



Celebrating



YEARS OF CHANGING NATIONS

# ASSOCIATES BRIEFS

November 2023

## WHAT 1ST-YEAR STUDENTS REALLY NEED



[www.focuskenya.org](http://www.focuskenya.org)



## FRESH ON CAMPUS!

Do you remember the excitement or anxiety from the first time you walked into your school as a first year? Over 285,000 students (KUCCPS 2023 reports) across the country are in almost the same state as you were. Each intake is an opportunity to share the gospel with the new students and to support them in their journey of faith.

CUs are getting more creative and innovative in their registration of new students. An example is SEKU's friends allocation strategy that has seen every first year get a mature student in their area of study to guide the first year students to settle properly on campus. Some 1st year retreats had refreshing small group mentorship sessions with Associates.

In Northern Nairobi, over 475 first years attend t mentorship retreat in 3 clusters; Kitui CUs, Murang'a CUs and Thika Road CUs. 69 associates and staff in the region shared their experiences and lessons from their time on campus. Pray that these first years will find a right bearing in campus and become a great blessing to the CUs and the community in their institutions.



*Tharaka University CU registering their 1st years*

# 1ST YEARS INDUCTION



*1st years being welcomed to the fellowship at Karatina Main Campus CU*



*Garissa University CU Help Team created to support students from all religions and consequentially registered several 1st years who benefited from their kindness.*



*Cooperative University CU taking their 1st years for a retreat after a week-long of registration and orientation.*

# REGIONAL 1<sup>ST</sup> YEARS RETREAT



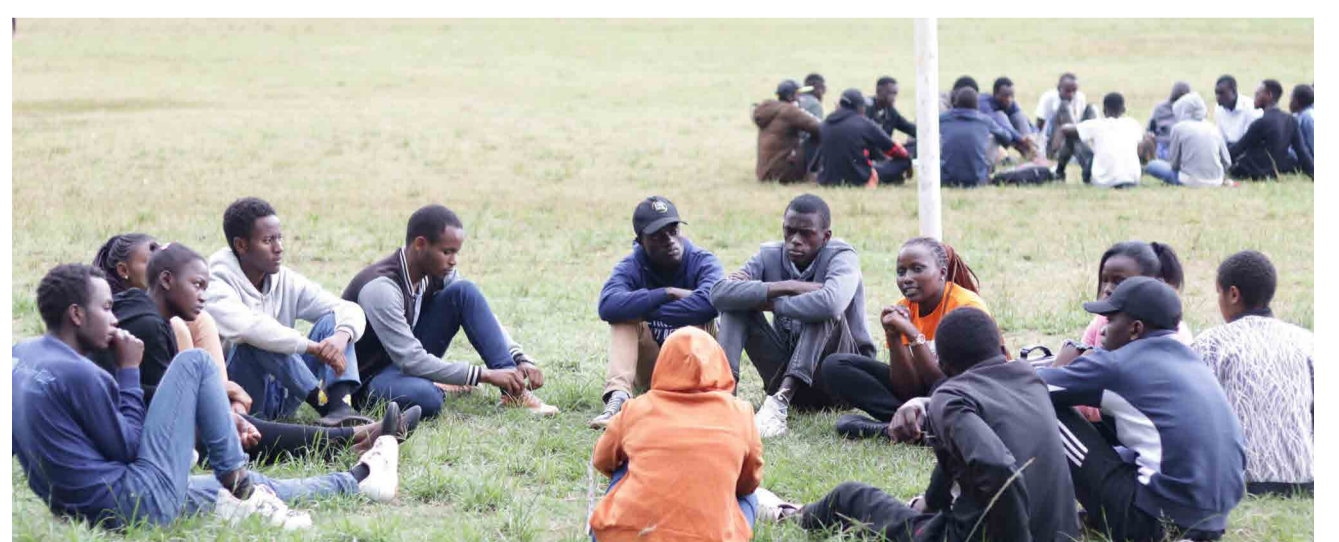
*Over 215 first years attended and 13 associates at SEKU Main Campus. The question and answers forum in the small groups was the highlight of the retreat.*



*95 1st years and three associates at Edinburg College. They had deep conversations about relationships and sexuality in small groups based on gender, facilitated by the associates.*



*Over 130 first-year students from Thika Road colleges and 30 associates from Kasarani, Ruiru, and Juja Branches gathered at FOCUS Centre Kasarani for a networking and mentorship retreat.*



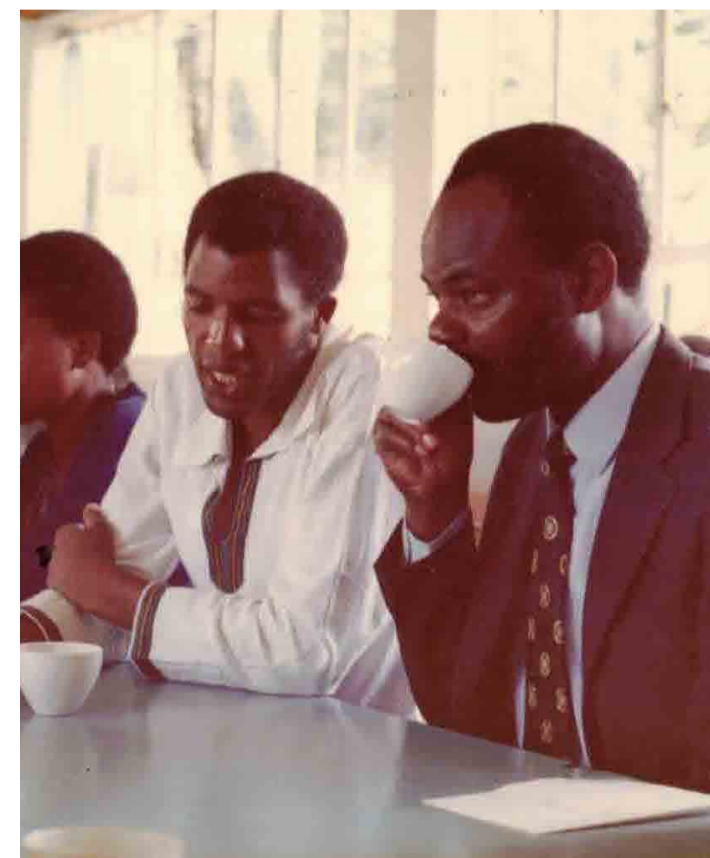
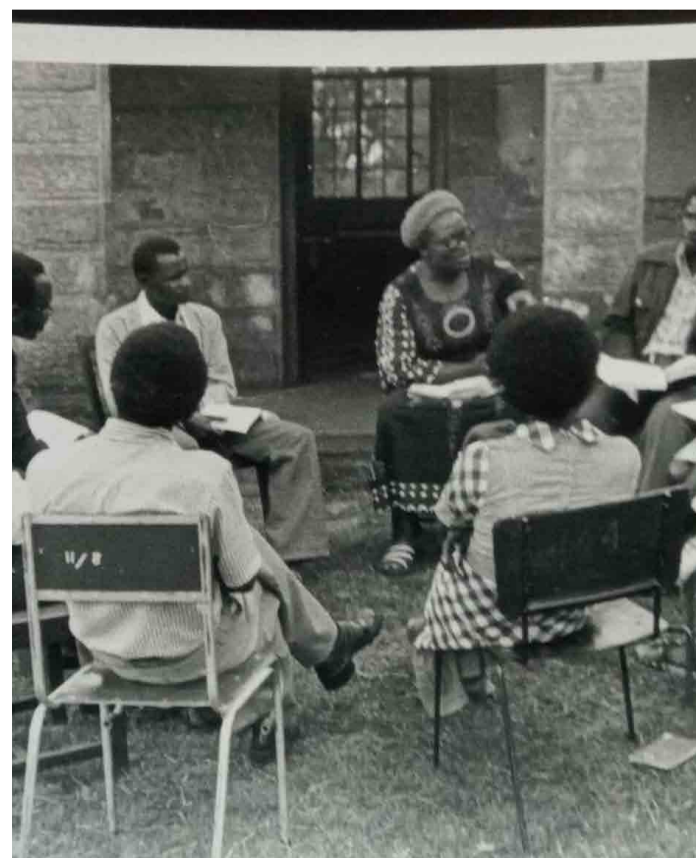
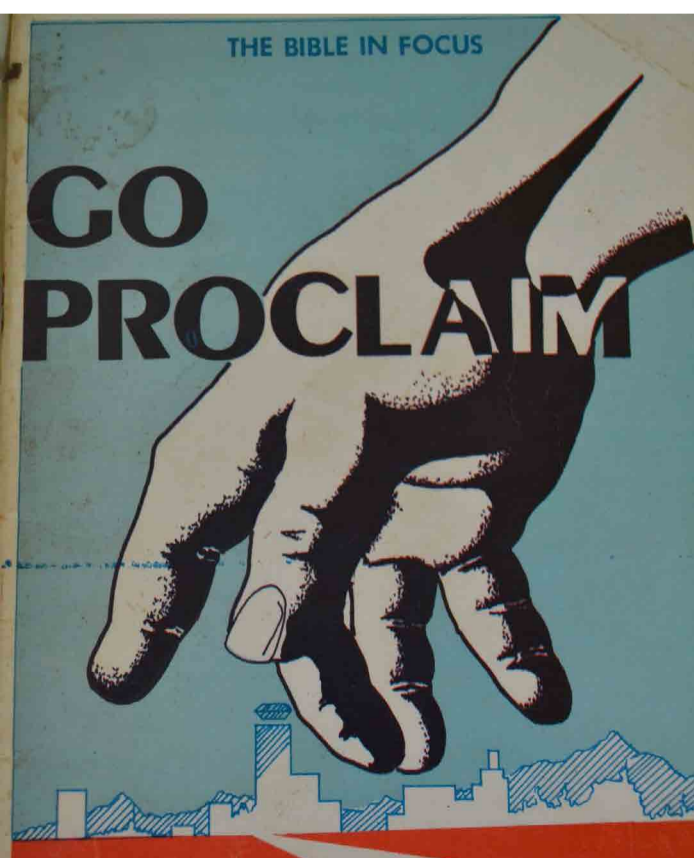
*128 1st years from 11 CUs in Southern Nairobi in small groups with 28 Associates and staff in a regional retreat at UON grounds.*



## FOCUS HERITAGE

During the dawn of FOCUS Kenya, there was only one university in the country, University of Nairibi, and its different campuses. With a lean team of 5 passionate staff, pioneering ministry to students was rather challenging. Particularly, lobbying students to have structured bible study and developing the capacity of leaders was counter cultural. The stretch was even harder as the number of institutions grew, presenting infrastructural needs for the Movement.

God led our forerunners in great wisdom to establish the foundations for this Movement with great patience. 50 years later, we are harvesting from a rich heritage of their labor. Students have found lifelong convictions in the labor of the forerunners, including the rich conferences, robust bible studies, specialized discipleship programs like Anza Fyt, Vuka FiT, BEST-P, STEM and many others.



*Highlights of our story from left; One of the 1st BS guides by FOCUS. Moments from the 1st Commission with John Stott, Bible study training and a fellowship in PAFES.*



*Song by forerunners*

The journey of the Movement and its impact is published in a FOCUS Kenya production namely, *The Mustard*. True to its name, our heritage has been a journey of faith yielding up to a great display of splendor. We launched this book during the Grand Celebration as a preservation of the history of FOCUS Kenya. You can grab a copy today by [clicking to order](#). You can also watch the film version [here](#).

We marked our 50th Anniversary with a colorful Grand celebration on 30th September at UON Main Campus with over 950 in-person attendees, and 200 more joining virtually and in watch parties. The testimonies shared were hearty celebrations of the impact of what belonging to FOCUS is. Among the highlights of the day was a presentation from forerunners who graduated in the 1970s and 1980s. You can catch it all again [here](#).

Associates have also joined anniversary celebrations of their former CUs and in the regions. We celebrate the contributions of all our associates! May the Lord keep them refreshed as they refresh the ministry of FOCUS.



*Moments from the Grand Celebrations*

# SOME ASSOCIATES CELEBRATIONS



*KMTC Eldoret during Associates Weekend attended by the CU Alumni celebrating CU milestones.*



*Associates and students from Central Rift Region celebrating FOCUS @50 in Egerton Njoro Campus*



*Kisii Associates Branch celebrating the 50th anniversary of FOCUS Kenya.*



## SUPPORTING STUDENT LEADERS

Regional Students Executive Committee (RSEC) meetings are important opportunities for CUs to benchmark, network, and learn from each other. Chairpersons and secretaries from each CU share ideas on how they are implementing the strategic priority areas. RSEC meetings inform national decisions on CU management by cascading the way forward to the National Students Executive Committee from all 7 regions.

In Mount Kenya Region's RSEC, associates were very instrumental in affirming and encouraging the leaders. In a section of their meeting, they had small group discussions to discuss issues around their leadership, lives and general welfare of leaders. Beyond the meeting, the associates and students created long term connections for mentorship.

Thank God for successful completion of the committee meetings in the regions and nationwide. Pray that the leaders will sustain their passion and stay obedient to God.



*RSEC in Northern Nairobi Region at FOCUS Center, Kasarani. 42 students from 26 institutions and 26 staff were in attendance.*



# RSEC MOMENTS



*RSEC in Southern Nairobi Region at FOCUS Center, Kasarani brought together 34 students from 20 CUs. The retreat culminated with prayers at the Hatua construction site.*



*RSEC in Pwani Region*



*North Rift RSEC themed 'Changing the Odds'. 32 students were present at KMTC Iten. Students took a walk to the mountains after intense business meetings and peer mentorship sessions.*

# RSEC MOMENTS



*Empowering Through Strategic Delegation,” was the Theme for the Western Region’s RSEC It was held at Maseno University and had 43 students, and 13 staff from 24 CUs, with 4 new CUs.*



*The Central Rift RSEC attracted 29 students from 15 CUs. The retreat took place at DTI, Naivasha and the theme was Finishing Well reflecting on the life and ministry of Paul.*



*Mount Kenya RSEC at DKUT*

# COMMUNITY MISSIONS

Fulfilling God's mission involves venturing into unfamiliar territory and actively participating in God's ongoing plan to redeem creation. STEM CD is our outreach branch for impacting communities by participating in this mission. Currently, we have 4 participants doing ministry in Dadaab and Samburu with support from our partners. Here are some testimonies and prayer items from the participants:

*“We did door-to-door evangelism with the AIC Church, Wamba at Lesiteti villages in Nkaroni and we managed to reach out to 30 people and 16 came to the faith. There was a long-standing need for a church in that area, and people have been seeking discipleship. We thank God that the AIC Church, Wamba is planning to open a church plant at Lesiteti. pray with us that this will materialize.”* - Jonathan Saidimu, STEM CD in Samburu.

## PRAYER ITEMS

- Praise the Lord with us that we have Africans to Africa Local evangelists (4), whom we have been trusting the Lord for.
- Praise the Lord for the blessings of rains after a long period of ravaging drought, as this will allow us to reach out to the Morans in their villages.
- Pray for a successful upcoming Africans to Africa local evangelist's induction training.
- Pray for a sustainable discipleship effort in the local churches of Wamba and church plants beyond Wamba.



*With World Concern staff after recruiting 4 evangelists.*



*Evangelism at Lesseti village*

# COMMUNITY MISSIONS

Joseph and Caroline have been working as missionary teachers in Daadab refugee complex; Dagahaley and Hagadera camps respectively. Ministry in Dadaab is anchored on using education to build relationships for sharing the gospel.

*“We have been supporting compound fellowships with the aim of nurturing them. We initiated the use of Bible study guides and we have covered 2 study guides in each camp. Our Wednesdays and Fridays prayers and Bible study sessions have been profound moments that of seeing the transforming power of the gospel. Additionally, we had a counseling session in Dagahaley to engage the modern trends affecting young generations. This session led to the youth discovering God’s truth and realigning their conduct in relation to it. After an alter call, 3 of them came to faith.*

*By God’s grace many refugees have been reached with the gospel of hope in Dadaab. While every refugee’s story is different and anguish personal, they all share a common thread of uncommon courage; the courage not only to survive, but to persevere and rebuild their shattered lives.” - Joseph and Caroline, STEM CD in Dadaab.*

## PRAYER ITEMS

- Pray for God to bring revival in the camps.
- Pray that the word of God we have planted will grow and bear fruits.
- Pray for church projects in the camps to help advance the gospel.



A picture with Hagadera fellowship members



Photo taken after peer counseling session at ACC Dagahaley

# LINKING AND NETWORKING



*Kakamega Associates branch members attend a panel discussion to equip the first years on effective Christian Living. 203 students attended the forum.*



*Associates in Taita Taveta branch are committed in preaching, discipleship and facilitating Consistent Bible Reading in the CUs and even opening their doors for student bonding and mentorship.*



*Dr. Matasi hosting Moi CHS finalists at their home for mentorship.*

# ULIZA FOCUS

A believer naturally desires to ascertain whether they follow God's standards correctly. While some areas are simple, some pose difficult life questions. In our digital age, the internet grants easy access to vast information. Many turn to search engines for profound life answers but struggle to find godly and edifying answers to their questions.

We bring you Uliza FOCUS!! Uliza FOCUS is our Digital Ministry initiative, contributing to the truth pointers. Questions can be asked by anyone seeking knowledge or insight on doctrine, and social and cultural issues. The questions will be sorted and responded to by our theologically trained team of sincere believers. You can expect a special feature every Friday on YouTube and Facebook. We will also have personalized inbox responses, blog posts, and other ways of addressing the issues raised.



We hope to support you and other believers in navigating the complexities of following God's standards. From straightforward matters to the more intricate, our platform provides answers that uphold soberness, truthfulness, relevance, and accessibility.

You can share your questions via WhatsApp at 0723 412 412, inbox us, or leave them in the comments on our social media platforms. Let's journey together toward understanding and growth.

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