

Youthworx East Africa



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Firstly a very Happy New Year to all of you from all of us. I am writing this as 8.20am while we are having an eclipse. It is eerie as I can hardly see the keyboard and the sky is dark blue without a cloud.

The early part of the year will be a time of evaluation both of team and work. Last year both grew quite fast. This is good and bad. We now need to sit down, pray and make sure that the work we are doing is right and the team we have to do it are the right people in the right place. Please pray for our wisdom as we go through this process.

This also applies on a personal level. I have already begun an evaluation after Steve's visit. I have identified the role I feel God is drawing me into within YEA. The upcoming trip to South Africa will allow more time to pray this through and confirm I am on the right track. The future role identified as of now:

- Pastoral oversight of the team including meeting with their own church mentors/pastors. To ensure all team members are being effectively disciplined by either us or their home churches.
- Concentrate time on writing and developing the material we use in training and teaching. The aim is for deliberate planned development in this area instead of ad hoc writing when the need comes up.
- Take responsibility for communication with external and internal partners. This will include being the main visitor and also the 1st person in line to develop wider partnership (eg: linking with people like Brett and Odette in Zimbabwe) where appropriate.

In the past 6 weeks we have trained approx 200 youth leaders in Hoima and Masindi districts. As I write Collin and Prosper are in Kakumiro (1 hour south of Hoima) continuing this work. We have been covering foundations of Youth Ministry, effective communication with young people and servant leadership.

We are also being called to consider offering this basic training in city churches. This is surprising, as I would have expected them to be beyond this but apparently not. It will be interesting to see how the programmes we developed for up country churches will change dynamically in Kampala.

Ray is getting ready to leave for Bushenyi to begin work with the Compassion groups in that district. He will be assisted by the team from Masaka that he has recently trained at our campsite.

As well as a number of groups interested in using the campsite we are also planning a regular programme of our own camps that will be starting shortly. These will be both training and themed retreats for youth.

Amigos is currently slow as the university is in break and everyone is broke after Christmas. This would be worrying except that we have a number of plans for developing the business in hand and the students will be back on the campus at the end of the month. The actual running is smooth but we are not yet returning a profit. Watch this space..... Very soon we hope to have regular theme nights, local office deliveries, outside catering on offer etc .

I plan to leave on 8th February for Cape Town. The first 2 weeks are holiday, then I will make a visit to Jess before linking up to Harare (Zimbabwe). I am scheduled to do some

experimental training with Central Baptist Church in Harare. Then I will travel down to Masvingo to spend 5 days with Brett and Odette. Then the adventure begins: It is my plan to travel across to Victoria Falls, up through Zambia and connect with the once weekly ferry service up Lake Tanganyika to Kigoma in Tanzania. This should leave me a bus hop from Bujumbura where I join Collin to work with Florent and Giscard.....before going home.....

The Uganda Youth Forum Conference is going fine this week.

God bless
Ian