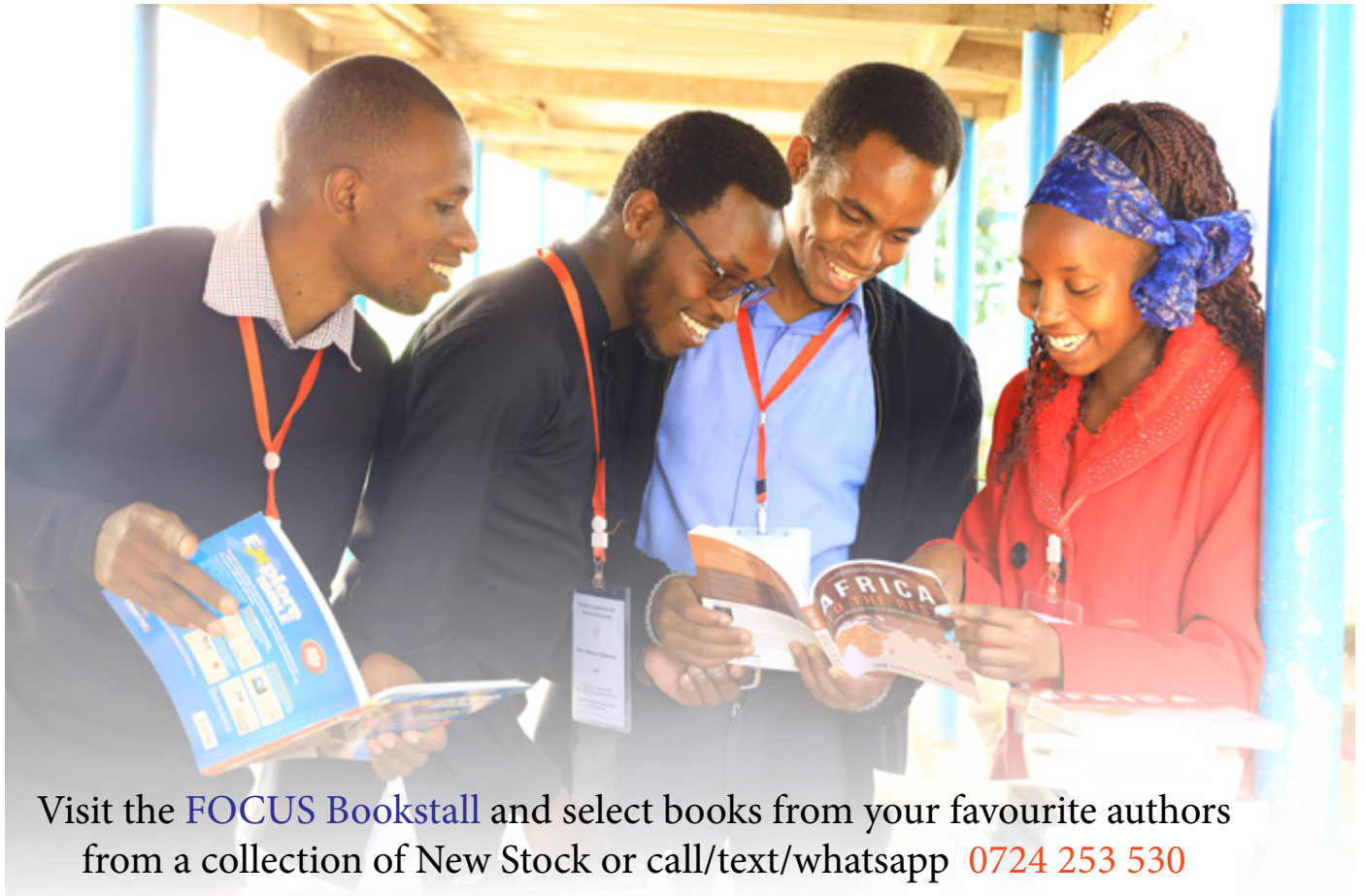
FOCUS Easter Retreat Panelist
Christian Engagement in Politics and Governance



Eng. Sarah Wepukhulu

FOCUS Easter Retreat Speaker
Securing The Next Generation

[MORE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION](#)



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Pwani Region (Mombasa)
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CR

Central Rift (Nakuru)
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NR

North Rift (Eldoret)
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MR

Mt. Kenya (Nyeri)
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