



FOCUS BRIEFS

Developing leaders, Transforming lives



Since its launch in 1992, the Short Term Experience in Ministry (STEM) program has been a platform for growth for both the STEM Staff and the Students. Each year, FOCUS releases a group of young people who have been molded through the STEM Program to the society. The STEM

2017/2018 Cohort transitioned on July 29, 2018. The STEM 2018/2019 cohort, of 39 STEM Staff, are already in their stations across the country after successfully going through Staff Orientation Training (SOT) in September 2018. Pray that God will see them through the journey of STEM.

A CALL TO DO AND TO BECOME

Samuel Maina

STEM Staff KU Kitui Campus and SEKU

“The call to serve God is both to do and to become. On one side, it’s a call to labor in His vineyard through running programs and accomplishing tasks all in effort to meet certain objectives and on the other side it’s a call to allow God work and daily mold you to reflect the character and lifestyle of Christ, the product of which is a pilgrim Christian. STEM Program has given me opportunities for both doing and becoming. One of my best experiences in STEM was the bonding with students often in informal meetings. I enjoyed spending time with them, chatting, having fun together, joining them in cooking for bashes, celebrating birthdays, and hiking. Such fora provided many open doors for ministry and especially being a role model. This helped me serve amongst them not like a stranger but as one of them. On one occasion I almost missed a BEST-P class that i was scheduled to facilitate. On that specific day I boarded a bus to SEKU. On arrival, the fight for a space inside the bus was so tough that the multitude of students who were boarding did not allow the few of us who had arrived to exit. I miraculously managed to get out after ‘fighting’ for some time. This and many of such experiences helped me identify with their struggles and lifestyle. Living as one of them and interacting with them freely gave me more strength and joy in my ministry. through out these experiences, i have become a better follower of Christ.

GOD THE PROVIDER IN STEM

Magdaline Mbugua

STEM Staff Egerton Njoro

I still remember my parents’ reaction when I broke the news about joining ministry for one year. My dad was silent for a moment while my mum seemed to like the idea till I mentioned fundraising. How on earth could I raise Ksh. 22,000 monthly? I was also not sure how I would achieve this. In my heart I knew God had called me to STEM and somehow I knew that He would provide. I started engaging partners later in the month, inviting them to be part of my STEM journey. It was such a huge task. I thank God for the progress and the humble beginnings in the first months. As I received my financial statement each month, I would call my parents to give them a testimony of what God was doing in my fundraising. With time they got convicted that indeed STEM was God’s will for me and became supportive. As I look back today, the conviction of God’s divine providence is so true in my life. He provided tremendously through my partners. This is a major testimony for me; God is truly at work in the ministry of FOCUS and He ultimately is the Provider. My best moments in STEM are the sleepovers and the visits by students in the STEM house. Sitting with students and sharing deep conversations left me fulfilled and refreshed. As an individual, STEM helped me appreciate that I am work in progress and will be till my Lord and Savior returns.





Titus Wamalwa (Middle) during the STEM 2017-18 Convocation

***Francis Timothy,
Kagumo TTC***

“I met Titus Wamalwa (STEM Staff -Nyeri CUs) when he was introduced to our CU by the then outgoing STEM Staff Agnes Njeru. I was then a committed member of the CU, and later became the CU Chairperson. He was present in our CU every Saturday and from our interactions, I learnt a lot from him. Through him, I embraced servant leadership, humility and a lifestyle of personal devotion. He encouraged us to excel. As he talked to us, I realized that God had called me to excel as a leader and be a role model through academic excellence. He helped me see and appreciate the importance of sharing. In the beginning it was hard for me to share about my life especially the social part, but eventually I realized its significance.



Magdaline Mbugua (STEM Staff) with students in Bible Study Meeting



Selly Sendar (Right) during the STEM 2017-18 Convocation

***Miriam Kang'au,
Meru University***

“I got to know Selly before I joined campus. She was still a student and in the same campus as my sister. When I joined campus she welcomed me and we had a really good time engaging in the Christian Union activities. She really encouraged and affirmed me when I was called to serve in leadership. Spending time with her gave me an opportunity to be mentored on various areas of a student’s life especially on relationships. She was so instrumental especially in giving me direction when I needed it. Selly was so time conscious. This challenged me greatly and taught me to be a good time keeper. She was also quite welcoming. I felt free to approach her and talk regarding my struggles. She was not just a STEM staff to me but a friend and a big sister.”



Mercy Jeptoo (STEM Staff-Left) with students of Coop. University

THE DIFFICULT CHOICE FOR THE PARENTS

Margaret Mutua

STEM Staff KeMU and Meru University

Since childhood, my parents have been very supportive and always present. They have been key influencers in the major decisions that I have made. Throughout my childhood I don't remember saying no to any of their instructions. This made my dad and I bond very closely.

Having gone through the education system successfully everyone was eager to see what I would finally do with my life. My parents expected that I would start working or enroll for my Masters and take up various roles in the family. With such a background, getting into ministry was the least expected.

When I told my parents that I decided to join STEM, they did not understand me; they thought I had been negatively influenced. They knew nothing about FOCUS Kenya. Upon consulting a third party, they were told that the Organization

works with students who want to become pastors. This worsened the issue and it became clear that they were not in support.

There was a long period of silence between us. I broke the silence when I was telling them that I had been posted to Meru. They were really disappointed since they thought that I had dropped the issue when I went silent on it. At that point dad asked me whether I had ran out of options; he felt that it was a move I was taking out of desperation. After a long engagement they allowed me to report but I felt it was half-heartedly.

I kept praying that God would touch their hearts and would allow them to be at peace with my new course. Sure, our God is faithful! Eventually, my prayer was answered. One day dad called me and told me that he was glad I am serving God and I should do so gladly for it is still work.

Currently they are in full support of my ministry and they call me regularly to check on my progress. I bless the Lord!"



FOCUS Stakeholders following the events of the 2017-18 Convocation at FOCUS Centre

MENTORSHIP FOCUS

FOCUS Kenya hosted the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students – English Portuguese Speaking Africa (IFES- EPSA) consultation for Emerging Young Leaders in 2016. This Consultation aimed at raising the next generation of staff and givers for students' ministry through mentorship. Subsequently, there have been Regional follow up consultations in Ghana, Zambia and most recently Kenya.

This year, FOCUS Kenya was privileged to host another of the EPSA Eastern Sub- Region Mentorship Consultation in Nairobi from 11th to 15th October. The Consultation brought together delegates from Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. It aimed at sensitizing, catalyzing, equipping, and modeling mentorship as a strategy for discipleship and developing leaders to become agents of godly transformation in the society. FOCUS Kenya launched Specialized Mentorship Program in April 2018 in line with this initiative by EPSA. The first participants

of the FOCUS Kenya Specialized Mentorship Program had the opportunity to connect during the EPSA Mentorship Consultation. During the Consultation, the mentees and their mentors in the fields of academia, business, career ministry, and politics & governance connected with an aim of walking together for a period of one year. In addition, FOCUS Kenya holds triennial National Leadership Summits (NLS). These bring together all key Christian Union leaders from Christian Unions across the country as well as other Christian student leaders in strategic leadership positions in their institutions. These Summits run under the theme, 'Entrusted to Trust' derived from 2 Tim 2:2. The last National Leadership and Summit was held in 2016 and the next is scheduled for January 3rd to 7th 2019 at The Cooperative University of Kenya. The 2019 National Leadership and Mentorship Summit (NLMS) will major on mentorship thus bring associates to spend time with the students.



Mentorship fora for students FOCUS Associates and Staff



FRESHMEN IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Between August and September this year, over 80,000 students joined institutions of higher learning across the country. It is important that these students get founded and rooted in Christ even as they pursue their academic goals. For this reason, Christian Unions in these institutions organized different activities to orient the freshers during which 16,400 first years joined Christian Unions. They continue with involvement in the CUs, and in the *Anza FYT* program specially designed for them through Orientation, Training and Integration to the Christian Union. Some of the areas engaged in the program include: Training on engaging the new life on campus, Fellowship, Mutual Support and Accountability. We thank God for the good work He began in them, for He will surely bring it to completion.

DEVELOPING LEADERS

FOCUS seeks to develop transformational servant leaders who will play key leadership roles while on campus, in church and society. The Christian Unions provide ground for leadership training; new leaders assume leadership positions every academic year. FOCUS trains and equips them with the necessary skills for effective service. The Regional Students Executive Committee (RSEC) and National Students Executive Committee (NASEC) also give CU leaders opportunity to grow and polish their skills as they learn from each other. The results of these trainings is evident in the number of former CU leaders who take up leadership positions in various spheres in the society after they graduate. As we continue to develop servant leaders, we continue to change nations for Christ.



Leadership Training Sessions for Different CUs and FOCUS Staff



NEWS BRIEFS

PWANI REGION



Technical University of Mombasa Christian Union members and residents of Ngomeni- Malindi, Kilifi County during the TUM CU annual mission in the area. 250 residents gave their lives to Christ.

CENTRAL RIFT

- Masai Mara University Christian Union held a Staff Sunday Service on 21st October. 33 members of faculty participated in the service.
- Over 200 Students from Nakuru Town CUs in partnership with CITAM-Nakuru, County Government of Nakuru, Beyond Zero, and the leadership of Bondeni youths carried out medical camp, clean up, tree planting and person to person witnessing on 23rd June 2018 in the slums of Bondeni in Nakuru town.



781 students from 11 Christian Unions participate in a Regional Kesha held in RVIST.

NORTHERN NAIROBI

15 Churches in Kitui open doors for mobilization of resources for students ministry on 28th October 2018. We are grateful to God for partnerships towards the vision of FOCUS



SOUTHERN NAIROBI



251 students from 10 institutions gathered at UoN Kenya Science Campus for the first years retreat on 6th October 2018.

HATUA: ACT NOW, SHAPE THE FUTURE

God's call to develop values among students in institutions of higher learning has remained crystal clear for FOCUS Kenya for the last 45 years. Through time, work has expanded and the facilities present over -stretched. Presently, we work with 152 Christian Unions with over 45,000 students. For this reason, we embarked on the *Hatua Campaign: Act Now, Shape the Future* in 2017. A campaign that has brought Students, FOCUS Associates and partners together, for a worthy course. Through this initiative, we aim to raise funds for the development of training facilities.

Our goal for the first phase is to raise Kshs. 150M for acquiring land in 5 Regions and developing the Kasarani Students Centre. Various activities have been going on in the Regions towards Hatua Campaign mobilization and raising resources. In the Pwani Region, we have already identified and paid for a 9 acre piece of land in Mombasa. In addition, we are currently in the process of acquiring land for the Central Rift Region.

The Hatua Campaign was launched during a Hatua Dinner held on 2nd November 2018 at the Sarova Panafric. During the Hatua Dinner, Ksh. 12.5M was raised, and there were pledges of Ksh. 4M. So far, more than Ksh. 16M has been raised since 2017 towards the Hatua Campaign. Other

events in the North Rift and Western Regions have been scheduled to happen before the close of the year. We call on everyone, every concerned citizen to take these *Hatuas* (steps) with us. One Hatua is Kshs. 4000 the estimated cost of one square foot. You could take multiple *Hatuas* too. We believe that God will continue providing for this initiative. Let us walk together; #Tuchukue Hatua Pamoja.



HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

1. Praying for FOCUS ministry.
2. Donating gifts in kind.
3. Offering professional services.
4. Giving financial Support.

SENDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Mpesa Paybill:

Business Number: 412 412

Account Name: Donation or STEM

BANK ACCOUNTS:

Barclays Bank:
Market Branch,
Account No. 0948207400

Standard Chartered Bank:
Harambee Avenue Branch,
Account No. 0102073083700

Co-operative Bank:
Zimmerman Branch,
A/c No. 01128098633500.

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