



CALLED TO SERVE

STUDENTS' BRIEFS
January 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

God has called us to serve Him. He has done so because He has served us first, and supremely. We have been called to serve like Him. In Christmas, we celebrated the service of our Lord Jesus Christ through earthly birth. He left His glory and throne, to be born in a manger, to a poor family and endure the rejection and scorn of men so that we would enjoy reconciliation with God. Nothing comes close to such a kind of service. We enter 2025 with renewed strength, joy and hope to be spent like our Lord Jesus. Happy new year!

As you read through this Brief, you will be inspired by stories of selfless service by students, staff and associates. May it testify of our call to serve God and consequently man in the way Christ has served us. Peruse through the service ministry trail, serving the future, and a story of 18 years of faithful service!



*A Missions Mobilization,
Training, Information Exchange
and Networking Conference*

We are grateful to God for the great success of Commission Conference! Commission 2024 brought together 2707 delegates at Kabarak University from 27th December 2024 to 1st January 2025. The delegates included students, Associates, church youths, Mission Practitioners, church leaders and 69 internationals from 11 nations cross the globe.

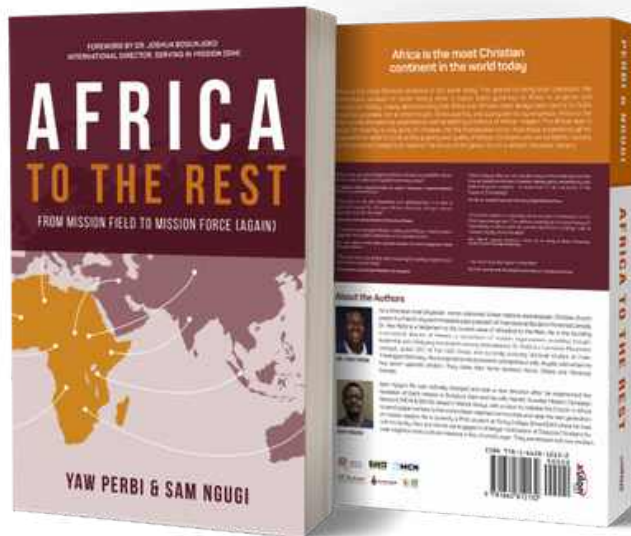


27th December 2024

We could see the anticipation among Commission delegates as they stepped into Kabarak University on 27th December for 5 days of world missions mobilization, training, networking and information exchange.

AFRICA TO THE REST.

The Conference was dubbed the "African Missions Moment". Dr Ngugi & Dr. Perbi in the book African to the Rest say, "The most Christian Continent is the youngest continent, and 'African Christian Youth' may be the most powerful combination of words to affect the mission of God in this century." We gathered in this realization. Commission Conference is indeed a launching pad of missionaries from Africa to the rest of the world.



Every Commission Conference delegate got a free copy of the book. We are grateful to Dr. Ngugi and Dr. Perbi and their friends and partners for their generosity in donating the book to the conference.

Contact the FOCUS Bookstall to purchase a copy of the book at Ksh. 1,000.

☎ 0724253530



Delegates following through the plenary sessions at Commission.

CONFERENCE THRUST

The conference addressed mission issues from the book of Isaiah, the local church missions, missional discipleship, the Unfinished Task, school mission, practical mission issues and over 70 missions' seminars. We are grateful for the 1606 delegates who made a commitment to serve in different missions' models. Pray for us and our missions' partners as we effect the follow-up strategy. Pray also for the delegates that they find opportunities and support to practice their commitment.

COMMISSION WORSHIP MOMENTS



COMMISSION EXPOSITIONS



One of the main activities in Commission Conference were the Expositions from the book of Isaiah by Dr. Ann Zaki. The expositions focused on four themes; Covenant Theology - The call of Israel, Christology - the Suffering Servant, The doctrine of the Church - The "Group of Servants", and Mission of the Church - Sent out to the World Today.

DELEGATE TAKE HOME

I learnt that the mission of God is the basis of the bible. Who would think Isaiah for instance would inform my perspective of missions, and not just from the renown Chapter 6, but the entire 66 chapters as proved from the 4-day expositions. I must be part of the mission of God! I asked myself what my vision for the Kingdom is, if at all I am a child of the kingdom.

Kamau



COMMISSION PLENARIES



 Pst. Peter Oyugi | Plenary 1

Delegates were passionately ignited to place themselves at the feet of God during the conference and indeed for the rest of their lives, being ready to serve.



 Dr. Nosa Tukura | Plenary 3

With a keen eye on global mission statistics, the 'unfinished task' was unpacked with piercing sermons for delegates to find their role in reaching the least reached.



 Rev. Rodgers Atwebembeire | Plenary 5

This was a warm apologetics tour on engaging the question of truth in a postmodern era with the resurgence of ATR and how it is critical for effective world missions and discipleship.

COMMISSION PLENARIES



 Bsh. Calisto Odede | Plenary 4

The plenary placed the local church at the heart of world missions and challenged delegates to influence structures in church to prioritize missions work.



 Mr. Ezekiel Baraza | Plenary 8

The fact that institutions of learning - schools and colleges convene the most diverse and strategic mission ground was carefully opened up for delegates to consider it for a life time commitment to reach out to.



 Dr. Sam Ngugi | Plenary 6

This plenary on Missional Discipleship reminded delegates that discipleship not only teaches believers to follow, love and glorify Christ on a daily basis, but also think missionally; pray, give and participate actively.

COMMISSION PLENARIES



 Mr. Mark Matlock | Plenary 8

The prophet Isaiah responds to God's call, 'send me!' The plenary session pressed delegates to not only have good intentions, but to obey by putting in practice the various models in spreading the message of the gospel abroad.

Plenary Panel Discussion



 Rev. Dr. Steve Mbogo



 Mrs. Mary Kamau



 Pst. Peter Oyugi

The message of the gospel is unchanging, but the times are changing. The panel discussion brought out a careful examination of our context today and encouraged delegates on the need for effective methods to share the unchanging gospel in the midst of changing times and people.

COMING SOON!

Commission 2024 plenary sessions recordings

FOCUS KENYA



QUOTES?

Follow [this link](#) to find the Commission Plenary session quotes.



COMMISSION BIBLE STUDY

The book of Isaiah provided a suitable group study for Commission delegates. Its elaborate Christological focus made missional discussions a natural outflow of the conversations. Isaiah's prophecies tell of Jesus' coming, His virgin birth, proclamation of the good news, sacrificial death and His return in glory!

The Commission Bible study committee recruited and trained bible study leaders to lead the 240 groups in the conference. Bible study leaders here are displaying their group numbers for delegates to identify them.



Delegates settled in their small group bible study scattered across the field, some seated on grass. A specific bible study leader showed his diligence and eagerness to serve by carrying seats for his group members.



COMMISSION BIBLE STUDY



I was in BS group 183 with 12 of us but has now grown to 18. What amazes me from the small bible study group is not only the insights drowned from the guide but also the personal experiences in relation to the studies which stirs me up to be mission minded.

I am grateful that as a group, we are purposing to go through the whole book of Isaiah and exhaust the studies provided in the guide.

Cyrus Koech

Commission BS Leader | Student Embu University.

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MISSIONS SIMULATIONS

The Missions Simulations session was set aside to help delegates connect with as many mission partners as possible. It gave practical experience of what it is like to be in various mission contexts. It focused on cultural adaptation, digital missions, creative campus evangelism, medical missions, virtual reality, mission to children, among others. Delegates visited at least 3 simulation stations for 20 – 25 minutes at each station to see, ask questions, engage and register for further training.



MISSIONS SIMULATIONS



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The mission simulation was incredibly eye-opening. It gave me a better understanding of the challenges missionaries face and inspired me to be more prayerful and supportive of mission work. It also taught me the importance of teamwork and relying on God in every situation."

Eugene Bogita | UON Kikuyu Campus

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COMMISSION SEMINARS

Commission Conference had 112 seminars broken into 4 blocks; formations and theology of missions (two blocks), practical and contemporary issues in missions and models and expressions of missions work. Delegates chose seminars on various mission issues that interested them.



It was an honor and a great privilege to speak to a generation that will be taking the reins of leadership in all spheres of life as we move forward. In delivering my presentation, I was very intentional in shaping their minds should their calling lead them to serve those behind bars. Going by the feedback that I received, quite a number had to review their thoughts and approaches. It was a time for an elder like me to impact future generations in ministry. I also got reports on how my presentation could have been even more effective.

Seminar Speaker George Karimi
National Director - Prison Fellowship Kenya

DELEGATES' THOUGHTS ON COMMISSION

Considering the global missions' statistics of the unreached people groups, I realize that there's a lot to be done! I am undertaking to be a mission force in my life from campus, my medical career, my future family and the community.

● *Kamau*

Attending the seminar on mental health in missions has helped me know how to apply my professional knowledge in God's work. The plenary on Missions to Schools was thrilling to me. I gained insights on how to use school platforms as a critical model for missions.

● *Mhunji*

Commission2024 was such an amazing conference. Apart from learning we interacted with people from different regions. I was privileged to interact with an associate who attended Commission 2003 when I was 1 year old. Indeed it was a nice experience of learning, interacting, networking and sending us to the mission field.

● *Kelvin*

Commission conference was very insightful and impactful.. It was rich with good teaching, exposition, bible study, seminars and exhibitions. It has opened my eyes to the fact that as a church we should start thinking missionally. The church has resources, and sending structures like prayers, and missionaries. Commission conference has given me a challenge to go and reach out to share my faith.

● *Merly*

PRAY WITH US!

As we planned, mobilized and engaged partners, we had a very specific Commission end product. Pray with us that delegates:

01

Discover God's mission and their responsibility (call) in it.

02

Support mission work in prayer and financially.

03

Are mobilized towards lifestyle evangelism

04

Are mobilized towards holistic missions in various expressions.

05

Are aware of unreached/least reached people groups and a willingness to reach them.

06

Are linked to mission partners for training and participation.

MAKING THE MOST POST-COMMISSION

Were you a Commission delegate? You can keep your of Commission convictions growing. Do not walk alone! Let your light shine.

01 Meet as Commission delegates.

In this meeting, hear one another's testimonies. What did you learn at Commission? What commitments are you making? Do you need any support?

02 Share your testimony as a group.

Seek opportunities to share your testimonies as Commission Delegates in the CU.

03 Talk.

Talk to your accountability partner often about what you are doing regarding your commitment and pray together.

04 Be bold!

Pray and begin acting by faith. Great happenings come from simple steps of faith.



FOCUS MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Explore our Short-Term Missions programs.

We raise Mission Minded Believers who will take the Transforming Power of the Gospel wherever God Sends them.

STEM Missionary -South East Asia

Partner: Youth With a Mission (YWAM)

This opportunity is for teachers of English interested in learning a new language, teaching English to native speakers of that language, and sharing the love of Christ.

STEM CD – ELP -Daadab

Partner: Windle International Kenya

The English Learning Program (ELP) aims to help refugees (often vulnerable) by equipping them with language skills to enable them integrate with their host society and access better opportunities. Participants must be graduate teachers of English with interest in missions among Muslims.

STEM Missionary -Samburu

Partner: Samburu Action & Awareness Program (SAAP)

The primary tool in this program is integral mission. Participants work as a volunteer teacher and others as livelihood officers, mobilizing the community to consider alternative livelihoods.

STEM Missionary -Samburu

Partner: World Concern & Africans to Africa - (A2A)

A2A aims to mobilize churches in reached areas of Africa to raise resources to support churches in least reached or unreached areas. In this program, the participants work alongside local pastors to train and mentor evangelists, support church planting and help fulfil World Concern's vision of holistic development.

Global Program (GP) -Urban & rural Kenya

Partner: InterVarsity USA

In this 45 years Missions Program, participants are introduced to cross cultural missions, missions to people of other faiths (Islam & Hinduism), and mission to the urban poor. It runs for 7 weeks between May and July every year. Students on long holiday available for the entire time except final year students are eligible.

LIGHT-P -Northern Kenya

Partners: Churches

LIGHT-P stands for Least Reached, Integral, Gospel Centered, Homegrown, Transformational Program. This is our flagship short-term cross-cultural mission exposure program open to students, associates, staff, fresh graduates and ex-candidates in transitional programs. The program runs for 4 – 6 weeks during long holidays divided into orientation, field experience and debriefing.

Interact -Norway

Partner: NKSS, Norway

Interact is an exchange program that involves IFES movements in six countries – Norway, Kenya, Colombia, Madagascar, Bangladesh and Brazil. The program aims to strengthen youth leadership and train in cross cultural understanding and international work. The program runs for 12 months – 10 in Norway and 2 in Kenya.



LEADING SERVANTS; CU TRANSITIONS

The last two months have been seasons of transitions in the Christian Unions. An opportunity to lead the Christian Union in any capacity is one of the most life changing events. Most of the leaders have never had such high impact opportunities where they are expected to deliver. CU leaders are often busy, forced to mature in faith and wait on God, promoted from members to leaders in less than a week and have a short but eventful stint of leadership. Our philosophy of student's leading students is likely the greatest training method one can have. See these stories of impact from some of the leaders who just transited from Leadership.



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I witnessed firsthand the power of outreach and discipleship, as students' lives were changed through evangelism. Collaborating with other leaders has strengthened my leadership skills, patience, and reliance on God. Balancing ministry with academics was not easy. Seeing others grow in their faith made every challenge worthwhile. Leadership stretched me to be humble, consistent, and prayerful, teaching me to seek God in every decision. Above all, I discovered that success in ministry is measured by faithfulness, not popularity or results.

James, Missions and Evangelism Coordinator, Samburu Technical and Vocational College Christian Union, (Mt. Kenya Region).

“My year in leadership has been a journey of growth, learning and transformation. It was filled with both challenges and triumphs that ultimately shaped me into a more effective and compassionate leader. I had opportunities to interact with other students, where we exchanged ideas and learned from each other in meetings like RSEC.”

*David, Imperial College of Medical and Health Science,
Chairperson [Northern Nairobi]*



“Through organizing events, leading prayer meetings, and engaging in Bible studies, I developed strong leadership skills, honed my communication abilities, and deepened my spiritual understanding. The challenges I faced as a leader pushed me to grow in resilience, adaptability, and problem-solving. The early morning and bush prayer meetings were particularly transformative, strengthening my faith and teaching me to rely on God's guidance. The Bible studies equipped me with biblical knowledge and wisdom, enabling me to discern truth from error and apply God's principles to my life. The UECU provided a nurturing environment where I could grow in faith, knowledge, and leadership, preparing me to navigate life's challenges with confidence and purpose.”

*Kerina, University of Eldoret Christian Union, Former secretary
[North Rift]*

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In two words, my year in leadership can be described as God's grace. From the moment of my nomination, which was unexpected for a newcomer like myself, to every step of my journey, the Lord's hand has been evident. Serving fellow students, associates, and university staff has been a divinely ordained and sustained experience. God's grace helped me remain steadfast in faith during challenging times. My leadership experience has been one of growth, joy, pain, and sorrow, filled with blissful learning moments and profound connections. Through it all, I give thanks to the Lord for guiding and sustaining me.

Melanie, Associates, Staff & Partnership Coordinator, UoN Main Campus Christian Union (Southern Nairobi)

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I learnt to be passionate about my work, being responsible for every task entrusted no matter how small it looks like. I also learnt to be considerate about others and not only focusing on my duties because everyone needs others to achieve their goals. I also learnt that time management enables me to meet my daily goals.

Caroline, Former Secretary, KMTC Nakuru CU. (Central Rift Region).



A Leader's Note.

HERE IS A QUICK HACK FOR SERVICE; A NOTE FOR NEW CU LEADERS.



As a CU leader, one can easily be overwhelmed by the many tasks and responsibilities that accompany the role. You may find yourself jumping from one meeting to another. This can in the long run affect other parts of your life such as your academics or social life. Striking a balance is key. And this is where planning comes in handy. Note down the things that need to be done on a daily, weekly and monthly basis identifying what is urgent and needs to be prioritized. Avoid procrastination at all cost. Set simple achievable goals for each day ensuring that no area of your life is neglected and this includes your rest. Audit how you spend your time by reviewing the day's activities. Serving should not become burdensome because of poor planning or poor time management. Commissioned to serve.

18 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

JOSEPH NAMUTALA

Outgoing Deputy National Director,
FOCUS Kenya



Tell us about yourself.

I am an agile guy, and I get things done. I don't shout, and often time, I do things silently. This perhaps stems from my family background, but also a background in natural sciences, where one formula can be used to describe many things. I am married to Dr. Ruth Muthoni Opana, and we have two boys, 10 and 7 years. I have a first degree in Physics, and a Master of Arts in Leadership (Business and Entrepreneurship).

How long have you served in FOCUS and in what positions?

FOCUS is technically the Fellowship of Christian Unions, and so I should technically begin by stating my roles in the CU. But let me not do that for now. With regards to being a FOCUS staff, I have served in various positions as: STEM Staff; 2006-2007, Norway Exchange Program; 2007-2008, Commission Registrar; 2008-2009, Short Term Mission Teams Coordinator; 2009-2011, Regional Coordinator; 2011-2015, Finance and Administration Director; 2016 to 2022 and as Deputy National Director; 2022-2024.

In between these roles, I have done numerous ad hoc roles in Commission Conference, Ezra Conference, National Leadership and Mentorship Summit, Strategic Planning among others. I have been around as a staff for the last 18 years.

Did you plan to stay this long at FOCUS?

No. I planned to stay for one year.

What are some of your most exciting moments at FOCUS?

Seeing first years come, looking innocent and 'clueless', and seeing the same people a few years later leaving as grown men and women and very confident. I have seen about 16 teams of First years.

What are some of your most difficult moments of service?

Garissa University attack. I was the staff attached to Garissa University CU at the time. I have never gotten courage to read the book, *When the Sparrows Fell*.

What do you celebrate the most about serving at FOCUS for 18 years?

I believe that FOCUS has given me a lot more than I have given. Like Jacob, I came empty handed. Now, among other things, I leave with a wife, and 2 boys.

Where are you going next?

The kingdom of God is large. I will be serving in the larger space. FOCUS vision is Christian Students Impacting Institutions of Higher Learning, the Church and Society. I am now getting into the space of Church and Society.

Give a parting shot to the readers.

God has made everything beautiful in its time!

NEW YEAR NOTICES



THE INCOMING FOCUS DEPUTY NATIONAL DIRECTOR

● PAULINE KACHINJA-KOLAM

Pauline holds a Bachelor of Education Arts degree in English Literature from Moi University. Over the past nine years, she has served with distinction as a FOCUS staff, most recently as the Resource Mobilization Director. She is married to Mark Kolam and they are blessed with 2 kids. We warmly welcome Pauline to her new role as Deputy National Director, confident that her service will be marked by God's enabling grace.

Welcome Joy and Benson to the Staff Team



JOY JAVAN

Mrs. Joy Javan joined the staff team in November 2024 as Regional Coordinator for Pwani Region and CMF for Mombasa and Taita Taveta CUs. Joy is a graduate of Maasai Mara University where she pursued a degree in Public Administration. She is married to Javan.



BENSON NJUNG'E

Mr. Benson Njung'e joins the Staff Team as Campus Ministry Facilitator (CMF) for Kilifi and Kwale CUs. Benson is married to Joyce and has three children. Benson holds a bachelor's degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management from Pwani University and is pursuing a Master's in Contextualized Pastoral Ministry at Lancaster Bible College.

MAIN EVENTS SCHEDULE

JAN - MAY 2025

09
FEB

National Chastity campaign

The campaign will happen from 9th to 16th February in all Christian Unions. Within the week, we will have some national virtual activities.

14
FEB

National BS Coordinators' Summit

The bible study coordinator's from all Christian Unions will meet from 14th to 16th February to discuss the bible study turn around strategy. Venue will be confirmed.

26
APRIL

National FOCUS AGM

The National FOCUS AGM will happen in Nairobi as a culmination of the Regional AGMs. The venue will be confirmed.

27
APRIL

Gabra Mission

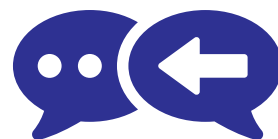
This FOCUS mission to the Unreached People Group of the Gabra Nation will happen from 27th April to 8th May 2025. For more information, contact Issa on 0728607611.



PARTICIPATION AND CONTACTS



Get notifications and inspiring updates by plugging in today.



Engage with us directly for questions, suggestions, or comments on all our social media platforms.

 Share

Tell a friend to tell a friend about our story and impact their lives as well.

Nairobi (HQ)
0719 761 271 | 0719 761 371
STEM: 0724 997 053
Associates Department 0724 997 051
Resource Department
0724 997 060 | 0780 412 412 | 0746 131 132

Mt. Kenya: 0728 067 067
Pwani: 0724 997 056
Central Rift: 0724 997 057
North Rift: 0724 997 058
Lake Rift: 0745 765 908
Western: 0724 997 059