

KIMWANYI CHURCH OF UGANDA PARISH

(WEST BUGANDA DIOCESE)

P.O.BOX 446., MASAKA

(YOUTH MINISTRY)

Re: ANNUAL YOUTH CAMP AT KIMWANYI P/S AND NABUGABO HOLIDAY CENTRE 17TH-21ST JANUARY 2017.

Theme: HERE I AM LORD, SEND ME. ISAIAH 6:8

Introduction, Background and objectives;

After a serious study on youth involvement in the church ministry, we found out that by 2013 a very small number of youth were passively attending church in Kimwanyi Parish. Only at Kimwanyi, 6 youth could irregularly come to church and had no significant role in the church leaving alone the organist.

In the first six months, we had found out that there were more youth in families than those who could afford coming to church and to ask them why not attending church, they gave reasons;

- a) The services are boring in old style and time consuming...
- b) Sermons and teachings only favour the elderly
- c) The youth were not allowed to participate in church activities because they are seen as inferiors and with little understanding of church affairs
- d) Youth were viewed as immoral characters in the society only known by petty theft, sexually addicts, drug abusers and any other social vices
- e) Low understanding of the church ministry and the WORD, etc.....

Briefly, there was a very big gap between the old and youth members of the church. But by the Grace of God, we slowly begun to involve youth in church activities by;

- a) Saturday choir practices in church hymns and choruses, Bible study, cleaning the church and of course prayer sessions.
- b) Guidance and counselling and through spiritual talks from different professionals
- c) Agricultural demonstrations at the church gardens
- d) A separate church service in English with elements that suit their age but do not contradict the teaching of the Scriptures and the doctrine of the church.

These four major dimensions helped us to build confidence, self-trust, exposure, development of God-given gifts and talents and behavioural change hence community acceptance, love and trust in the youth. This achievement later in 2014, took us to the introduction of;

- a) Easter cup through sports and games

- b) Self-help projects in homes for income creation
- c) Annual camps during the December-January holiday
- d) Overnights every at the of holidays

All these are done to achieve;

- i) Christian formation, and Christian knowledge among youth and children
- ii) Make Christ known to all different age groups through the easiest ways
- iii) Promote behavioral change and build youth with focused mind set
- iv) Involve all age groups in the church activities
- v) Income generating and food security in homes
- vi) Encourage love for education
- vii) Bridge the gap between youth and old as far church and social life are concerned, among others.

As we do all these, we do not consider religious affiliations, gender, political differences, ethnic or home economic background of individual but to make Christ known to all.

We began with 15 youth in 2013 but now they are over 200 active youth in the parish not counting the inspired hundreds of old people and children around the parish.

Topics covered in the Camp 2017

- God and me; for what purpose am I created?
- Theme exposition: Isaiah 6:8
- Sports and games: A healthy mind in a healthy body
- Let your will be done Lord: Responding to the Devine call- A blessing.
- The devil's mission: The impact of HIV/ AIDs on salvation mission. John 10:10a
- Peer counselling and guidance:
- Who am I?
- The transition for youth to adulthood; A pre-planned divine purpose
- Nature and me; What is my role in safe guarding the environment
- The power of Prayer in doing the Will of God
- Quiz
- Talent show
- Home economics; The journey to economic independence.

We expected 200 participants but we had 193 in number who attended this camp. This was a very great achievement.

Facilitators:-

Rev. Canon Eriab Nkambo Mugerwa

Rev. Dickson Kimbujje

Rev. Ian Mabuuka

Mrs. Grace Nassanga Matovu

Mr. Keefa Kalanzi

Mr. Amos Ssemaluulu

Mr. Fred Kibudde

Mr. Joshua Mwomeezi

The very Rev. Canon Fredrick Kayondo

Dr. Fred Ssekibengo

Achievements:-

1. 10 youths accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and savior.
2. Over 50 renewed their Christian relationship with Jesus Christ.
3. The gospel was preached to more youths
4. New skills were introduced to our youths; baking cakes, chapatti, etcetera
5. Many youth had adventure at Nabugabo beach whereby to many it was their first time to visit at such a natural environment.
6. New leadership skills were introduced to our youth.
7. Through counselling and guidance, many youth were encouraged, inspired, motivated with hope and faith to face the challenges of un-employment, teenage relationships, and economic stress.
8. Youth were equipped with skills on how to build a right attitude towards work, sexuality, education, making good use of talents.
9. ***Three weeks after the camp a group of ten youth committed themselves to digging sand and making bricks with a vision of starting a vocational training Centre. So far there is sand that can help in the construction of one block.***
10. The Church congregation is inspired to support with food and water for this innovation.
11. More youth have strengthened their Church membership and more life in worship and praises is evident.

Way forward:

After this camp youths committed themselves to;

- ✓ Make outreach ministries during holiday like constructing sun driers, help in the garden, making simple toilets for the elderly
- ✓ Brick laying with the target of constructing a centre for skills development
- ✓ Witnessing for Christ at their schools by forming Bible study groups
- ✓ Committing themselves to abstinence until the rightful time for marriage
- ✓ Encouraging each other for economic activities by making small saving groups of between 10-15 members each.
- ✓ Forming village payer groups for spiritual development
- ✓ Forming revision groups at schools for better grades in academics

Challenges:

We did not encounter many challenges since we had the support of Christian Hope International.

The one challenge was on less funds as per our budget and this prompted us to adjust in our first idea of spending the 5 days residential at Nabugabo and instead we spent there 2 days, the rest of the days we were at Kimwanyi Primary school main hall.

Special thanks;

We could not afford to successfully make this remarkable achievement in the youth ministry without the help of these people;

1. Parents and guardians for the willingness to allow their youth to freely come to church at any moment of need
2. Church executive for the financial and moral support
3. Christian Hope International for the financial, moral and spiritual encouragement and support.
In fact without CHI, we could hardly achieve the best of our target among youth and children.
Bravo to CHI!
4. All the youth for their willingness, active participation and readiness to learn and co-operate and the love for Christ's ministry.

With the above report, our 4th Annual Camp was aimed at empowering youth with skills on how to witness for Christ.