

Cornerstone

Newsletter & Magazine December 2013

A Family of Friends - Developing the Cornerstones of Africa's Next Generation

A BETTER WORLD

About one third of the world claims, in one form or the other, to be a follower of a man who lived on Earth a couple thousand years ago. He was Jesus of Nazareth, I'm sure you've heard of him.

He lived in what we call today the Middle East, which at the time was controlled by the Roman Empire. His message and methods were surely wise - but also quite revolutionary and counter-intuitive. The world he lived in was full of injustice, prejudice, poverty, self-indulgence, materialism, violence and arrogance - much like most of our world today.

But, instead of addressing these practices through political avenues, he simply told people they should not hate their enemies, but rather try to love and pray for them. He told them that if they were hit one cheek, they should turn the other one to be hit as well. He said it was the duty of people to care for those that needed care the most, the least in society: widows and orphans. He said you should never worry, especially about money. He said we should never judge others but instead examine our own flaws. And above all, that we should just be kind and treat people the way would like to be treated.

Napoleon had this to say about him: "Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself have founded great empires. But our empires were founded on force. Jesus alone founded His empire on love, and to this day millions would die for Him."

In this newsletter we are exploring what creates the kind of influence which leads to a better world - what can we learn about this from Jesus? We often assume that the kind of social change needed to right the wrongs we see around us, largely requires political solutions. And so the temptation is to overly emphasize strategies of political engagement. But is this true?

Through our work in East Africa, we ourselves have been directly involved with Youth Leadership Development which is affiliated with the Prayer Breakfast movement in this region and efforts seeking to find ways to get the "kings" of this world... like Paul was charged to do in Acts 9:11 - on board with the good news of the Kingdom that Jesus announced was breaking into the world. An empire of love, coming "on earth as it is in Heaven." A new world. A better world.

But are we being true to the methods Jesus gave us to see this happen? Have we forgotten the process of change has to begin within our own hearts and minds instead of using external forces or means of power. What does it mean to influence and impact the world in a positive way? What is the difference between the world's measures of success, and living a life of real lasting significance?



Inside



and...

- * Updates from Leadership Academy of South Sudan.
- * Centerfold Pictorial
- * Thoughts from Tim.



Cornerstone Development Africa

We are a family of friends in the spirit of Jesus committed to:

** Equipping and advancing a movement of “servant leaders” with a shared vision for the positive social transformation of their communities, nation and region.*

** Compassion for the poor with a focus on young people.*

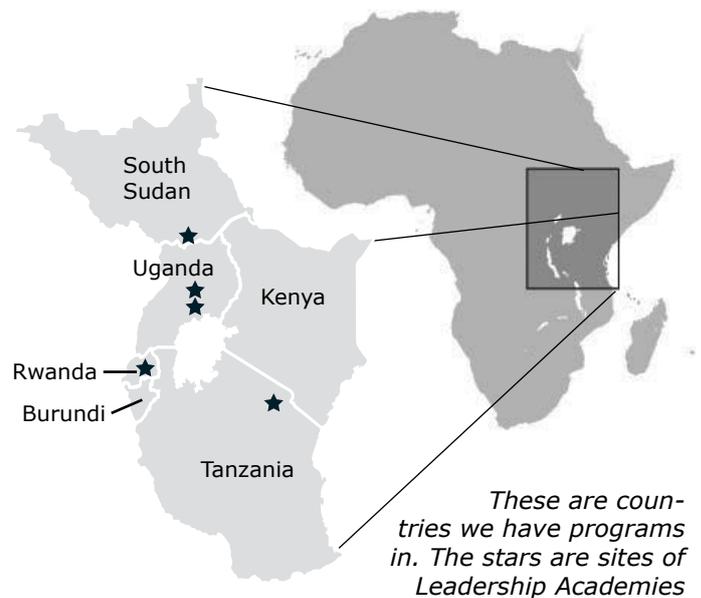
** Working across the lines of culture and faith differences.*

** Maintaining a long-term partnership with each other.*

** Loving God and neighbor.*

Cornerstone Development was established in Uganda in 1988 to help in the rebuilding and development of the nation as it was emerging from a turbulent past. In recent years we have expanded to Rwanda, Tanzania, Burundi and Southern Sudan. All our programs are directed towards helping under-privileged children, with a special emphasis on youth leadership development. Since its inception the work has steadily expanded to include over 2,000 young people today- in a variety of programs including five schools, ten homes for homeless kids, 4 homes for university youth and sports programs - all designed for providing love, education and character formation.

Our core focus is on “Developing the Cornerstones of Africa’s Next Generation”. That is, to raise up future leaders with a shared vision of positively transforming their communities and nations, as an outgrowth of their own personal transformation. Our approach involves creating loving, family-like environments in our schools and other programs for under-privileged young people, while empowering them with education and character formation in order for them to become leaders. Furthermore, the young people coming through our programs are forming a movement that seeks to make a contribution to the betterment of society while promoting reconciliation



These are countries we have programs in. The stars are sites of Leadership Academies

across all that is dividing humanity. We as a community are a living model of this kind of unity in diversity, in that we are composed of all the different tribes, nationalities, cultures and religious backgrounds found in this part of the world.

In our character development curriculum we teach the timeless, universal principles of forgiveness, honesty, integrity, compassion, kindness, hard work, humility, and of service to the less fortunate, as exemplified in the teachings Jesus and the perennial wisdom of all traditions, but without affiliation to any one institutional religious group.

See more online:

www.CornerstoneDevelopment.org

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Member of AYLK Kenya, Tom is the former Student President of Kenyatta University. During his tenure, Tom pioneered KUSO - a new students union in Kenya that seeks to better represent the students on campus. In this article Tom shares with us some of the things this experience has taught him.



Molly Nalonga P. 6

A graduate of our Youth Corps program, Molly now wears several 'hats'. She works in our accounts office, but also works as a resettlement coordinator for our mentoring homes. In her free time Molly is part of a very successful cultural dance and performing arts group!



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CLA Rwanda class of 2009 - Issa is currently the student body (guild) president of the college of Finance of Banking. In this article, Issa shares about his journey of discovering his own self-confidence and how this led to leadership.



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CLA Uganda Class of 1998 - David now serves as the Head Master of Cornerstone's newest program: the Leadership Academy of South Sudan. In this article David gives us some school updates and also shares his thoughts on our theme.

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Ekitangaala Transformation High School Class of 2009 - Enock now works with the Cornerstone Leadership Academy in Rwanda. In this

article, he shares about his experience with influence and impact, and how this relates to a particular analogy of a mango!



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CLA Uganda Class of 2005 - he is currently a the Deputy Headmaster of the Cornerstone Leadership Academy in Tanzania. In this article, Sam shares about the unique brand of transformational leadership that he champions at work and his community.



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CLA Rwanda class of 2012 - Allen was is currently enrolled in a Bridge to Rwanda course to better position her for university scholarhsips. A highlight for her this year was the privileged to meet Presdient Clinton on his recent visit to Rwanda! In this article Allen talks about how she has been an influence to those around her.

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The Cornerstone Old Students Association executive committee is the leadership head of our alumni association. Although we work with and alongside each other, the COSA executive team are independent of Cornerstone as an organization, and exist to represent the Alumni's interests and further their shared objectives.



Kato & Stella P. 17

Stella Kembabazi and Silas Kato and two recent graduates of the Youth Corps mentoring program. Both performed at the top of their class and recieved scholarships to attend university. This article reveals some highlights of their unfolding stories.



Tim Kreutter P. 20

Co-founder and Director of Cornerstone Development Africa. In this article, Tim writes about "How To Change The World", and what we can learn about the silent revolutionary style of influence that Jesus teaches us.

Our core focus is 'youth leadership development' after the model of Jesus. So, in addition to our schools, all the various programs we run serve this focus by providing a practical "training ground" where graduates of our schools can learn to serve and pass on what they have received. Each year we put out two magazine's like this one. At the end of last year we highlighted some of the People in our work, and this one will highlight Cornerstone's Programs. **3**

INSPIRED BY JESUS,

**who loves and accepts people,
the way they are.**



Class of 2006 - CLA UGANDA

Lydia Byogero

Over the past few years I have had a variety of responsibilities in the places where I have worked. But one thing I have come to discover is: the greater work we do is invisible. It is really a matter of touching the heart and soul of others, for this is where any real transformation begins. Once the heart and soul has been changed, then that transformation will slowly work its way into the person's day-to-day physical life and only then, can you see visible results.

Many times, you may not be able to witness a change in others right away, but if they testify that there is something admirable in you that they want to emulate, this is the first step. And you will really know that you have impacted them, with a truly transformational type of influence, when they begin to emulate an upright character quality in you. But if instead they begin to emulate your less desirable character traits, you have still influenced them, but not in a transformational way - more of a degenerate way!

As normal human beings, we need a higher, more divine kind of inspiration in our lives in order to inspire others. As we allow God to guide and inspire us daily; carefully listening and harkening to His calm voice - our lives begin to blossom in beautiful ways.

This will never happen if we are not genuine. We cannot pretend to say one thing and do another. If God is to work through us, in a way that is a powerful testament of personal transformation - we need to genuinely let God transform each and every part of us - until our life becomes one big consistent message to those around us.

4 I believe it takes God to work through you to create this kind of influence.

Whenever people see a fake-ness or inconsistency in us it degrades our testimony and influence. You don't have to be a perfect angel, but just don't pretend to be - you should be real with others and real with God. In fact, I believe that you should allow the people around you to see some of your flaws so they know you are human and you also fail - so, you need God just as they do.

When they see you rise and accept your challenges and then rise above them - it only serves as more inspiration to them. This kind of honesty and humility is what is required to create fertile ground for transformation. Just do your best despite your flaws - following the guidance of the Holy Spirit - who by the way lives in you!

I am constantly inspired by the example of Jesus, who loves and accepts people the way they are - even if we were to fail a hundred times...he would still love us! This inspires ME to never give up and keep working on my own transformation. It also reminds me that if we are to have a transformational influence that truly impacts others, we must accept people the way they are, and mentor them in love.

There is a famous saying that: "People don't care what you know... until they know that you care!" This makes us realize that loving others and showing kindness to those around us is the first priority in our lives and as the most important step we have to begin with if we are to touch the hearts and souls of others. It is only after people know that you love them genuinely that they will respect you, and they will start looking to you for advice.

This is the secret to transcending from mere success in society to real significance in society. Success occurs when you have achieved some personal goals in the world, but significance occurs when you have done something that is truly relevant to God's "Master Plan" - using your life to bring the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Success is accumulating and achieving a lot of things for yourself especially, but significance is using your success and the talents that you have to influence and impact the lives of other people around you for the greater good of God.

We all need to know that we are on this earth because God has a purpose for us. Our main mission is to use our lives to glorify God and point to Jesus' truest love in all we do. So, we should live our lives mindfully and with intentionality, knowing that in the end, we are responsible for this opportunity, and we will have to give accountability on how we have used our lives to influence and impact the world for the better.

Changing the Leadership Culture of East Africa's Universities



AYLF Kenya

Tom Mboya

Former Student President of Kenyatta University

There has been a paradigm shift in recent times from the usual public expectations of a student leader on campus in Kenya. Not long ago, the student leader had been viewed as a 'mouthpiece for hire' at worst, and at best a pseudo-respected contributor in national discussions. In the past, university students were often caught up in endless, unreasonable and uncalled for strikes - their missions being to damage the property of innocent citizens, who had nothing whatsoever to do with their cause of disgruntlement. However, this area of uncouth student leadership is slowly fading. Surely, there is still a lot of work to be done, yet I can confidently confirm that the impact Africa Youth Leadership Forum (AYLF) is having in this country is truly transformational. Among colleagues, we have often said that elective victory is not supposed to be a moment for celebration. Rather, it should be a period of reflection since the win at the ballot is but the beginning of something bigger and better called good leadership. For the true test of good leadership is to remain relevant through-out your term and to leave people better off because of your service to them.

One of the greatest things I have learned about influence and impact is that here is a lot of power in small groups. I have learnt that to wait until everyone joins you in a noble cause is to wait in vain. Rather than waste time, you should start small, act fast though a few, and let the rest join you along the way.

This is a strategy we employed in the initial stages when coming together in large numbers for KUSO activities (Kenya University Students Organization - an initiative I helped spearhead) when mobilization was still a daunting task. Often times we would see only a handful of us in seriously planned meetings and feel discouraged. Then we realized our approach was wrong. We learned that instead of focusing on how many we were, we should have been

focusing in building friendships first with the few we had, then all the rest would fall into place. Thanks to this approach, we now regularly meet every Wednesday and with a growing quorum of attendance.

Conspicuously missing from the realms of University student leadership has been a mechanism put in place for mentoring these young leaders. This is why most of them disappear from the noble course of serving others soon after they complete their studies at the university. This gap is currently being filled up in Kenya by a mentoring program undertaken by AYLF in collaboration with among others the Uungwana/Ushenzi initiative. In this program, serving student leaders are attached to leaders in the public or private sector with a good standing in the society. This makes these young leaders start to grasp the vision for other platforms for leading and not just confining themselves to the University. It opens up their minds to be proactive and not reactive to situations. This is because leaders set the tone in a society. And a leader can't demand of others what he doesn't demand of himself. By being mentored, student leaders are consequently prepared for a higher calling later in life.

I believe that good leaders have big ears and small mouths. This is a character seen in people who don't speak before they get to the bottom of things. I have learnt that whenever I have all the facts with me, I am more confident when articulating issues. Just the same way you feel ready for an exam if you have at least been reading beforehand. As leaders, AYLF has taught us to be keen with details and to always listen to both sides in controversial issues before making up our minds. This includes listening to our comrades more in order to make informed decisions. This at times is difficult given that student leaders have long queues of people outside their offices waiting to talk to them in certain large institutions.

Above all, the ideals of transformative leadership I learned from AYLF have always focused on the leadership style of Jesus. That though we come from different religions, Jesus taught principles that the peoples of the world need in order to live harmoniously and in a way that is fulfilling to all. By choosing to occupy our minds with such good thoughts we prepare ourselves to perform good deeds. What holds our attention actually determines our actions. It is clear that we are who we are and what we are - because of the quality of thoughts that dominate our minds.

Another important lesson I learned was that of patience. We have heard that what we sow is what we will reap. But if we lack patience, it's possible to sow and not be in a position to reap the benefits. Things take time to grow and we have to faithfully and patiently persist if we hope to one day harvest the fruits of our efforts.

THE COURAGE TO LEAD

Empowered by the principles and precepts of Jesus



Class of 2009 - CLA RWANDA

Issa Ntambara

*Student Body Guild President - University of Rwanda, C.B.E.
(formerly the School of Finance and Banking)*

My first exposure to formal responsibility was in my primary school, when I was elected the prefect in charge of hygiene. It was a small role for me to play in my class, but I remember how it felt to have a sphere of influence where what I did mattered, and how I acted made some difference in my community. At that point, I was not a leader by choice - I was a leader by chance. I had low self-esteem and little confidence, there was no way I would put myself out there to ask for bigger responsibilities, so that was that.

It wasn't until I joined the Cornerstone Leadership Academy in Rwanda in 2007 that I really developed self-confidence. This was due to the leadership empowerment and discipleship material that we were mentored in as students, and also because each student at CLA had certain responsibilities that helped them exercise their leadership potential. The staff really did believe in me, and believed that there was some greatness hidden within me that I could draw out with time. This really changed the way I viewed who I was, and the role I had to play in whatever community I was a part of.

In November of 2009 I graduated from CLA Rwanda. At that time, all of us graduates in the country had to join the National Solidarity Camps (Ingando) - a mandatory patriotism training inculcating unity and reconciliation for Rwandan youth. It was during this 3 week training with over 3,000 students from all different areas of

the country, that I first began to exert myself outside of school environment. I really stepped up and took responsibility with whatever was asked of me, and in return I gained a degree of respect in the camp. This respect gave me a voice to influence and impact peers around me, and by the end of the camp gathering I was voted to be the Kicukiro Sector Coordinator for the youth -representing over 600 Senior Six High School graduates.

This experience inspired me to continue stepping up for leadership opportunities as I practically applied many of the Leadership principles and precepts of Jesus that we had learned at CLA - while molding my character to be one that was known for integrity. In 2011, in the College of Business and Economics, I was elected to represent the College in the National Youth Council in charge of finance. From there I was also elected to be the chairperson of Rwanda Patriotic Front (ruling political party) to officiate at special occasions. This really boosted my confidence, and so I began to take my own leadership development very seriously. Additionally, being involved in the Cornerstone Old Students Association, and also the Africa Youth Leadership Forum, I discovered more about being a good leader.

It wasn't long after, when I got the opportunity to run for the top spot of our College's Student Union: The Guild Presidency. I campaigned well, and won the election!

Looking back, I realize that most of this was possible because of self-confidence. There are many people who are held back in life because they believe that they are not worth it, and they do not have what it takes to be someone who can positively influence or impact those around them. However, I know that anyone can do this! It just takes realizing the real potential that God has invested in each of us. Maybe politics is not the thing for you... but what ever it is, just know that you were created to be active in the world - not just a spectator.

Many people are afraid of leadership because they fear uncertainty. However, it is not the goal of a leader to eradicate uncertainty, but rather to navigate it, and give others the inspiration to believe a better future is possible.

I do not know when, but one day, I dream of becoming the President of this nation. I deeply care for the people of Rwanda and want to see real development take root that will transform this country with peace and prosperity.

YOU CAN ONLY GIVE OUT

what you have first
nurtured within you.



Youth Corps Alumni

Molly Nalonga

In order to influence others, we must begin by taking a good look at ourselves. And, then do constant evaluations of our strengths, our skills, and our weaknesses. It is only after we have worked hard to create change and confidence within ourselves that we can impact others.

I have two different positions with Cornerstone, both of which present me with many opportunities to influence others. First of all, as the Resettlement Coordinator for the HALO Foundation (working with our Youth Corps homes) I work hard to connect the children graduating from the homes - back to their families or to resettle them in places where they will thrive. To do this, I must first establish a relationship of trust with each child and with the families, which can take a long time. However, this gives me the opportunity to sit with children one-on-one and counsel them through a difficult time in their lives and encourage them toward taking the next step in their lives beyond the comfort of our homes.

Some families are at first not welcoming to the idea of taking the children back into their homes. In these tough circumstances, I've found that the key to impacting the situation positively is to understand both sides. I must willingly put myself in the shoes of the children to know how they are feeling and what they fear - while also asking myself how the parents feel and why. I must truly try to understand each point of view in order to gain their trust, and then work to find a balanced solution where both sides understand one another. This takes time and patience, but I've seen it working and it's a joy to be a part of reconciling families.

Secondly, I also work in the accounts office at Cornerstone, which gives me another skill to use to influence others. Because of my accounts experience, I was asked to volunteer as the treasurer of a youth football team in our community. This simple skill has now given me an opportunity to speak into the lives of even more young people. These youth often are focused only on football and think that if they become good enough, they will be famous and have a great life. I use my position as the treasurer of the team to form relationships with these kids and encourage them to look inside themselves and see more strengths and skills they can build on to improve their own lives.

In addition to these two positions, I love the performing arts of music, dance, and drama - and this passion of mine is enabling me to reach out to even more youth. I teach lessons in schools and perform at many different events.

All these experiences have taught me that I don't have to choose just one area in my life to influence others, but I can look more broadly at all of my skills and my passions and try to have an impact in each of those areas. This perspective has also gives me the opportunity to meet many different kinds of people and learn from them. When I become open-minded, using my own skills as a way to connect with others and seeing that each person has something to teach me, I find that my impact grows. I now am able to understand and connect with a much wider audience of people. This is impossible to do when you have pride, which severely limits your ability to impact. When you have pride, you refuse to learn from others and you set yourself higher than them, ultimately isolating yourself. But when you open your mind to others and let them teach you, you can connect with them in an authentic way and then have the position to speak into their lives.

Again, all of this requires a constant self-evaluation and a willingness to first look at yourself before looking to change others. When I read the scriptures, I see that Jesus impacted others through his love, and I know this came out of a place within him that was filled with love. He could only impact others in the world because he had a reservoir of love and peace to tap into within himself. I like to look at the characteristics of love that are listed in 1 Corinthians 13 and try each day to bring those characteristics to myself. I want to become more kind, more patient, more sacrificing - like Jesus - and let those characteristics flow out of me easily and naturally in order to impact the world around me.

SIGNIFICANCE ASKS:

How can I add value ...to OTHERS?



Class of 1998 - CLA UGANDA

David Ojok Oyite

Headmaster - Leadership Academy South Sudan

The Leadership Academy of South Sudan, shall open in February of 2014! I consider myself truly blessed to have this opportunity to work with a team concerned with the holistic transformation of the next generation of South Sudanese leaders: mentally (of course), but also physically, socially, and spiritually. In some ways, I sense it is analogous to the story of the goose who laid the golden egg: there is so much golden potential in the lives of the young people we will empower through this work, but it must be patiently and prayerfully nurtured... otherwise we might spoil the cultivating culture that engenders real influence and impact in their lives.

Engulfed up in one of Africa's historically longest running conflicts, this region has been in political instability for several decades. As the world's newest countries, it only got its independence from the North in 2011. So it is understandable that many of the nationals here have been displaced over the years, either moving around to more stable regions of the nation, or being exiled as refugees. This has created many holes and gaps in the education system - both on the personal level, and also the state level that has not yet settled on its own national curriculum.

In light of this, as we developed this program, we started with an academic needs assessment of students across the country. We wanted to see what kind of young people we should be expecting to work with across these 10 states of South Sudan. Furthermore, we wanted raise awareness of our work and build relationships with differ-

ent stakeholders and organizations that could help us in the recruitment process once started.

I am personally very impressed with the recruitment of the students so far. Apart from all the students in the schools we visited in our assessment period, we also initiated contacts with some schools in Uganda that cater to South Sudanese refugees. With the help of our recently appointed teaching staff and several other Cornerstone alumni, recruitment is currently ongoing with current visits to Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Bar el Gazell - others shall be dispatched to interview more students at other locations in the coming weeks.

Something that really excites me about this work is the spirit of pioneering something new and the restoration of real hope in this young country. In developing an education program that is appropriate and relevant to their cultural context, and seeks to a more Jesus-inspired model of leadership, I believe that this school will be a bright light on the horizon of this new nation.

Transformational Leadership, and the difference between Success and Significance

The most challenging times for anyone is when they are leading themselves or others "into the unknown". In fact, it is only in such times that a real leader emerges from the others, for that is the essence of leadership. When someone communicates a vision and inspires direction to others, they take up the responsibility of leadership that involves pushing themselves and others out of their comfort zones and taking risks. The challenge is, that people will always resist change in fear of the unknown!

It is far more difficult to lead change than it is to continue business as usual. Transformational leaders are able to persuade their followers to step out of their comfort zones, take a leap of faith and follow into the unknown. In other words, transformational leaders build trust and inspire other's confidence in the vision. Trust leads to a willingness to take a risk and make oneself vulnerable, and this is fertile ground for transformation.

The difference between a regular leader and transformational leadership is in the difference between success and significance.

Most people might believe that they are successful because

of material possessions which only add value to themselves. But significance comes when you add value to others not just yourself... and we can't have TRUE success (considering the eternal nature of our lives) without significance. Success is usually the steppingstone to significance. There should be a certain amount of success in people's lives before they are willing to take the step to significance, where they ask themselves, "What else is there in life beyond professional and monetary success?" When this happens we have the choice to step up to a life of significance, or step down to stagnation.

Success asks, "How can I add value to myself?"

Significance asks, "How can I add value to others?"

One writers' evolution from selfishness to significance went something like this: What can others do for me? -> What can I do for myself? -> What can I do for others? -> What can I do with others, for others? I am inspired to be involved in significant work, because I know what I do will have a much greater impact on the world. Success can last a lifetime because it is concerned with ones own achievements; but significance can last several lifetimes, for it is concerned with the success of others!

"If you are giving, loving, serving, helping, encouraging and adding value to others, you have a useful life and pursue significance!"

Leadership Academy - South Sudan

Construction Updates



(Above) The Admin and Library Block is almost done and will be roofed soon. The builders are on a tight schedule to get everything done soon!



(Above) The Classrooms are on the same building schedule as the Admin and Library block and will be completed in the coming month.



(Above) Staff housing has been completed



(Above) The student dorms have been completed

(Below) As one of the less immediate needs of the school, the Main Hall will not be finished by the time students arrive on campus but will be completed a few months later.



(Below) This is a wide angle view of the construction site that will soon be the Leadership Academy of South Sudan! In the distance you can see the Nile River, framed by the mountains.



Cornerstone

Newsletter Pictorial



A new media lab and some head office renovations



Students looking sharp at CLA Tanzania



Students on CLA Rwanda campus



Mzee Paul L...
at C...

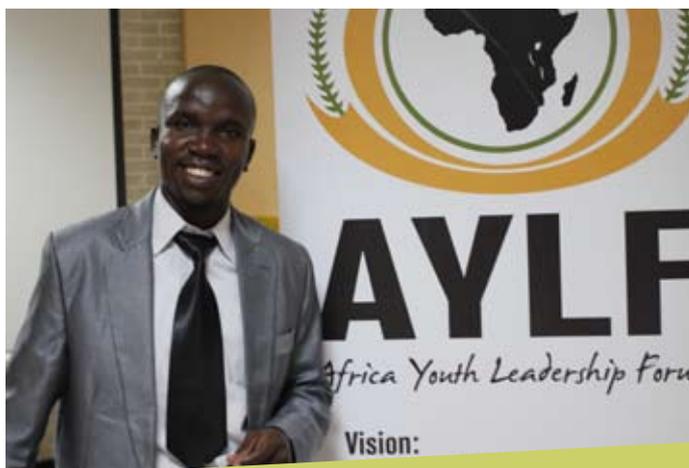


Philip & Sarah - 2013 National Prayer Breakfast



Students studying at CLA Uganda girls campus

Eric in Juba sharing with East African Ministries



Hellen steals



The usual suspects: Fred, Assimwe, Mwau



Birondwa's wedding



ukwiya with students
CLA Tanzania



Babu's wedding



Kasule's wedding



Art celebrates the opening of the Makerere University Jabulani COSA students hostel



the show at the launch of "Lets Talk"



AYLF Regional Coordinators retreat

A Family of Friends!

A RIPE MANGO

doesn't struggle looking for a market



Class of 2009 - Ekitangaala T.H.S.

Enock Nkulanga

CLA Rwanda Discipleship Coordinator

When I look back at how my life was in high school, and how it is now, I see a big change in myself. Well, change is a process that everyone goes through, for it is inevitable, but positive change is something we have to strive for - it is a mission that we are all called to pursue as followers of Jesus. Causing such change to occur in my life, and those around me, is one of the greatest responsibilities we have been given by God: to positively influence and impact the world through the way we use this one life we have been given.

One of the most important years of my life was the year I joined Makerere University where I enrolled for a Bachelors Degree in Development Studies in 2010. Joining University started to shift my outlook on how things happen in our societies and the role I could play in that process. In other words, joining University had a great influence on me because it led me to 'self-realization.' I realized that we all are capable of playing a part in the kind of conditions we want in our societies, whether bad or good.

First of all, what was most significant in my journey was the **discovery that I was born with the capability to create the conditions I want to see myself and what I want to see in the society around me.** Secondly, I began to realize that I was born with particular God given gifts and it was my responsibility to use them constructively. With these newly awakened convictions, I really began to find ways to positively influence and impact those around me.

To begin with, I became the Vice-chairman, of the Buruli Students Association - this is an association for students in Makerere University who come from Nakasongola District. Then, I became the Deputy-Speaker for Makerere University Development Studies Students Association. I was also appointed by the College President to be a member on the college committee for the college of Humanities and

Social Sciences - which directly engaged the college Administration on various issues that affected the students' fraternity. Finally, I became the leader of the fairly large Banyarwanda Student's Fraternity at Makerere University. All this occurred because I took it upon myself to stand up and speak out! Most of us think that to create influence and impact we need to have big positions or titles. But the truth is, to create real influence and impact, all you need to do is accept the responsibility that is in front of you, and do it well! Once you do this, then more will be added unto you.

There are many opportunities to take up responsibilities in this world, but many people feel that they want to do something 'special', not the usual common things that no one wants to do. However it is in doing the 'common things differently', that we are able to build ourselves. Like Mother Theresa said, "We don't try to do great things, but we do little things, with great love." This is what really causes influence and impact in the world - just look at the life of Jesus of Nazareth and you will get a clear example of how this 'common' man's work created uncommon impact in the world. Understanding our responsibilities, and adopting the spirit of commitment to excellence in it, is the only sustainable way we create influence and impact because followers follow performers not reluctant and visionless personalities.

Work on living out your highest values and gradually transformation will come from the inside-outward. This is the kind of personal transformation that impacts others the most. Look at the example of the mango fruit. When a mango is small and unripe, no one really cares about it. But as it takes in the right nutrients for growth, the mango gradually will grow and ripen. When a mango becomes ripe, it doesn't struggle looking for market! Instead, people search for them, collect them and carry them to the marketplaces where they have high demand. In the same way, when you grow and develop to maturity others will be drawn to you. And, you will be entrusted with leadership. People are not influenced or impacted by anyone unless they sense value in them. It is our character, ideas, thoughts and deeds that show value to others. To generate such value, we must first go inward and make sure we invest much time in supplying ourselves with the right nutrients for growth!

This is the motivation for my current work with CLARwanda where I am serving as the Leadership Empowerment and Discipleship Program Coordinator, as well as, teaching the General Paper class. Even to be in this role, I attribute it to focusing on daily living out my best values and feeding my soul on the highest ideas and ideals, while doing small things with great love. I believe this will enable me to not only be successful, but to transcend from a life of success, and enter into the realm of true significance.

WHAT SETS US APART:

Transformational influence & exemplary character



Class of 2005 - CLA UGANDA

Sam Sanya

Deputy H.M - Cornerstone Leadership Academy Tanzania

At Cornerstone Leadership Academy Tanzania our core focus is to raise up a movement of young transformational, servant leaders – men of integrity and women of virtue – following the model of Jesus. Our graduates are steadily taking up positions of influence within all sectors of society while maintaining life-long solidarity with each other. We believe that in the years ahead they will work together to become a powerful force for positive transformation in this nation. This is the passion deep inside our hearts that keeps us moving forward. And, we have experienced God’s faithful presence with us as we have strived to instill this divine vision in the hearts of our young people.

I believe that the most influential leaders are those who transform their followers into becoming leaders themselves. Such a leader helps to create valuable and positive change in the followers so that they look out for each other to be encouraging and harmonious. In this “transformational leadership” approach, the leader enhances the motivation, morale and performance of their followers. Transformational leaders are those who stimulate and inspire followers to both achieve extraordinary outcomes and, in the process, influence the world around them.

Transformational leaders help others around them to grow and develop into leaders by mentoring and empowering their followers. They also help them to discover their individual visions and then to align their objectives and goals toward implementing that vision.

What have we learned about creating a transformational community?

Be a role model. Act in ways that makes you a role model, you will be respected, admired and trusted. Followers will identify with you and describe you in terms that imply extraordinary capabilities, persistence and determination. You are a leader who is showing them a higher way of living. Be willing to take risks but be consistent so that others can rely on you to do the right thing, to display high moral and ethical standards.

Inspire your team through motivation. Create an atmosphere of commitment to the shared vision of our Cornerstone community to influence our region. Show enthusiasm and hope that we can realize this shared vision despite the challenges we see around us. Embody the term “team spirit”.

Stimulate creative thinking among others. Encourage creativity and foster a culture in which followers feel compelled to think about old problems in a new way.

Be a mentor and a coach. Be a good listener, as this naturally leads towards personal interaction - where differences are accepted rather than resented and two-way communication is enhanced. Everyone is unique, respect the personal aspirations and dreams of others without imposing on them yours. Followers of such a leader move continually toward developing their higher levels of potential.

Be a servant leader. When you lay down your life for others to become better people in society you will create a transformational culture in a school. When students realize that I am interested in their success they become more motivated to work harder. But, this sometimes means that I have to put in the extra effort of spending some of my spare time with them. This is how Jesus did it, he ate with his disciples, prayed with them and worked with them. And, the impact those disciples created in the world after he departed is still felt strongly. This shows us the approach we also have to take to create the “Cornerstones of Africa’s next generation.”

It is very rewarding when you see young people who went through your hands becoming influential in their different talents and abilities. You feel like you are having an impact on your world. For me, it is what sets us apart from other schools where teachers only teach so that their students pass exams. For me, this is the difference between being a successful teacher and one who is significant in the transformation of a nation.

Jesus left us with a legacy that inspires his followers to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more – that is the kind of leader I want to be!

CARE FOR OTHERS

and you will
win their hearts



Class of 2012 - CLA Rwanda

Allen Kendunga

2012 Class Chairperson of CLA Rwanda

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”
- Maya Angelou

This popular quote has come to mean a lot to me as I have been on my journey of learning and practicing leadership. When I first heard it, I did not realize the truth it encompassed until I learned from experience that influence is not just what you do and say, but how you make someone feel.

Everyone wants to feel special. I know that I love it when someone says something about me or does something that makes me feel unique, loved, respected, and admired. Every good leader should struggle to make those around them feel good, feel happy, and feel special. I believe the most effective way to influence others is to show them what they mean to you - not only as a leader, but also as a fellow human being. As a leader, it is your responsibility to encourage the people you lead and to speak positivity into their lives. When you do, you will be amazed at how much influence you have on their lives.

Many leaders operate by fearing to give away any power and by thinking that complimenting someone else on a job well done or giving respect to others is a form of giving away their own power. They come to think that if they are not the ones receiving the glory, then their own power is threatened. I wish each leader - whether a teacher, a businesswoman, a father, or a president - would learn to give credit and encouragement to others for their work and contributions. They would quickly see that by doing this, they gain a positive influence in the lives of those people.

When I look at Jesus’ leadership model, I see that he was never afraid to give up his power in order to make someone else feel special and loved. Again and again, Jesus served the lowest in society and he didn’t do it with an attitude that he was “helping” them. Jesus always gave dignity to the people who likely felt the lowest about themselves. He made them feel special. He made them feel respected. He pointed out their gifts and freely gave them grace and forgiveness when they least expected it.

Jesus sat and talked with women, which men considered a disgrace during his time. But, I’m sure it made them feel more respect than they had ever received. He was always giving attention to someone in a crowd who was neglected by the rest - he loved them, healed them, and made them feel seen in the eyes of society.

Doing the right thing is also a very important key to influence. **It is not just about doing things right, but doing the right things.** From my own experience, I have realized you can influence more people by living with integrity in your daily life rather than trying to do something big and extravagant. How you go about the small things in your life matters a lot because when people begin to follow you, they will look closely at your personal life to make sure you are living out what you say. As a leader whose aim is to influence others, you must purpose to lead by example.

There are many things that a leader can do to influence those around him/her, but my greatest piece of advice is this: treat people with dignity, do the right thing in your personal life and focus on **doing the best you can with what you have, and don’t compare yourself with others.**

Many leaders place an extra burden on themselves by ignoring their own gifts and instead, trying to emulate the leadership gifts of others. We should not forget the fact that we all do things in a different way and we have different leadership styles depending on our diverse gifts and talents. In my opinion, copying another’s leadership style instead of leading through your own unique gifts is largely ineffective. Of course, we should learn from each other, but we cannot continue to copy each other and expect to have a large amount of influence. When we don’t operate from our own unique gifts and identities, we fail to be inspirational to others.

Each of these methods of influence arises from a foundation of **TRUSTING GOD AND BELIEVING IN YOURSELF.** Even if nobody else believes in you, as long as you believe in yourself, you will always get far.

VISION CONFERENCE

UGANDA - 2013



This year, we launched a new Cornerstone program in an effort to use our young people to reach out to other High-school student leaders around Uganda. We are calling it the High-school Leadership Development Initiative (HLDI) and it was launched early December right after the national exams prior to the long Christmas break when we held a 5 day "Vision Conference" in Uganda involving around 320 student leaders.

The Vision Conference is an idea pioneered by Sam Birondwa (CLA Headmaster Rwanda) that we have been supporting in Rwanda for the past 5 years with great results. It's built on the premise that all nations need better leadership to move to a better future. And, this will only happen by getting the next generation of leaders on the right track.

Corruption, nepotism, tribalism, religious hatred and lack of vision - are often cited as to what is crippling Africa's progress toward realizing its true potential. The objective of this conference and ongoing initiatives throughout the year will serve to address these challenges while empowering High School student leaders from across the nation with the mind-set and tools to become better leaders. And, to instill in them a life-long commitment to remain connected to each other while maximizing their potential to positively influence their nation.

The theme for this year's Vision Conference was: "Inspirational Leadership." And as mentioned earlier, around 320 student leaders spent five days at our Cornerstone Leadership Academy Girls' campus 20 kilometers outside of Kampala, at Matugga Jakana. We had seasoned, inspirational and prolific speakers such as Honorable Benson Obua Ogwal, Hon. Chris Rwakasisi, Tim Kreutter, Dr. Michael Kansime, Frank Gashumba, Jackie Opondo, Charity Byarugaba, David Otim, Sam Birondwa, Allen Shepard, Moses Senkosi and others who spoke to the students out of their respective leadership capacities.

We addressed topics such as: "How to prepare emerging leaders to address this country's challenges", "Finding one's purpose in life", "The power of maintaining a positive mindset", and "Success requires hard work and creativity." Ample time was given to small group sessions for reflecting, discussing and learning from each other, after each speaker.

In the future, the Vision Conference will be held annually in December to crown our high-school outreach efforts through out the course of the year. These outreaches will largely involve visiting individual schools that attended the vision conference for further leadership training and character development sessions. The whole initiative is also meant to provide a platform for recruitment into our C.L.A's and also into Africa Youth Leadership Forum (AYLF), when these students reach the University level.

Like all our programs we will work across all the denominational and religious divisions by building shared values and vision around the principles, precepts and person of Jesus - who is revered both by the various Christian groups as well as by Muslims. This approach has proven to be highly effective for us over the past the 20 years as we have worked to develop the Cornerstones of Africa's next generation.





"We seek to create a lifelong brotherhood and sisterhood of friends united in Jesus that will love and support each other while advancing a movement of men of integrity and women of virtue within Uganda and beyond."

This audacious statement is our long-term vision; it's actually the reason for our existence and the guiding light for us as the Cornerstone Old Students Association (alumni), executive team. It's a noble calling that we have each personally taken upon ourselves to advance.

The latest COSA Uganda executive team was voted into office at the 2013 Easter Retreat in March of this year. Immediately after accepting our responsibilities, we got straight to work in developing a strategic plan that would define our work for the next 2 years. In this regard, we carried out a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) and came up with an overall executive goal to be our compass - then we defined various objectives to serve as our roadmap as we go forward. It's our prayer that this will be running in our veins to empower us onward in this great vision of helping one another to realize our highest potential in the respective spheres of our personal vocations.

Our Executive Goal states: "We seek to creatively promote individual ownership and participation of members in COSA activities to sustainably meet the changing needs of life through; Encouraging members to reach out to one another, strengthening the COSA structures for effective leadership, developing and actualizing a mentorship program where five young COSA members will be attached to one senior COSA member."

For this goal to be achieved, three fundamental areas need to be addressed, if ably executed, we believe that these will help propel us to where we desire to be by 2015. These are;

(1) The Fellowships of COSA: These fellowships which include monthly, campus and other forms of fellowships shall be restructured to reduce the generational gap, increase member's involvement, reduce routine, become more practically relevant to the needs of the members and increase the bond in the brotherhood and sisterhood.

(2) The financial sustainability of COSA: we believe by 2015 the available funds to run COSA activities should have increased significantly through fundraising and by more actively encouraging members to repay our student loans. It's on this point that we want to appreciate those individuals that have faithfully been repaying their loans and we pray that God expands your sources of revenue.

(3) The ownership of COSA by members: Here we are talking about rekindling the COSA spirit among members to feel part of and take responsibility for realizing our shared vision.

All of these are possible to achieve in the stipulated time or even sooner, but one important issue for us to realize, is that they are to be achieved by COSA, and for COSA, this is where the question comes; who exactly is COSA?

The humble answer is that it is us, the men and women who went through the Cornerstone Schools, as we think of our activities; retreats, fellowships, visits, the career clinics and the mentorship program, all are for us as COSA.

For the rest of our lives we will bear that brand: "Cornerstone." It is up to us to make it shine, to lift it higher, to make it a name which engenders great respect in society and opens new doors for our members to take up positions of influence.

Therefore, we are now calling upon all "Cornerstonians" to come together and play a role in achieving our objectives. Like one of our speakers at our last retreat, Moses Mukisa, told us: "Ideas are like babies crying in the church, they must be carried out immediately!"

We have chosen few objectives to focus on, because as John Mason said, "One action implemented is more valuable than a thousand good intentions." We believe therefore, with your support and our combined hard work - when we own and implement these few programs, success is inevitably ours. And as we achieve our collective objectives as a COSA movement our individual dreams will be more realistically achieved and success will come by default.

The Youth Corps Family



2013 Graduates of the Youth Corps homes

Kato & Stella

The Youth Corps family in Uganda is part a worldwide family of young people committed to the principles, precepts and the person of Jesus of Nazareth – transforming their own lives, communities and nations with the love of God. In this part of the world, our mission is to empower young adults to mentor at-risk children and teens in a better way to live by using the principles and precepts of Jesus of Nazareth, within a nurturing environment, as a foundation for character development and as a tool to positively transform communities. We provide loving homes for homeless kids, and empower them to achieve greatness in their own capacities thru character development and discipleship.

Stella Kembabazi and Sylas Kato are both first year students at Makerere University. Stella is pursuing a degree in Population Studies and Sylas is doing Electrical Engineering. Both lived in the Youth Corp homes for a number of years, and both received prestigious scholarships to attend university. Sylas was given a scholarship by the government of Uganda and Stella is the first student to receive a full university scholarship from The HALO Foundation. Both of these students have come a long way since their youth growing up in Western Uganda.

Stella comes from Rukungiri District in south-west Uganda. She was raised by her mother as her parents were separated, but her mother was unable to support her through secondary school. At one point Stella attempted to reconnect with her father but only found neglect and mistreatment from her step-mother at her father's place. Eventually she was thrown out of her father's home by her multiple step-mothers.

Since she was so desperate to find someone to pay her school fees, she moved to Kampala to live with an uncle who told her he would pay her fees. She stayed with the uncle for many months but he neglected her and never took any steps towards paying her fees. Finally, Stella was invited to join the Mengo home, and after one year at Mengo Stella was able to go back to high-school and then on to university where she is now studying.

Sylas is from the Kanungu District in western Uganda. He grew up in a very poor family that struggled to meet the basic needs of the children such as food and education, and as a result Sylas suffered from malnutrition. Sylas was given the opportunity to join a youth project that had a home, but it soon collapsed and Sylas was back to where he started in a position of great need. Eventually, Sylas was connected to Cornerstone and has been supported by the Bukesa home ever since. Kato said, "At Cornerstone I found a family of friends...who could render services willingly with no strings attached. Cornerstone activities and the precepts of Jesus transformed me greatly, spiritually, socially, academically, and in all aspects of life."

Both Stella and Sylas have been heavily impacted by their time in Youth Corp. Both of them reflected fondly on the community service work they did while in the home. Stella said the community work helped her and the other kids; "To know that as they were given they also have to give back to other people." Sylas said, "The community work showed me that everybody can render a service to another person with the little we have."

With these lessons ingrained in them both Stella and Sylas have plans to continue to give back to their community. Stella is passionate about helping her family as well as being a role model and mentor to the younger girls in Mengo home. Sylas enjoys giving back through tutoring the young boys at Bukesa. He is also excited for his future because he wants to help his community through his career. As an electrical engineer he believes he can provide useful services to people and help Uganda grow.

It is clear these two Youth Corp graduates have their communities on their hearts. The values they learned through the mentoring of Cornerstone's young leaders have stuck with them as they enter university. The power of giving back is strong and it is something neither Stella nor Sylas can ever ignore. Having been given so much in growing up they both are eager to be able to contribute to their community. Using the skills they learned in Youth Corp and at university Stella and Sylas will be able to make positive impact in Uganda.

The Silent Revolution

Continued from page 20

While, all these may be worthy causes, Hunter's research has found that they have not often led to the kind of deep transformation in society that we are seeking. This is because, as believers we often are trying to use strategies of 'political engagement.' We tend to equate "change" as coming through 'power.'

As a sociologist he disagrees with this and as a follower of Jesus he feels: a strategy which focuses on 'political domination', contains an inherent spiritual flaw: That is, the idea that measures using force will change the world for the better.

Instead, what he is saying is that we need use an approach that more closely follows the model Jesus championed for influencing the world, something he calls "*Faithful Presence*."

In short, what he means by this is: It is really who we are and the spirit with which we act - that has the most powerful transformational influence in the world.

When our hearts are in a place of love, joy and peace - there is a power flowing out of us, influencing the world around us, that is greater than all our fevered attempts of righting wrongs using forceful efforts. As, the famous passage by Paul of Tarsus put it:

"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardships, but do not have love, I gain nothing."

I often use the term "**The Silent Revolution**" to describe the ways that Jesus portrayed how his Kingdom would spread into the world. It wasn't about marching bands and political conquest. Instead, he used 4 simple metaphors to illustrate that process:

1. *Salt*
2. *Light*
3. *Yeast*
4. *Good seed sown in with the bad.*

If you think about it, all of them penetrate and influence their environments in a silent and almost invisible way. And, all of them have to infiltrate or get well mixed into the places where they can begin to have their effect.

Our school boards, our community organizations, companies, churches and other civic institutions and yes politics are such places. But, we need to go in, not so much with the idea of a 'forcefully take-over', but rather just to be in the midst of the world - as a 'faithful presence.' In the way one biography characterized Mother Teresa: "A contemplative in the heart of the world."

It reminds me of a story I read about a clinical ward for mentally ill criminals at the Hawaii State Hospital: those who had serious mental disorders or had committed brutal crimes like murder and rape - where their sanity was in question. According to a nurse that worked there some 30 years back, the place was very bleak, walls were unpainted, everything was decaying and repulsive. No day would pass without a patient/inmate attacking another inmate or a member of the staff.

Then one day, a newly appointed clinical psychologist, a Dr. Stanley Hew Len, arrived at the ward. The staff expected that he would bring some new proposals to try and fix the dreadful situation - but like those before him, would soon give up and walk away when things became unpleasant.

Actually at first, he didn't seem to be doing anything much in particular, except just being kind and cheerful to everyone, in a very natural, relaxed way. But, each day, he would ask for a few files of the inmates and spend most of the time quietly with those files in his office, only rarely seeing the inmates personally.

A few staff members showed an interest in what he was doing and he confided in them his method of 'therapy' ...which involved praying individually for the inmates and repeatedly saying these words over their files: "I'm sorry. Please forgive me. I love you."

It sounds a bit crazy, but those who were there say, little by little things started to change in that hospital. One day somebody began to paint those walls. The gardens started being taken care of, some prisoners that previously would never be allowed to go outside started playing tennis with the staff. Other prisoners were allowed not to be shackled any more, or would receive less heavy pharmacological drugs.

In the end, the whole atmosphere of the place changed so much that more staff than were needed wished work there. And, prisoners started gradually to be released from the unit. Dr. Hew Len worked there close to four years. In the end, there remained only a couple of inmates that were relocated somewhere else and the clinic/prison for the mentally insane criminals had to close.

Everybody
thinks of changing
the world, but nobody
thinks of changing
themselves.
- Leo Tolstoy

To summarize what this looks like, I would say it has 2 simple steps.

1. Making sure that we ourselves stay aligned and well connected in our hearts to the most powerful, healing influence there is in our world: Unconditional Love.

2. Holding that atmosphere within us and bringing it into all the corners of human society where it is needed most.

The most frequently recommended tools for achieving this kind of alignment and attunement are the regular practice of prayer and meditation. Both are vital for re-establishing a conscious awareness of our spiritual source while allowing God's presence to flow into our world as a "channel of blessing" in service to others.

Once we can cultivate and hold that place within us - then 90% of it involves: Just "showing up," just being in the arena. Being a faithful presence and trusting that the Spirit will give you the right words and the right course of action at the right time.

I think this is captured well in the words of author Ashley Rice: *"There are women who make things better... simply by showing up. There are women who make things happen. There are women who make a difference. And women who make us smile. There are women of wit and wisdom who- through strength and courage- make it through. There are women who change the world every-day... Women like you."* (Insert 'men' if you are a guy.)

My 12 Points in Summary:

1. There is only one thing that we can consistently change in all situations that we face.. and that is our own response to that problem.

2. Even when a problem could be 97% the fault of other people - it still leaves 3% for me to claim as my own and do something about. Even if I am 97% right I need to focus on my other 3% - to thoroughly, dig into my attitudes and question my life about it.

3. The most uplifting changes in society have not come as the result of government political systems, committees and processes alone. Everything of great significance in life has come about by a few dedicated individuals with great courage who have paid the price through personal sacrifice - for a better world. Almost invariably they are not doing this alone, closer examination shows that they have the support of a few friends bound together with a shared vision.

4. Every human being has a unique mission and

gift in the world. It's not so much something for us 'to create' as it for us to discover, because it is hard-wired into our souls before we even arrived on the planet. As the Hebrew Prophet Jeremiah was told by God: "Before you were formed in your mother's womb I knew you. Before you were born I appointed you to be a prophet."

5. Everything you do matters, every word you speak or don't speak counts. It has an effect on others around you. Even the thoughts in your mind and the attitudes you hold in your heart are influencing the atmosphere around you.

6. To be influential you don't have to be a "person of influence." You don't have to be loud. You don't have to be eloquent. You don't have to be elected. You don't even have to be particularly smart or well educated. You do, however, have to be committed and connected to a Source beyond your own ego.

7. You are responsible. If not you, *who*? If not now, *when*? If not here, *where*?

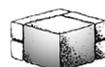
8. We are one family. Everybody out there is: "our people." Everyone is created in the image of the One whom Jesus taught us to call "Our Father." So, everybody out there is a brother, is a sister. And we are 'our brother's keeper.'

9. You don't need everyone's cooperation or anyone's permission to begin to influence. Don't get too caught up in "the how" of things. The best 'social entrepreneurs' like the best business entrepreneurs don't waste years thinking about how to begin something. They just jump in and get started with what ever they have available.

10. There is no ideal time to get started. When you are young - you have time and energy but no money. When you are mature - you have money and energy but no time. When you are elderly - you have money and time - but no energy.

11. The place within us out of which an action stems is of greater importance than the act itself. Keeping an unbroken awareness of our heart's connection with God keeps our heart in that place. It's a place from where, like Jesus, we can say, "I and the Father are one."

12. In order for things to change we have to constantly work on our own attitudes, thoughts, lifestyle. We really can't change others very much; we can only change ourselves - but as we change, those around us will be influenced and also change.



The Silent Revolution

Thoughts from Tim

In the graveyard of Westminster Abbey Cathedral in London, there is a tombstone that dates back to 1100 A.D., and bears these words of wisdom:

"When I was young and free and my imagination had no limits, I dreamed of changing the world. As I grew older and wiser, I discovered the world would not change so easily, so I shortened my sights somewhat and decided to change only my country. But with time, this too seemed impossible.

So as I grew into my twilight years, in one last desperate attempt, I settled for changing only my family, those closest to me, but alas, they would have none of it.

And now as I lie on my deathbed, I suddenly realize: If I had only changed myself first, then by example I would have changed my family.

And perhaps from their inspiration and encouragement, I would have then been able to better my country and, who knows, I may have even changed the world."

We are living through a period of great social change, a time of uncertainty as to where the world is headed and what we should be doing about it. These times remind me of a day, some years back, when Cathy and I were training to get our scuba diving license.

We were out in a small boat on the Indian Ocean getting sea sick as our boat was being tossed

around back and forth by the waves. Our instructor described the ocean that day as a "confused sea." Which meant: the winds were blowing in all different directions, so there was a highly disturbed water surface without a single, well-defined direction of wave travel.

Perhaps, that is a good metaphor of the times we are in. Our elders and our experts are in disagreement about what is going on. And, there is an element of confusion about the direction in which we should be headed. This, leaves more than a few people feeling a little 'sea sick' about the current state of affairs in many places around the world.

Despite all this, we still bear the responsibility to make our contribution toward a better world. In the same way it was said of the Hebrew King David: *'He served the purposes of God in his generation.'*

There is some kind of inbuilt urge, reinforced by our sacred texts, that keeps asking us this question: "What are you going to do with the time, treasure and talents that you have been given in this lifetime?" As an ancient Latin saying went: "Nemo vir est qui mundum non redatt meliorem." (No man is a man who does not render the world better.)

Recently I have been reading *"To Change the World,"* by James D. Hunter, the distinguished professor of Religion, Culture and Social Theory at University of Virginia. Hunter popularized the term *"Cultural Wars"* to describe how polarized American society has become and wrote a best seller bearing that title:

In his most recent book, Hunter says that people of faith in our generation are focusing their efforts, mainly in three ways.

- 1. Fighting Secularization:** Opposing the trend where things of the Spirit are increasingly being left out of modern society and as a result many of our sacred, traditional values get eclipsed.
- 2. Reducing Inequality:** Supporting the underprivileged by addressing issues of discrimination and poverty.
- 3. Promoting Reconciliation and Peace:** Seeking to reduce the conflict and alienation around us.

