



Happenings Around Hope of Africa

Uganda April 2024

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Mentorship Camp

In the final week of March 2024, a mentorship camp was organized for alumni boys who had completed the youth empowerment program. The overnight event engaged boys in various activities like gathering firewood, setting up sleeping arrangements, and cooking meals. The attendees included alumni boys from different years, such as Alex and Hakim from 2017, Emma, Stanley, Michael, and Robert from 2022, Julius, Bright, and Collins from the Boot Camp of 2022, and Samson from the LEAD program of 2023. The boys started with a prayer and introductions around a bonfire, sharing their impactful experiences from the program. Many credited the program for their spiritual growth. Discussions revolved around law and leadership classes, transformative discipleship programs, and the significance of tailoring classes. The importance of SAY's support was greatly appreciated by all.

Hakim shared his program journey and then offered some valuable advice to the boys. He cautioned them against engaging in any violent activities in the community, urging them to take their lives seriously. Hakim emphasized the significance of acquiring essential documentation, like national identification, to grasp opportunities.





Alex encouraged spiritual growth and a strong relationship with God through reading the Bible and prayer, underscoring that achievements are guided by one's closeness to God. They enjoyed dinner around the fire and a movie before bedtime, and the next morning, gathered for breakfast. Herbert led a session on building lasting relationships, urging the boys to support each other like brothers, drawing inspiration from 2 Corinthians 13:1-8. The session ended with a heartfelt prayer before everyone headed home.

Alumni Visits

A significant moment took place when the youth empowerment team set out on their first alumni visit of 2024. Excitement filled the air as they prepared to reconnect with a list of alumni, including valued members of the 2017 cohort and the recently graduated LEAD program alumni of 2023.



Hakim

Their initial visit took them to Hakim's workplace in Senge, where he warmly greeted them and led a tour of both his workplace and the community library, leaving a lasting impression of its beauty and organization. Hakim then introduced our team to his coworkers and provided insight into the library's programs, such as weekend sessions and holiday activities for local children. He shared how the SAY Gap year program had influenced his spiritual development, despite his Muslim background, and expressed appreciation for the support he had received.

Zam, Skyler and Samson

The team also paid a visit to Skyler and Samson, who are alumni of the 2023 Leadership Development Program (LEAD). The atmosphere was filled with joy as they were warmly welcomed by their mother and siblings. Together, they reflected on shared milestones and experiences, each story serving as a testament to the enduring relationships fostered by SAY.



Samson shared his journey since joining SAY, including his internship at the Red Cross Wakiso branch and his current learning experience at a local welding workshop. Skyler, who acquired hairdressing skills during the LEAD program, was pleasantly surprised by Martha's offer to explore job opportunities at nearby salons.

Their mother expressed appreciation to SAY for nurturing and influencing her children positively. Zam, their elder sister, was also visited. Echoing her mother's sentiments, she expressed gratitude and highlighted the transformative impact of the Discipleship Mission Training conducted under SAY's LEAD Program.

AWANA

Excitement filled the air as we held our inaugural Awana session with our new partners, His Grace Infant Primary School, a private school in a nearby village. Engaging with 180 children from primary four to seven, the focus was on introducing the program and our team to the students and teachers. Our volunteer youths, supported by the outreach team, took turns presenting different program sessions.



To add to the fun, practice games were organized, delighting the enthusiastic club members. The day ended with a delightful snack shared among the children and teachers. Anticipation is high for the next club session at His Grace Infant School, as the children eagerly await the upcoming visit, already inquiring their teachers about the next meeting.



Camp

One of the biggest highlights this month was seeing so many new faces from the cell groups that happen in the community on a weekly basis, these cell groups have become a mobilizing tool for our other SAY projects.



The topic of discussion was Career Guidance, and this was chosen because after the youths have dropped out of school, they most often do not know what is next for their lives, even those that graduate out of the SAY LEAD program may be unaware of where the road will lead them.

Herbert confidently led a career guidance session, showcasing his extensive knowledge on the subject. The interactive session prompted the youth to reflect on their life purposes. They engaged in a survey to explore their:

1. Personality
2. Vocational Interests
3. Skills/Abilities
4. Work Environment
5. Work Outcomes
6. Life Values.





Martha led a session on career guidance from a spiritual perspective before the aforementioned session. During her talk, she discussed the biblical views on careers and work, emphasizing that God intended for humans to work from the beginning when they were placed in the garden of Eden. She highlighted examples from the Bible such as Abraham engaging in commercial trade, Daniel serving as a government official, as well as Nehemiah, and Jacob.

Martha advised young people to be discerning when selecting careers and to seek guidance from the Spirit to ensure their chosen paths align with God's divine plan and purpose for their lives.



Prayer Requests and Praises:

- We praise the Lord for His continued provision.
- Pray for complete healing for Medard's daughter.
- Pray for continued healing for Jackie's mother.
- Pray for the cell groups. Pray the Lord raises up more leaders as the groups continue to grow.
- Pray for the Uganda team as they form a new partnership with Youth Link Uganda to offer an entrepreneurship program.
- Pray for the 2024 students that will be selected for the Youth Empowerment Program.
- Pray for our alumni. Pray their relationship with the Lord will be strengthened and that we are able to come alongside them to continue mentoring them.