

# Cornerstone

Newsletter & Magazine June 2015

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

## A FAMILY OF FRIENDS

There are many ways that organizations see themselves, and this tells us something about them. Some might see themselves as a machine, emphasizing their highly efficient inter-related parts; Some might see themselves as an organism, that learns, adapts and grows into new opportunities and new environments; Others may see themselves as a tree with branches finding new space the further from the trunk they go; Others as an egalitarian web with no hierarchy, but that is highly interconnected at all levels. The list goes on, and is only as long as ones imagination allows!

These metaphors help us to understand the values and philosophy underlying an organization and the way it functions. They help shed new light, and give you different perspectives, from which to approach situations at work. However, in reality there may be no one metaphor that fully explains ALL that an organization is in its entirety, but each metaphor may best describe different aspects of its operation.

The metaphor that we may use most often in Cornerstone is that of "A Family of Friends" - where relationships are primary and tasks are secondary. We do this for several reasons:

**First**, it fits with the highly communal nature of African society in which we are deeply rooted.

**Second**, because so many of our young people have come from broken homes or lacked strong family support, orienting ourselves in this way gives them a sense of belonging - something they feel they may have lacked most in life.

**Thirdly**, because we are inspired by the common ground that we find in Jesus of Nazareth - who called us his friends and taught that, despite all our differences we are all brothers and sisters because we share one Father.

**Finally**, the metaphor an organization uses to describe itself may not only represent what it IS, but can also represent an ideal to which it ASPIRES. In our case, by struggling to realize the ideal of being a family of friends - we feel we can show the world a model that helps address the alienation and fragmentation we see around us. And this too, is inspired by Jesus, who taught us that loving our enemies and loving our neighbors helps us draw more of the values of the 'kingdom of God' into our world. It's our small contribution toward his big vision.



## Inside

### Cornerstone Schools



### Youth Mentoring



### Alumni Association



### Outreach Programs



## and...

- \* Updates from the COSA Uganda Retreat and more!
- \* Centerfold Pictorial
- \* Thoughts from Tim

Stilson Mwuhezi addresses the 2015 annual COSA retreat in Uganda



## Cornerstone Development Africa

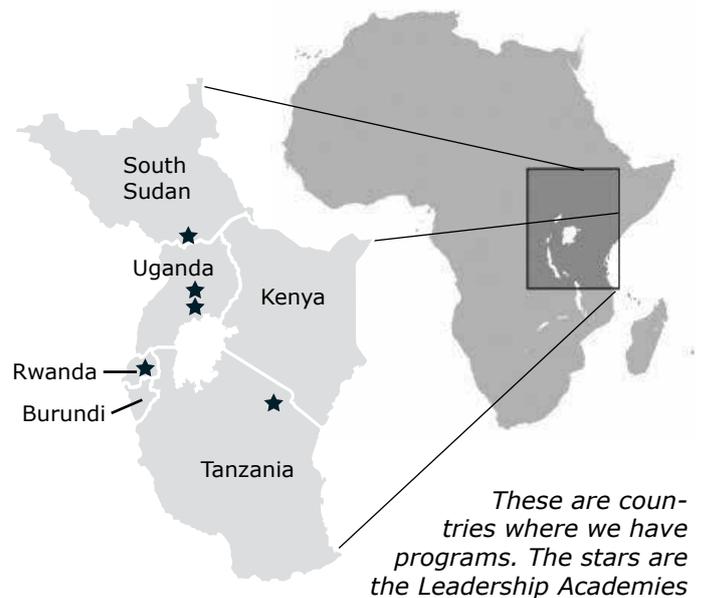
**We are a family of friends in the spirit of Jesus committed to:**

- \* Equipping and advancing a movement of servant leaders with a shared vision for the positive 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

**2** coming through our programs are forming a movement that seeks to make a contribution to the betterment of



*These are countries where we have programs. The stars are the Leadership Academies*

society while promoting reconciliation 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 of Jesus and the perennial wisdom of all traditions, but without affiliation to any one institutional religious group.

See more online:

[www.CornerstoneDevelopment.org](http://www.CornerstoneDevelopment.org)

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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 several PEOPLE who we work with, and this one will highlight more of our PROGRAMS.



## CORNERSTONE SCHOOLS (p.04)

In our schools, we seek to create a life transforming learning environment that will mold young men and women into leaders whose lives reflect the qualities and principles embodied in the life of Jesus. We mold young people coming from humble backgrounds, but with high potential, into responsible leaders in all fields and disciplines who will be able to serve society beyond their own self interest.



## YOUTH MENTORING (p.10)

In our Youth Corps Homes we empower the young people whom we have invested in at the schools, to reach out to the next generation and pass on what has been given to them. It is a practical training ground where they begin exercising leadership, and cause meaningful change in communities. These homes provide at-risk kids with a sense of family while meeting their basic needs of love, food, shelter and guidance.



## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION - COSA (p.16)

This aspect of our work aims at creating long- term relationships with the students who have graduated from our schools and have joined post secondary institutions of higher learning. This is done through frequent fellowships, maintaining intentional relationships, providing appropriate skills development workshops, and continual mentoring. Our real impact will be measured when these graduates make a difference in their nations.



## OUTREACH PROGRAMS (p.9 & 22)

Through the Africa Youth Leadership Forum and Highschool Leadership Development initiative, we empower youth we have invested in to reach out to peers at University and Highschool campuses. At the heart of this work is a dream that African leaders will know how to reconcile relationships, speak the truth without being religiously divisive, see people without labels or stereotypes, and ultimately love eachother and those whom they lead.



## THOUGHTS FROM TIM

Tim Kreutter expounds on the theme in his article, *The origins and core values of the "Family of Friends" that is the Prayer Breakfast movement and Cornerstone Development Africa*. It is a candid snap shot of a lineage of thought that has led us to where we are today. Tim talks about the common ground that we can find in Jesus, a figure accessible to people of all faiths and backgrounds, and the hope for a better world that may be possible through nurturing more loving relationships in this way.

## Historic Results!



### Our 24/7 Discipleship Culture

**A**s an alumni, I am very grateful for my current position of Administrator for CLA Boys, where I can exercise my leadership abilities and potential. This is particularly exciting to me as it comes with the historical achievement of ranking of CLA Boy's being the second best performing school in last year's national exams by the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB)! It really is a testament of the excellence that our students strive for, and I would like to say that I am very grateful for this opportunity to come back home and serve at the boy's school as an administrator.

My involvement in the school is a testament of our unique culture here. I would say this can be broken into three aspects: (1) *Family*, which is the basic unit of any society, (2) *Friends* which is concerned with the quality of our relationships, and (3) the *Spirit of Jesus* which is concerned with our spiritual life and all else we can learn from Jesus – especially in servant leadership.

These three pillars are seen all around our campus. You can see them in our Care Groups, a family like unit that involves both our teachers and students eating and fellowshiping together. You can see them in our many fellowships –either with students, staff, or the surrounding community. You can see them in our relationships with one another, both our teachers and students – eating together, playing together, learning together and living amongst each other. And you can see them in our community outreach for both our teachers and students, showing the principles and precepts of Jesus in loving action with our neighbors where we reach out to people in different communities within and outside our school. Of course there are many examples I could use, but at CLA boys we believe that “Education informs the mind but Discipleship transforms the heart” – and our discipleship is a 24/7 culture!

*By: Bitighale Amos*

### Humility to Sincerely Serve

**I**t is a blessing for me to have served with this school ever since it started - we are now eleven years old! Indeed this is a unique school and I know it is one of a kind in this country. Although we as staff and students do come from different backgrounds, you won't see us fighting over these differences, nor do we wish to all conform to all being the same. Instead, we respect each other's dif-

ferences, and come together, not in a divisively “religious” way, but in the spirit Jesus, as a family of friends.

When you enter the gates of Cornerstone Leadership Academy Girls campus, the environment of peace and calmness welcomes you immediately. This is accompanied by humility of the staff before their students that creates the ‘family’ like culture between the two - which is vital in the transformation of these young people because they are free to be who they are with their teachers.

This is quite different from what you find in other schools, where the teacher is simply feared, and so there is no way he or she can have a real positive influence in the lives of the students. Our teachers believe in the students' potential and mentor them to grow into better and more responsible people. We also believe this is a strong factor for their academic excellence.

This ‘family of friends’ also extends to our relationships as staff members. In many schools the staff is simply there for a salary...but we see something more in our teachers they are here because they are part of our family. They stand with each other both in the good and bad times, supporting each other in circumstances like weddings or a death in the family. We even have a developed a strong Savings and Investment circle that we use to help each other improve financially. I strongly believe that this “family of friends” culture provides the best work environment for staff that I have seen.

One very powerful tool I have witnessed holding this family together is HUMILITY we must be humble because our master, Jesus, is humble – he came “to serve, not to be served”. When we are humble we can forgive others when they sin against us, because we are also sinners and we too need forgiveness. We are able to greet each other warmly without feeling so high above them, and we respect each other, treating each other as genuine brothers and sisters. This is the real foundational culture that we seek to promote in our small school – but it has a big impact in our lives.

*By: Sarah Mwesigwa*

## Losing Ourselves to a Bigger Purpose

The academic year started on January 26, 2015. From mid to the end of January, we were doing the recruitment process that ushered in yet another generation of new students. The recruitment was a successful process that saw forty young men and women, including four Burundians, enter the gates of the Academy for mentoring and leadership development. All the new students are settled in now, and as the year is getting to the mid-way point I can say we are definitely on track for another great year at CLA Rwanda!

A new activity for us year is a partnership with Global Grassroots where eight of our girls in our graduating class engaged in their 'conscious social change' program. They were able to take our discipleship to another level and equipped with the additional skills to be change agents in their local communities. Now that the training is over, they have already started implementing their projects in their home areas.

From April 14 to 16, 2015, CLA hosted the Vision Conference where we were joined by about 50 other student leaders from across the nation in different High Schools. The workshop centered on how we can be better ambassadors of the Kingdom of God, and challenged the student leaders on how to practically live out the principles of Jesus that are the basis of this Family of Friends. It was also an opportunity to get to know each other much deeper and form stronger relationships with these young leaders who we do not see as often as our own. In addition to those from Christian backgrounds, who are most prominent in our country, we also intentionally brought in Muslim participants who are leaders in Youth Impact Mission Clubs in their respective schools. Although it is not common to see things like this, we do this to model our desire for unity in Jesus.



Students on campus

In other news, six girls from our graduating class won a university scholarship from an Organization called the New Generation's Kepler Program affiliated to the Southern New Hampshire University. And furthermore, Donatha Kwizera was also rewarded by Rwanda's First Lady for being among the best academicians girls in the country in sciences in the 2014 national exams.

with, and the students we serve, is that, "the more we lose ourselves to a purpose bigger than ourselves in service of others, the more energetic, motivated and fulfilled we are." With such a conviction, all other things lose meaning except doing that which one believes in - I believe this is responsible for the success of our family of friends wherever we serve.

As I have been doing this work, I come across many schools and parents who wonder what we do to inculcate the virtues of self-motivation, confidence and leadership portrayed by our students. The secret, I believe, is simple: In whatever we do, we challenge ourselves to not just teach our students mere academic subjects, which is what most teachers do - but instead to seek holistic transformation. This orientation helps us as teachers to know that we are dealing with spirits and souls with dreams, hopes, feelings and emotions. We therefore try to speak to this aspect of them and inspire them with personal stories of our own journeys. This aspect of mentoring makes their learning more purposeful and truly enhances their exceptionality.

One of the things I have learned from all this, from my own life, those I work

# LEADERSHIP ACADEMY OF SOUTH SUDAN

## Arise & Shine!

**T**his year we will graduate our very first class from the Leadership Academy of South Sudan. It is a momentous achievement for all who have worked so hard to make this dream a reality, and also for the nation of South Sudan as a whole. The school has stayed open this past year, despite the war and other issues in the country - that at different times have sent other organizations away. We thank God for the peace that we have experienced on our campus that has kept us going strong so far.

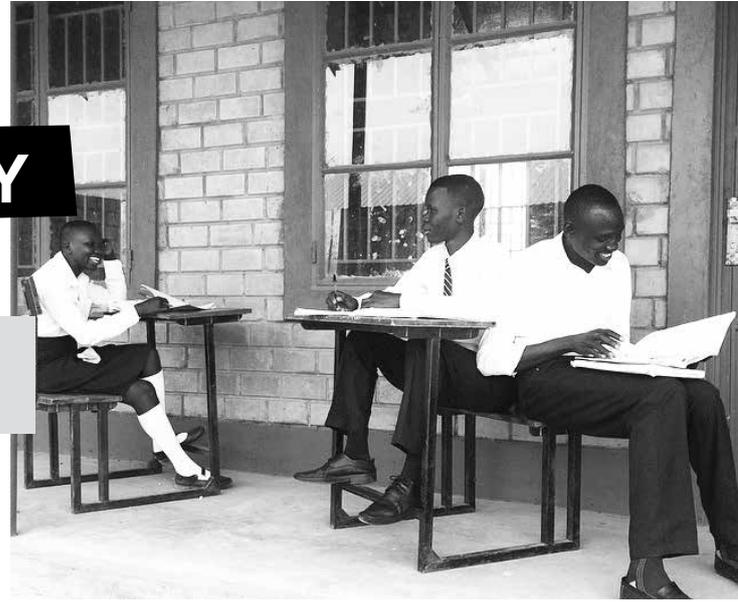
With our new class now fully settled in, and a few new staff to accommodate the expanded teaching load, the school is full and bustling with activity. Both the teachers and the students are hard at work getting ready to prepare for exams at the end of the year.

We recently were privileged to host a team of visitors that included BJ Goergen from the USA and Tim Kreutter. Their presence was valuable and we enjoyed deepening our relationship with them, as we do each time they visit us. We really are all part of a big family of friends in this work, which to me is a place where - people understand you, accept you, value your responsibilities, and your relationships with them. As we do this in the spirit of Jesus, we have the fruits of the spirit (love, peace, joy, faithfulness etc - Galatians 5:22) as a part of our identity too.

When we started this work in South Sudan, I am sure many people thought it would be too difficult to bring people together in this nation considering all the tribal conflict that it has been going through. But we know that in Jesus, all people from different backgrounds, cultures, religions, and all that which divides the human race - can be one.

This country has been engulfed in war for over 21 years; and most of our generation has known nothing but war. Its citizens were constantly moving as war refugees, suffering from all sorts of inhumanity such as constant deprivation and living at the mercy of Aid Agencies. All this has given birth to a generation which is fairly hardened, aggressive, and un-trusting. But when our students join our Academy, I have seen them experience a paradigm shift from their divisive backgrounds and cultures: from hating to loving one another, from aggressiveness to humbleness, and from mistrust to forgetting their differences in

6 line with the values and principals we encourage in this Academy.



In the book of Mathew 12:49, it says, "Pointing to his disciples, he [Jesus] said here are my mother and brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." In this spirit, we have seen students associating freely and interacting like how any other person would consider their own brothers or sisters especially in care groups which comprises of students from different backgrounds to live together as a family of friends.

Nelson Mandela once quoted that, "no man was born hating, but a man is taught how to hate". Basing on this, we as a family of friends in LASS are building on our foundation of love in the spirit of Jesus. The idea of being a part of a family of friends has made me to value relationships more than tasks, and I have stopped criticizing people for their mistakes, because when relationship is broken, revenge is inevitable. Bitterness and sorrow becomes part of us, yet Jesus came so that in him, we can have peace. And in this case as a mentor, I have always tried to work on myself to be a living book, so that the students I am mentoring can just learn from me and get inspired. And in this way they are influenced to do better.

I am proud to say that I have seen tremendous improvement in the way our students and the teachers relate in L.A.S.S today - it is an achievement I have personally worked hard to realize. We are hopeful that we will arise and shine and bring many to the light of Jesus and stop fighting each other over our imaginary differences in South Sudan.

*By Xavier Michael*

Visitors are welcomed at LASS



## Building Relationships in the Spirit of Jesus

**W**e recently had our local Member of Parliament pay us a courtesy visit which was a huge deal for us. It was the very first time to have had him visit with us and it really boosted our relationship with local leadership. Being an election year here in Tanzania, he is moving around his constituency to interact with voters, and said he was most impressed with our students after the formal welcome, when he had casual conversations with them hanging out around compound. This is a testament to the fact that our students not only look sharp on the outside, but are even higher quality inside!

We also recently had a group of Muslim clerics from Arusha town pay our campus a visit. They were headed by their Regional secretary that represents Arusha regionally, and his boss is the Regional Coordinator. This was a great move to promote a spirit of solidarity with the Muslim community in this area where historically there has been a division between Christians and Muslims. Many Muslims are worried about getting too close to Christians because they don't want to be pressured to convert - but

year, I had the privilege of taking 30 Headmasters of High Schools from Arusha region (five districts) to Uganda for an educational tour. While in Uganda, we also visited the CLA Girls' school in Matuga. The experience was so memorable to the Tanzanian heads of schools - I am excited to be able to play whatever role I can in bringing people together like this.

On a very sad note, our school nurse Claudia is leaving for another job placement at the end of this April. We have been with her since the very beginning of the school in 2011. She has been a strong pillar especially at the time we were first beginning the school - we will always remember her great contribution to Cornerstone in Tanzania.

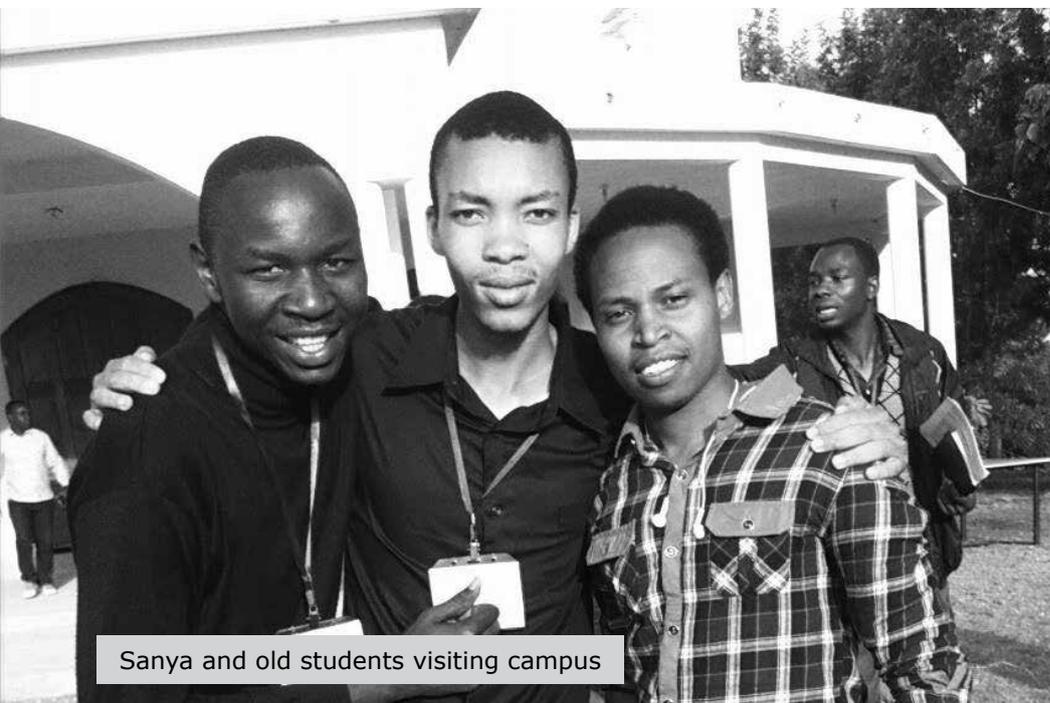
After several years of opening now, I am encouraged to see the spirit of our work grow stronger and deeper in the lives of those we work with. To this end, I am learning that tasks are secondary to relationships, and we attempt to promote this ideology in several ways

at our school. In practice, we have open door policy here at school. Meaning, we try to accommodate people that come into our office and those that pay visits to school. One cannot miss out to finding students at the staff room, office. We derive energy from being self-driven in carrying out our duties. There is a lot of joy and sense of fulfillment when one accomplishes task without necessarily being supervised. This is what makes us unique compared to other organizations that are more task driven.

It is always encouraging to me when we go out and play football matches with other schools. Our team has gotten a lot better this year, and although our students

are not the best, we show excellence in other ways for we are known for our principled attitudes and good sportsmanship. For example, even when we loose, our students will always say that we won in terms of character! This is a testament, not only of their values, but also of the influence their presence may have when we go to these other communities.

By: Julius Ejalam



Sanya and old students visiting campus

we assured them that we are only interested in building relationships in the spirit of Jesus as a family of friends. Their visit also really encouraged our Muslims students, and validated their presence at our school.

It is clear to see that our influence in Arusha is now reaching the secondary school leadership too. In March this

## OUTREACH PROGRAMS

# A.Y.L.F.

## Africa Youth Leadership Forum



AYLF small group fellowship in Goma, DR Congo

**I**n Acts 17:6 the first disciples of Jesus were described as the guys who were “Turning the world upside down.” The first few months of the year for our work is a time of restructuring, planning and vision casting. This involves a lot of traveling to be with our leaders and volunteers in the 40 East African Universities where we have programs. While doing this, I am really encouraged by the spirit of ownership that these people have taken over the work being done. They whole heartedly believe in the transformational power that working alongside each other in the spirit of Jesus can bring as they seek to change the leadership culture at the University level.

**TANZANIA.** Since starting this AYLF work in 2007, our work in Tanzania got off to a slow start compared to Uganda, Kenya, Burundi and Rwanda. This is largely because at the time, we did not have the solid base of Cornerstone students at Universities in Tanzania. However, since 2013 we have had a growing number of graduates from CLA Tanzania pouring onto University campuses across the country and taking up the vision with force. By starting up small groups, they have begun engaging their peers through leadership workshops and seminars, and are getting ready for the next steps. On my most recent trip to Tanzania, we are now talking about putting on a Junior National Prayer Breakfast type event this year.

**D.R. CONGO.** We have been dreaming about growing into DRC for over 4 years now, and it finally looks like the pieces are coming together for this to happen. Several individuals have risen to the challenge of championing our work in the region who I strongly believe God has been bringing our way. This has largely been a result of building off the foundations of our work in Burundi and Rwanda where they share a common Francophone background. Thank you Joel Asimwe, Nicolas, Baraka, Alain, Fabrice and many others - and of course our dear friend and patron in DRC... H.E. Azarias Ruberwa!

Following up on the 2014 Goma Gathering in DRC, we have started work with University Student Leaders through small groups on their respective campuses in places like Uvira, Bukavu, Goma and Beni. Because of the many infrastructural and geographical challenges in Eastern DRC, each town has a team of leaders who are trying to head up activities in that particular area, and we have a coordinator to work generally amongst them all. Our

next event will be a Student Leadership Prayer Breakfast in Bukavu on June 16th 2015.



**KENYA.** In April, I had a good time with our team leaders, Shammah and Gabriel in Kenya. The group in this nation has continued to be an inspiration for the other countries in terms of new engaging ideas for the student leaders. We see a greater degree of involvement of the senior members of the Prayer Breakfast fellowship in AYLF activities in Kenya too. They are involved in mentoring student leaders, they support us financially; and they are being more available and aware of the student leader's out-reach programs. They see it as an avenue to nurture the next better generation. The National Prayer Breakfast for Kenya took place on 28th May; and alongside it was a Students' leaders retreat from the 27th-30th of May.

**RWANDA.** At the end of 2014, we changed leadership roles from Lugolobi Godfrey to Pascal Hakizimana. Lugo, as we like to call him, continues to support Pascal who has brought in new energies with passion, commitment and work ethic is taking AYLF Rwanda to new levels. Apart from our monthly coordinators meeting and regularly small group dialogues in campuses, AYLF Rwanda has been able to execute several other programs since the beginning of the year such as: leadership trainings, Rwanda Junior Prayer Breakfast and community clean up (Umu-ganda) at the genocide memorial site.

**BURUNDI.** Before the recent violence related to the upcoming Presidential elections, we were continually reaching out to students' leaders through our bi-weekly meetings at the Universities. We also added new chapters at the AKILAH Institute for Women, and the University of Burundi. On February 28th we held our 4th Annual Junior Prayer Breakfast, which was well attended, with the Guest of Honor being the First Lady of Burundi.

Chief Guests at the Rwanda Jr. National Prayer Breakfast



**UGANDA.** In the last year, we have spent a lot of time re-investing our energies into ensuring the quality of our program in Uganda. Since we had expanded to surrounding countries quickly, we were losing some ground on the home front. However, we are proud to say that our small groups at the Universities are averaging 25 participants - about 1/3rd of these student leaders are directly involved in student politics and 2/3rds influence in other spheres at their respective Universities.

Personally, I feel that wherever we have gone, we have been received with open hands. It is a testament of what Jesus said in Luke 9:48: "...and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me..." More than anything else people are welcoming the message of the Kingdom of God packaged in the common ground we have in Jesus, and its implications on leadership. We know we are playing a small part in God's greater plan for the world... it is now up to us to turn the world up-side down (Acts 17:6)!  
*By: Allan Shepherd*



Allan meets with AYLIF students in Tanzania



HLD Students at the end of year Vision Conference, Uganda

# H.L.D.

## Highschool Leadership Development

**T**he Highschool Leadership Development initiative (HLD) is a rather new aspect of Cornerstone's work in Uganda. It seeks to take aspects of the culture of the Cornerstone Leadership Academies into other schools around the country. We use many of the same discipleship materials that we do in the CLA's and we also use students who themselves have passed through our programs. We specifically work with the student leaders at the various High Schools, investing in their moral development as well as giving them tools to tackle their respective challenges.

I am glad to say that for the last one and a half years of operation, a lot has been achieved and even more has been learnt along the way! We work in 5 major regions across the country, each with its own sub-centers: Soroti sub region, Mbale Sub region, Jinja sub regions for the case of Eastern Uganda; Mbarara and Fort Portal sub regions in the West; Gulu, Lira and Arua sub regions for the case of Northern Uganda; and lastly Luwero, Wakiso and Kampala sub regions for the case of Central Uganda.

Our core approach is the use of small groups in each school, where they meet on a regular basis and go through the curriculum derived from the principles and precepts of Jesus. In this, the student leaders engage in discussion and peer-mentoring in which they are not only exposed to leadership development materials, but also hold themselves accountable to each other as brothers and sisters responsible for leadership in a given school.

Essentially, we are trying to re-create the "family of friends in the spirit of Jesus" model that has worked so well in Cornerstone - in these other schools. And, all I can say is that I am greatly encouraged at the response we are receiving and how successful it has been so far! Although there is a lot of value to be found in the curriculum itself...the further value is in the relationships created between these student leaders. It inspires their growth spiritually, socially, morally, to mention but a few. Furthermore, we are seeing this "family of friends" culture taking root as we teach Jesus' message of love, unity and reconciliation across religious and ethnic divides.

Although some may feel it is too idealistic - I really appreciate the uniqueness of Cornerstone's philosophy based on the idea of "family and friendship" - there is nothing that can replace it. The truth is that this ideal is secretly embedded in the pearl of love, and it is the highest ideal on earth that we can strive for. Over time, I have personally marveled by the way love makes our "hidden self" crawl out of its cave to experience this feeling of redemption that happens in true community. To this end, I see Cornerstone employees and associates operating as a brotherhood and sisterhood with love for each other, carrying out different tasks meant to achieve a common goal at the end of the day, to bring Jesus' vision of the kingdom of heaven coming on Earth.

In conclusion, I wish to end by emphasizing that putting relationships ahead of tasks boosts confidence and performance of any organization - and I see this at play not only in Cornerstone, but in my work with HLD too. This ideal prioritizes the relationship with an individual to their tasks and this leaves them with no choice but to have a reason to deliver, as the saying goes: "United we stand, divided we fall."

*By: Edmond Elasu*

# THE YOUTH CORPS FAMILY

## AGENTS OF PEACE, HOPE, LOVE, & RECONCILIATION

One of the things we cherish in the Youth Corps department is the spirit with which we work together – our office is a model of the “family of friends.” This is particularly important given the nature of the young people we work with as many of them have never experienced a good family before. For them, the word family never meant anything special, or worse may be a word they associate with physical, psychological, emotion, and/or sexual abuse. Therefore we work hard to try and give them healing and hope for the future by creating a loving sense of family for them each day.

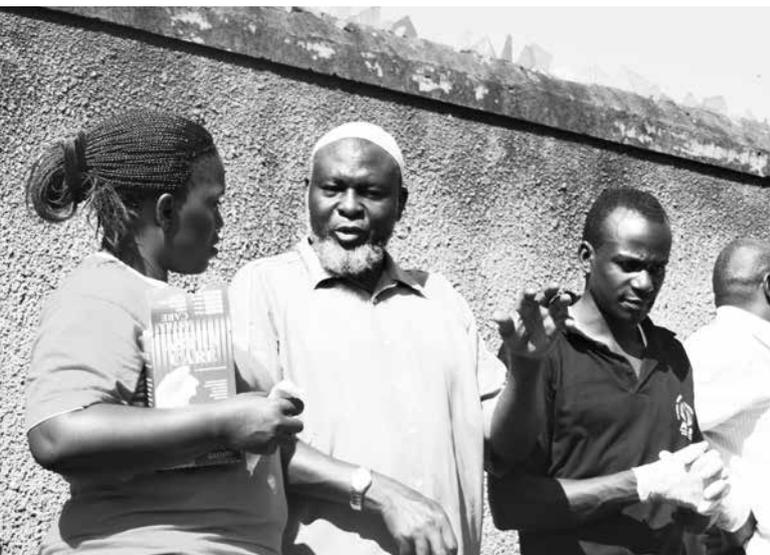


What we are talking about doesn't mean that we are relatives by, blood, religion or tribe... but rather a group of people that seek to love one another unconditionally no matter what, or where, they come from. We are agents of peace, hope, love, and reconciliation.

An example of this can be seen this year when Faisal Kat-eyeenge, a mentor in Kibuli boys home, started up a forum to address the challenges facing Muslims and Christians in their community. Being from a Muslim background himself, he has a unique ability to speak the common language of Jesus between the two groups, and the entire Youth Corps department is behind him in this cause. In addition to Faisal, we have also brought on board a number of other mentors from Muslim backgrounds including Jane, Haruna, Madina, Shamimu and Bitijuma for the purpose of bringing balance and practical meaning to the ideal of a real family of friends. Because of his passion for this work that started with youth mentoring, Faisal has taken this message of Jesus on to several different universities in the country, and seeks to continue making a deeper impact.

The rest of the youth mentoring work is going on well and we look forward to all that 2015 has in store for us. By now, all the new young kids we brought in to the homes in 2014 are well settled in the schools they started in at the beginning of 2015. We have seen them grow spiritually and intellectually and this has energized us. On a similar note, the mentors we recruited in 2014 are also doing a great job and most are fully caught up now. They are not only mentoring our youth, but we are seeing their leadership abilities expand.

Our emphasis this year is on working together to empower ourselves to reach greater heights. Through focusing on this, we have already seen some improvements in teamwork, accountability, communication and health. This effort on our part also seems to be transferred to the behaviours and ambitions of our young friends. For example, the girls in Bukoto home now head up the foot-



Mentors work with local leaders to identify service projects that the kids in the home can engage in as a way of meaningfully contributing to their communities.



ball and athletics team at their school. And several of our young people have also been given leadership positions in their institutions. All this communicates to us that we are influencing them positively to become responsible members of society despite their difficult backgrounds.

Additionally, this year The HALO Foundation, a partner organisation of ours celebrated 10 years of existence helping youth and children in the greatest need. In order to celebrate this, we held a small party at the Lunguja girls home, which was HALO's pioneer project in Uganda.

We are would also like to announce that Onapa James, our Northern Uganda Youth Corps Coordinator, has moved on to take on other responsibilities. He is replaced by Joyce Adroru who had previously been a mentor in Gulu girls home. We wish Onapa all the best in what comes next for him – he did a great job for us and we hope for the best from Joyce. In a similar development, a new counsellor, Moureen Assimwe, who is also a former mentor in our homes, was hired to support Jane in counselling services after graduating from University with a counselling degree.

Our gratitude goes to the people who are always supporting us in our work. This ranges from the Head Office staff, the mentors who are always on the ground sacrificing their lives to create change in these young people, the entire Youth Corps coordination office, and all our funding partners. In truth we are all part of this greater family that supports the vision of Jesus for a new society. Family is not just blood relations, but it consists of people in your life who want you in theirs, the ones who accept you for who you are without judgement. The ones who would do any thing to see you smile and who love you no matter what. That is what we are doing in the lives of our youth. Thank you for joining us in whatever way you have. May God bless you.

*By Simon Edube*



Boys playing football at the Kibuli Home



(Above / below) Mentors and kids participate in the annual MentorWalk to raise awareness about the importance of mentoring young people.



A team from Restore International visits the Kambogo Home

Mentors  
11

# Cornerstone

## Newsletter Pictorial



Rev. Antanie Rutayisire speaks at the JR. Prayer Breakfast in Rwanda



Alfred and Neyma Wed in Arusha Tanzania!



Africa Youth Leadership Forum in Accra, Ghana



Tim and Leonidas in Burundi



Global Grassroots at CLA Girls



Special Guest Stu Graff speaks at the COSA retreat in Uganda



Babu and students at CLA Tanzania



COSA members on their way to the Ekitangaala Retreat



HLD Student Leadership Workshop



CLA Uganda celebrates 10 years of existence



A new science block at CLA Uganda - Boys

*A Family of Friends!*

## A Family That Prays & PLAYS Together!

*"To a true child of God, the invisible bond that unites all believers to Jesus is far more tender, and lasting, and precious; and, as we come to recognize and realize that we are all dwelling in one sphere of life in Him, we learn to look on every believer as our brother, in a sense that is infinitely higher than all human relationships. This is the one and only way to bring disciples permanently together." - A.T. Pierson*

**A**s a family of friends, you could say that we are a group of persons of common "ancestry". This commonality we share is the aspect that our brother Flukas refers to as the COSA DNA. This is the values and vision that make us stand out and it is what differentiates us from the general society around us. Like every other family over time, COSA is continuing to grow in numbers and also in complexity. With this change over time, it would be easy for such a family to drift apart as it is impacted by other cultural, economic, political, and religious influences. The DNA that we have was inherited from the principles, precepts and person of Jesus. So as long we are individually maintaining that orientation - we will collectively keep on track and stay united.



Michael Eluku breaks out his legendary dance moves at the COSA retreat

Jesus said that, "...if two of you shall agree on earth it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven... For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:19-20).

When most people read this they think of prayer, and we have all heard the saying that "a family that Prays Together - Stays Together." However, there are many other ways to develop the kind of "agreement" that Jesus is talking about here. Agreement in this sense, implies having a set of shared values and vision with others. In most cases families break-up because some members have strayed off of their family values. In the same way, when we want to go our way alone, we can end up with big problems. That is why as a family in COSA, we are constantly trying to maintain strong bonds with each other. We go beyond praying together - and also play together. We fast and we feast together. We celebrate and we support each other! We seek to find creative and innovative ways of re-uniting with our members in the different regions of the country and places. We find how to support our members through the different life stages they are passing through. We encourage people to live together, and remain in fellowship with each other. All of this is done with the ultimate aim of helping us to be accountable to each other and challenging each other to greater heights.

Mzee Paul Lukwiya is remembered for stating that "young people must grow, go and show." Every year in Uganda we are seeing an average number of 50 of our students successfully graduating from University education and joining COSA Stage III, as they face the realities of 'growing, going and then showing.' We are one family, both old and young, each playing their part in furthering God's great kingdom on earth. We are thankful to be a part of this wonderful work and part of the whole team that struggles to make it shine - the COSA executive, all the class and campus coordinators, and every individual member...with the DNA of Jesus.

By Vasco and Brenda



Friends reuniting at the COSA Easter Retreat



## A Deeper Sense Of Family

Sharing about being a family of friends in the spirit of Jesus in this newsletter, I will attempt to highlight a few unique things from my perspective as an Alumnus of the Leadership Academy in Uganda - about what makes the Cornerstone family of friends unique. Some things may seem small, crazy, and strange, but nonetheless they are the things that developed the great sense of commitment I have in this movement. And, they are the things that keep me coming back again and again to all my friends here.

**Rituals and Traditions:** A quick flashback at the day I sat in the van heading to the academy for the practical interviews. Part of me was apprehensive and skeptical about joining a single sex secondary school in the middle of nowhere in rural Uganda. I wasn't sure if this was really something I was willing to do - but then, on arrival, came the Cornerstone hug from the existing students! The boys raced at us and embraced each of us in a way I'd never seen, I felt welcome and loved by these strangers, it was too dark to even make out their faces but it was then that I decided I would do everything it took to return to the Academy as a student. This continuous tradition helps to break all barriers and prejudices making it possible for members of our family to bond.

The tradition of 'bread breaking' where people gather together around a simple meal and share deeper personal experiences, hopes, fears and achievements is another of Cornerstone's great traditions. If we sought to learn a secret about a brother, we organized a bread breaking and without prodding much he always laid everything out for us. Like Oscar Wilde remarked "after a good dinner one can forgive anybody, even one's own relations." For some reason, intentionally eating together creates a sense of openness in solidarity with each other. No wonder it was during the last supper in Matthew 26 that Jesus spoke of who would betray him and soon after that he talked about the person who would deny him.

There are numerous traditions I could discuss and many I may not remember but important to note is that: traditions and rituals are the fabric from which our family is made. They are the spice, the qualities that make Cornerstone unique and give us identity. It's time to ask, do we have any important traditions we have shelved? Is it time to bring them back? Could it be the reason that some of us no longer find the cornerstone family familiar?

**Celebrations and Occasions:** These are events, rites, holidays and communions. In Cornerstone we gather when we have to and we gather even when we don't have to! It isn't



The new COSA executive team in Uganda

necessary to wait for an invitation. We deliberately plan re-unions, meetings, fellowships notably; Regional fellowships in Soroti, Gulu, Arua, Kotido, Moroto and Kampala bringing together the Alumni from different denominational background meeting around the teaching of Jesus. Our Married Couples have also continually met to encourage and support one another as they raise up principled families and many more forums like the creative and performing arts, Business forum etc are all in a bid to look for opportunities to get together and this is our gem. The power in coming together around like-minded people can be seen in the life and ministry of Jesus and his disciples.

At times it seems this country is in a downward spiral in regards to morals and integrity - and it is easy to think you are the only person trying to doing good and holding unto higher values. Getting together in the Cornerstone family always reminds me, that there are other people trying to do good like you - just it was said of Jesus in Acts 10:38 "...he went about doing good." Next time a fellowship is announced, or a forum is created, commit to be there and the family will take on more meaning to you and it will help keep you from also succumbing to the negative thought trend around.

There are lots of other unique things I would have love to share but for lack of space can't. Things like the people and places that have become symbols that knit the Cornerstone family together, the daily patterns of interaction, our common ground in Jesus despite all our differences, but these will be for another time. These unique things help us not feel like people clustered together because of our past or present needs - but rather a family that is conscious of our personality, character and heritage in the spirit of Jesus.

Sticking with your family, and actively participating, is what makes it a healthy family. In the same way... if YOU are not close to us, Cornerstone is less of a family. I hope that the things I've shared trigger you to develop a deeper sense of involvement in this great community, and together we can do even greater things.

By: Onyango Nathan.

# C.O.S.A. TANZANIA

## The Spirit Of Jesus In Our Work

**A**t the core of his spirit, Jesus had love, peace, patience, kindness, reconciliation, faithfulness and compassion for those in need. This has always been an inspiration to me as I serve with my brothers and sisters here in Tanzania, and I am challenged to be consistent in giving my very best in living out these values that Jesus exempted. It is my hope, that in doing so, all those in our family of friends feel accepted, cherished, and inspired in their own ways to be who God created them to be.

As COSA Tanzania our vision is to be a family of friends united in the spirit of Jesus that will love and support one another while advancing a movement of men of integrity and women of virtue in Tanzania and beyond.

I really feel like our work is unique in this way, as we are given the freedom to focus on what matters most. I often hear people commenting that we Cornerstone graduates are a unique group of people, and asking what keeps bringing us together and nurturing these long-term relationships. Where at other schools, once you finish O level or A level then that's it! But, somehow things in Cornerstone are never finished, and we just keep going and going, working together to live out the character and the principles manifested in the life of Jesus.

We recently were blessed to participate in the wedding of our dear friends Alfred and Neyma Nyalandu – it was a magnificent event! Alfred is a graduate from CLA Uganda and was part of the team that started CLA here, and Neyma is one of the first graduates of CLA Tanzania. COSA mem-



bers turned up in huge numbers for the occasion and everyone was impressed with the joy we had in our unity despite appearing to come from different backgrounds.

In another example of recent, one of our old boys, Joel Ndaki, had a heart problem had to travel to India for surgery, and it was amazing to see how the old cornerstone students mobilized financial support for their brother! Mind you, they are students themselves and face their own financial challenges, but this really makes our family unique and very different from other organizations that I have seen – people are not just looking for what they can get, but are instead asking how they can help! We thank God the operation was successful and Joel back with us smiling again.

In my work I challenge myself to make someone smile at least once each day, and I would love to see that I add value to those God has entrusted under my care, that's the way Cornerstone groomed me. If we do our work in the spirit of Jesus, with love, peace, patience, kindness, reconciliation, faithfulness and compassion for those in need, then we can ask any thing in his name and it shall be given to us because we are simply doing his work.

By Samuel Sanya

Members hanging out in Mwanza



# C.O.S.A. RWANDA

## An Inclusive Vision For Our Nation

**I** consider it an honor to be part of the Cornerstone family, and particularly COSA in Rwanda, where I am involved on a daily basis. I am amazed at how our community keeps building upon itself year after year – we have indeed grown from boys and girls to ladies and gentlemen.

Our COSA Rwanda Fraternity has made tremendous progress in all spheres of influence and leadership. As of 2015, we now have 241 members. Of these, 216 are cur-

So, there are about 25 now that are part of this new phase of our work. In our system, Stage 1 is when they are at CLA, Stage 2 is when they are at University, and Stage 3 is the point when they finish university, then go out into the world in their respective vocations, and start families of their own.

The biggest objective with Stage 3 at this point is employment, so we are trying to connect our members with meaningful internships in different companies and organizations. I am happy to say that we have been very successful and many of our members who graduated from university are being employed. We hope to slowly build our reputation in the job market of high quality employees so that all our graduates coming out of University are considered for good jobs. It is only a matter of time as each member slowly makes their own contribution toward this goal.

This is something important for us to understand as COSA members. We are the ones to build the reputation through our own conduct and contributions. As our collective vision is achieved it will enhance the possibilities for success in our individual visions.

The ‘family of friends’ culture that we have in Cornerstone involves putting relationships ahead of tasks and through this we will be more effective in our long-range mission of influencing our nation for the better. As we grow year after year, I have seen this strength of relationships becoming more meaningful in our community - through the monthly fellowships, dinners, upcountry visits, retreats and all such initiatives that are designed to keep us together as friends for the long term.

In other news, we added another member of staff to our team this year, Leticia Murikatete- an “Old Girl” (alumnus) of Cornerstone Leadership Academy Rwanda. She is working with coordinating our ladies on different campuses and her new energy will surely carry COSA further.

Also, in April we joined all other Rwandans in remembering the genocide in Rwanda that happened in 1994. As COSA Rwanda we visited and had fellowship lunch with some genocide survivors. In this, we seek to ‘mourn with those who mourn and also rejoice with those who rejoice.’ And above all, through COSA we are helping to advance an inclusive vision for Rwanda where everyone can live together in harmony.

By William Kinunu

COSA members participating in a genocide memorial ceremony



John Mirenge, CEO of Rwandair speaks with Tim Kreutter at the COSA retreat in Rwanda.



rently students in different universities in Rwanda (and outside). The ones in Rwanda participate in our monthly fellowships where we meet and encourage one another in the spirit of Jesus.

Last year we had our first students graduating from University and joining what we call ‘Stage 3’ of our programs.

Since I was young I've slowly been learning what a family means, but it's not easy to really know without having one. So it's been a struggle for me, but, I can confidently say that I now have a deeper sense of what family is since being a part of the family of friends in EKOSA (Ekitangaala Old Students Association), and Cornerstone in general. These past eight years I have been welcomed, loved, accepted and comforted with what I can only describe as the heart of Jesus. This is a family that involves sharing many good things, wise advise and help in many ways, it does not discriminate on culture, religion, age, sex, or nationality. It is a family I can trust, and I am proud of it.

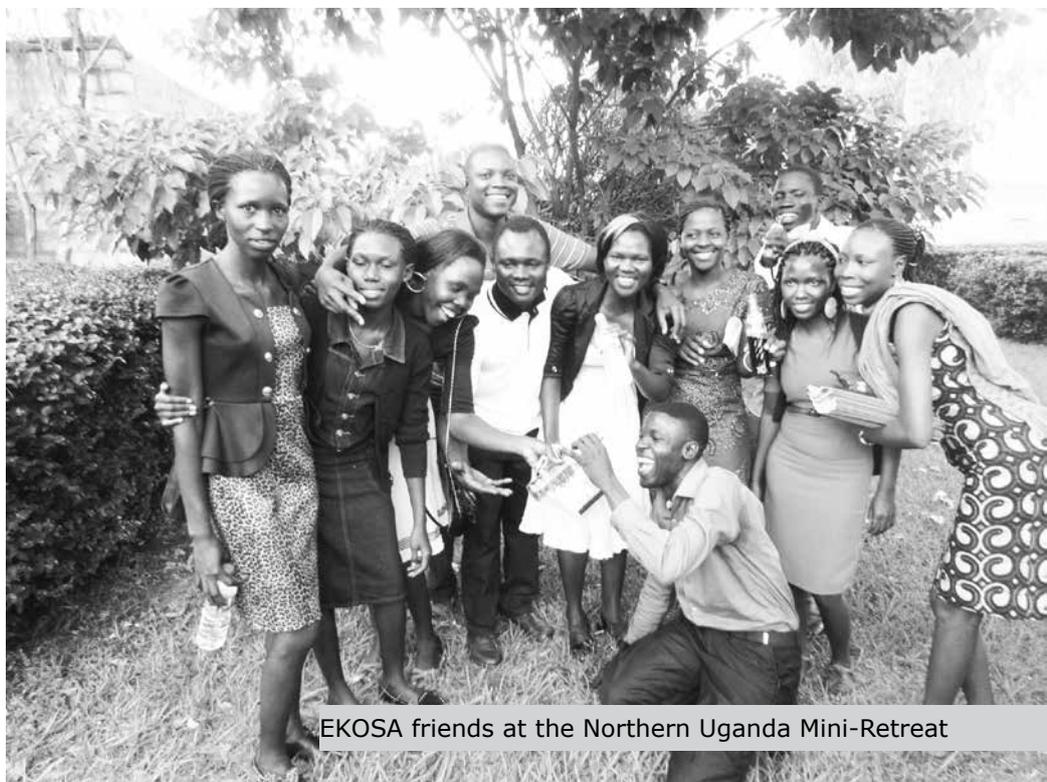
At first I thought Cornerstone was an organization, but I've realized that what makes it special is that it is a life-long family that is not biological, but founded on the relationships we began in high school. Back then, I didn't really know how much I would, one day, rely on these relationships later on, when life got hard. And, now I thank God I have had these friends to stand with me otherwise I would not have made it at times.

For example, when I was graduating from Nakawa, I had no one to take me to school and to pick me up after the certificate awarding, so I talked to another EKOSA member, Mr. Javis Mugaga, and beyond all my expectations he took me to campus himself and picked me up at no pay at all! I was impressed with his humility and generosity- to me this was a real spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood that we have in this family of friends, it assured me that Cornerstone is a real family to me.

I have seen this same spirit in other EKOSA mem-



EKOSA friends at the 2015 COSA Uganda Reunion



EKOSA friends at the Northern Uganda Mini-Retreat

bers such as when one of our former class mates was preparing for her introduction and wedding. It was our 'family of friends' that ended up helping her more than her own biological family!

In the same manner Cornerstone gives me hope and encouragement every time I go to the Head Office because there you are warmly welcomed, given hugs, and there are smiling faces everywhere. People there receive me as a sister and it feels good to have somebody to talk to about anything at all. So, from this open attitude, I have learnt to accept people, to give love to others, to hug them and to encourage them wherever possible. I would surely not be who I am today, without this family of friends that has nurtured me so much.

By Diana Nakijjoba.

# More Pics...



Youth Corps team on a boat adventure to Kalangala Island



Javis's wedding crew



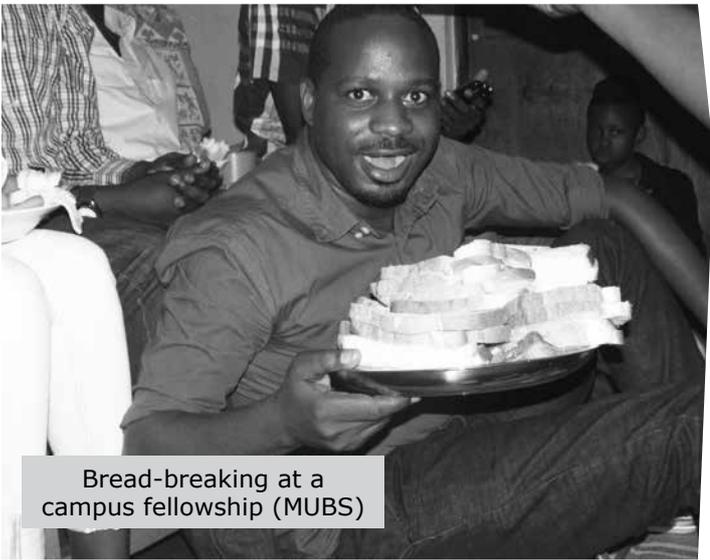
COSA gatherings in Tanzania



Cutting a cake during Timmis visit to COSA fellowship



Grad party for Zulaika



Bread-breaking at a campus fellowship (MUBS)



A class of 2006 reunion at the Nile Retreat Center

# CORNERSTONE CALENDAR\*

## June

- 6: COSA Rwanda Eastern Province Fellowship
- 7: COSA Sunday Fellowship
  - Handover and Work-Plan Launch Head Office
- 15: COSA Tanzania Regional Meetings
  - Iringa and Dodoma
- 16: Bukavu Student Leaders Prayer Breakfast
  - DR Congo, Bukavu
- 19: Marrieds Retreat Kampala Uganda
- 20: COSA Rwanda Beach Fellowship
  - Kigali Rwanda
- 21: Joint Ekitangaala Community Fellowship
- 23: Tanzania Junior Prayer Breakfast
  - Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
- 23: AYLIF Mid year Reivew (Morning)  
COSA Uganda Mid Year Review (Afternoon)
- 24: High School Leadership Initiative  
Mid Year Review
- 25: Cornerstone Head Master's Retreat
  - Nimule, South Sudan
- 27: Career Seminar for Uganda Schools

## July

- 4: Joint Orientation for Uganda Student Leaders
  - Ekitangaala THS
- 5: Sunday Fellowship Head office
  - Kampala Uganda
- 5: COSA Rwanda Northern Provice Fellowship
- 10: Joint Career Guidance day
  - Uganda Schools Matugga
- 11: Fredrick Kabugo and Angela Nalubiri
  - Introduction (Kampala)
- 11: Joel Mumbya and Cathy Mujungu
  - Introduction (Fort Portal)
- 18: Joel and Cathy
  - Wedding - Kampala Uganda
- 18: Rwanda COSA Ladies Fellowship Rwanda
- 18: Fredrick and Angela Wedding - Watoto Central
- 20: COSA Tanzania Coordinators Seminars
- 24: West Nile Retreat - Arua Uganda
- 26: COSA Tanzania Regional Meetings:
  - Arusha, Moshi, Manyara and Singida Tanzania
- 31: AYLIF Francophone Gathering - DR Congo

## August

- 2: COSA Uganda Sunday Fellowship Head office
  - Kampala Uganda
- 3-6: Rwanda Vision Conference (Southern Prov.)
- 8: COSA Rwanda Retreat (8-11) Rwamagana Rwanda
- 8: Kimuda and Doreen Naluyange
  - Introduction, Nakasongola Uganda
- 14: Uganda School Term Ends Term 2

- 14, 16, 17: Uganda Schools Staff Orientation Matuga
- 15: COSA Uganda Parents and 1 year Student Orientation Head Office Kampala Ug.
- 15 COSA Tanzania Break breaking
  - Morogoro, Tanzania
- 15 - 20 Ted Piker visit to Uganda and the Ranch

## September

- 4-7: COSA Tanzania Annual Gathering
  - Arusha Tanzania
- 6: COSA Rwanda Western Province Fellowship
- 6: COSA Uganda Beach Bash - Entebbe Uganda
- 7: Uganda Schools Begin Term 3
- 12: COSA Uganda Northern Retreat - Gulu, Uganda

## October

- 1: COSA Tanzania New Members Join Universities
- 3: COSA Tanzania Beach Bash - Dar Es Salaam
- 3: COSA Tanzania Bread Breaking for all Universities
- 4: Special Sunday Fellowship with the Timmis's
  - Head Office
- 6: AYLIF Uganda Gathering - Kampala Uganda
- 7: COSA Rwanda Fellowship Southern Fellowship
- 8: Uganda National Prayer Breakfast, Kampala
- 17: ECOSA visit to Ekitangaala Transformational High School Nakasongola, Uganda
- TBA: Kimuda Samuel and Doreen Naluyange
  - Wedding Kampala Uganda

## November

- 1: COSA Sunday Fellowship Head Office Kampala
- 1: COSA Tanzania Regional Fellowship
  - Dar Es Salaam and Morogoro Tanzania
- 3: COSA Tanzania Fellowship Mwanza and Bukoba
- 6: UACE National Examinations Begins
- 13: COSA Uganda Eastern Retreat Soroti, Uganda
- 21: CLA Rwanda Graduation
- 23-26: Rwanda Vision Conference - Kigali
- 27: Graduation of Cornerstone Student Matugga
- 27: Uganda Vision Conference - Matugga Uganda

## December

- 4: End of Term 3 Uganda Schools
- 4: Recruitment Review Meeting - Uganda Schools
- 9: Cornerstone Staff Retreat - Kampala Uganda
- 13: COSA End of Year Dinner - Head Office Kampala
- 19: Beach Bash and Bread Breaking in all Universities
- 19: COSA Dinner Different University COSA Groups



Some dates may be subject to change after date of publication - please check with coordinators as events draw near.

# COSA COORDINATORS

## *Uganda Class Coordinators*

1996	Ojok Philip	(+256) 711877777
1997	Edakasi Alfred	772589114
1998 A	Ogwal Richard	772697584
1998 B	Odwane Steven	773291823
1999	Makumbi Semei	772353289
2000	Eluku Michael	777075710
2001	Kirabira Richard	776739108
2002	Kabugo Fredrick	777135455
2003	Amanyire Fred	774117411
2004	Rukundo William	782629038
2005	Michi Paul	772030701
2005	Susan Anyeko	782471313
2006	Othieno Henry	774943330
2006	Mary Nabuma	773357069
2007	Lukyamuzi Charles	776107732
2007	Nanfuka Margret	788288073
2008	Musamya Julius	773488395
2008	Nangoma Hellen	783008704
2009	Jacob Okello	779618381
2009	Kyesige Harriet	785190159
2010	Epechu Brian	783621514
2010	Mukantabana Susan	778715139
2011	Elasu Edmond	771474697
2011	Akao Patricia	705054929
2012	Aomu John	777773033
2012	Ngabire jackie	700565343
2013	Asimwe Ernest	774773015
2013	Athieno Gloria	775678242
2014	Obed George	788152062
2014	Namutale Ritah	701404909

## *Tanzania Class Coordinators*

2013	Elly Johnson	(+250) 759875732
2013	Magoli Waziri	757175520
2014	Richard Wambui	657362837
2014	Nicemoye Timane	754984661

## *Rwanda Class Coordinators*

2009	Nyakato Beatrice	(+255) 786395165
2009	Niyivuga Nathanael	785812757
2010	Mutoni Chantal	785767397
2010	Ntambara Gerald	785246766
2011	Tengera Dorah	782863304
2011	Tumwine Erias	781197389
2012	Muyoboche Faubrice	788798829
2012	Kayitesi Jescah	727170169
2013	Rutebuka Geoffrey	782877906
2013	Ingabire Sandrine	786132027
2014	Muhindakazi Patience	781603964
2014	Idufashe Eddy	782656161

## *EKOSA Class Coordinators*

2007	Lubwama Javis	771487614
2007	Nakijjoba Diana	703059927
2008	Bwanga Emmanuel	773384085
2008	Nanziri Janat	774486804
2009	Oyati Anthony	783215689
2009	Kakwezi Agnes	784517517
2010	Mukwatsibwe Max	779879825
2010	Akampurira Janis	788527785
2011	Finah	703607841
2011	Mwebaze Given	775282190
2012	Serubombe John	701576504
2012	Ayo Oliver	783579294
2013	Tusiime Aron	705844017
2013	Kansiime Fiona	777927894
2014	Magomu James	784889704
2014	Peace	777073372

## *Regional Coordinators*

Gulu	Ogimu Tycoon	775345127
West Nile	Asindwa Paul	781484111
Eastern	Emau Peter	773166964
Lira	Enanga Charles	783191443
Soroti	Emulit Sam	779918933
Ranch	William Rukundo	782629038
Moroto	Logit Gabriel	775898241

## *University Coordinators*

Gulu university	KizitoTadeo	776373708
Gulu University	BweneneRecheal	777605437
Makerere University	OkemaMicheal	706698414
Makerere University	Dipio Carol Diana	787967789
MUBS	Asiimwe Earnest	774773015
Kyambogo Uni.	Otim Martin	781421427
Kyambogo Uni.	Kabaganda Esther	704694266
Uni. of Dar-es-salaam	Daniel Masongwe	784327373
	Judith Laizer	655249914
Uni. of Dodoma	Mark Muhangwa	759863231
Uni. of Josiah Kibira	Joel Kiongoa	758347362
St. Augustine (Mbeya)	Barnaba Steven	763813939
St. Augustine (Mwanza)	Joseph Lymo	757366915
University of Iringa	Nice Antony	752537001
Uni. of Mzumbe	Magoli Waziri	757175520
Uni. of Mwenge	Vincent Yohanna	757091914
Uni. of Makumira	Rehema Godwin	758068440
Uni. Sokoini Morogoro	Esther Wilson	787693263

# ORIGINS & VALUES

Continued from page 28 (back cover)

Now, back to Veriedi, Grubb, and Jones - despite their busy schedules these three friends would meet up every New Year's Eve to pray and plan together for the coming year. And, in response to the heart cry of Jesus found in John 17 - where he pours out his deepest burden to the Father - that we "would be one" - they pioneered the concept of re-focusing on the simple, core message and life of Jesus alone. For, they had discovered this could serve as a unifying force: Firstly, to reconcile the tens-of-thousands of Christian denominations that have splintered along small doctrinal differences (mostly in regards to teachings found in the letters of St. Paul rather than the Gospels.) Secondly, as a means of creating common ground with all those of other creeds who have respect and reverence for Jesus despite whatever reservations they may hold towards Christianity.

In 1925 E. Stanley Jones came out with a book that was far ahead of its time called "With Christ on the Indian Road." It is only now that his line of thinking is starting to gain widespread recognition. In it he wrote: "Christianity and Jesus are not the same... people can have Jesus without the system that has been built up around him."

It is only in the last decade or so that many new teachers and authors are taking up this perspective, including Pastor and Author Bruxy Cavey who puts it like this: "Consider the possibility that Jesus is in an unparalleled position to offer spiritual help for all people, regardless of their religious background. Think of it. A rabbi to the Jews, a prophet to the Muslims, an avatar to the Hindus, an enlightened one to the Buddhists, the Son of God to the Christians, a wise teacher to secularists, and a 'friend of sinners' to the rest of us."

So this focus on the message and life of Jesus alone - and the centrality of the Gospels without sectarian doctrines or attacks on the traditions of others - now serves as the basis for a growing 'family of friends' around the world. This includes national leaders who are part of the Prayer Breakfast move-

ment - who meet together for fellowship simply as peers where they can share confidentially among themselves - without partisan politics, denominationalism, racial or ethnic divisions.

Abram Veriedi mentored Doug Coe, the senior mentor of the Prayer Breakfast movement, who has been a mentor to thousands including myself. Doug Coe has also been a close friend and 'brother' to Michael Timmis Sr.. Doug was last in East Africa in 2008 when we organized a 5-day gathering in Arusha involving 200 people from over 20 countries. He is now 86 years old.

**"Christianity  
and Jesus are  
not the same...  
people can have  
Jesus without  
the system that has  
been built up  
around him."  
(E. Stanley Jones)**

Cornerstone has adhered closely to the principles and precepts of the world-wide Prayer Breakfast movement. There are Eight Core Values that I often use to capture this philosophy. Here they are:

**1 Committed Long-Term Relationships:** We are a circle of friends that goes back several decades in some cases. That is why we call ourselves a family of friends. Today many people are jumping from one relationship to another and tend to avoid making strong commitments.

Family refers to the long term committed "nature" of our relationships and friends - speaks to the "quality" of our relationships.

**2 Wide Vision but grounded in Small Groups:** It's world-wide movement - we have members coming from very many different nations. So it's a very wide vision - but at the same time the foundation of the whole thing is based on small groups of friends 'doing life together.' They meet regularly for fellowship, for accountability, for creating influence and to pray for their families, their nations and the world.

**3 Focus on Jesus as the Common Ground:** Any movement needs to have a strong ideal or shared values to hold its members together. Many initiatives that try to promote unity across religious divides - can often end up with the 'lowest common denominator' when trying to create common ground. We are seeking the highest common denominator and so we reference our core values and methods to the principles, precepts and person of Jesus. His life and his teachings are respected universally - irrespective of religious affiliation.

These values and attributes of Jesus would be:

- Love unconditionally (Loving the way God loves)
- Serve God and not money (Sacrificial service)
- Humble Ourselves (Humility)
- Give without seeking a return (Charity)
- Empower and not control (Nurturing & Mentoring)
- Show mercy, not revenge (Forgiveness)
- Seek justice and freedom for all people (Justice & Liberty)
- Encourage and not discourage (Inspire & Uplift)
- Spread hope and not despair (Hope & Good news)
- Believe and not doubt (Faith)

**4 Working across all that is dividing humanity:** Nearly all of the conflicts and wars in the world today are being fought because of religious or ideological differences and ethnic differences. And part of the vision of our family of friends - is to be a movement of people who can cross these divides - who can 'stand in the gap' - who can love 'the enemy' and love our neighbors - the way Jesus taught.

**5 Personal Transformation:** We can't give to others what we do not first possess. All of us are works in progress ... but we are experiencing change in ourselves as we follow this Way of Jesus. This hap-

**"Consider the possibility that Jesus is in an unparalleled position to offer spiritual help for all people, regardless of their religious background. Think of it. A rabbi to the Jews, a prophet to the Muslims, an avatar to the Hindus, an enlightened one to the Buddhists, the Son of God to the Christians, a wise teacher to secularists, and a 'friend of sinners' to the rest of us."  
(Bruxy Cavey)**

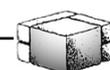
pens the more we reflect his thinking, his way of speaking, his actions - his way of love. The hope for the transformation of society - lies with transformed individuals.

- Think like Jesus
- Talk like Jesus
- Act like Jesus
- Love like Jesus

**6 Faith for a Better World:** The world in its present state is not aligned with our highest and best values - which have passed down to us through the wisdom in our sacred texts. This is why we see wars, injustice, poverty, crime and so forth. We have faith that as human beings making up the family of nations in the world - we can do much better than this. We need a vision that is big and inspiring enough for people to buy into with whole-hearted commitment. A vision for a new way of living, this is what Jesus' concept of the 'kingdom of God' coming on earth was all about. It's about a new kind of society based on values such as harmony, unity, order, justice, wholeness - leading toward: "peace on earth - goodwill toward man."

**7 Focus on the Essentials:** At the time of Jesus - his religion had increased the 10 commandments given to them by God - to over 600 commandments. Jesus boiled them down to two. He said "Love God with all your heart, mind and soul and Love your neighbor as your self." This he said was the sum of all the other commandments. The sum of the law and the prophets. This was the greatest commandments. It was the main thing. So, now - the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.

**8 Working with Leaders and developing young leaders - but only having one Leader that we give our lives to, Jesus:** One of the earlier followers of Jesus - Paul was given a special mission: "This man is my chosen instrument to take my name....before the Gentiles and their kings....Acts 9:15." Our family of friends has sought to carry on this mission in regards the "kings" - or the leaders of our world. Because leaders hold enormous influence - for better or worse - over vast numbers of people including billions of the poor - "the least of these" - for whom Jesus has a special concern.



# THE ORIGINS & CORE VALUES

## of the "Family of Friends" that is the Prayer Breakfast movement & Cornerstone Development Africa



### Reflections from *Tim*

The National Prayer Breakfast movement began in the US at the time of World War II. During this difficult era small fellowship groups of business and political leaders in the state of Washington began meeting together weekly to pray for their nation and its leaders - while also encouraging each other to live out their highest and best values in ways that would address some of the problems in their communities. Many of these groups met at the beginning of the day - for breakfast - and that is how the term 'Prayer Breakfast' came about.

It first became an annual National Event during the time of President Dwight Eisenhower, a 5-Star General who served as Supreme Commander of the Allied forces in Europe during the Second World War and the first commander of NATO. During his Inaugural Ceremony as the President of the U.S. in 1953, Eisenhower broke with custom by reciting a prayer that he had written himself - without prior warning to the nation. This made the headlines of all the newspapers and had the effect of demonstrating to the public that even the most powerful political leaders in the world - can recognize that they are accountable to and dependant on God.

There were 500 present at the first US National Prayer Breakfast on February 5, 1953, including Eisenhower and Vice President Richard Nixon, as well as members of the Cabinet, the Supreme Court, the Senate and House of Representatives. A newspaper report observed that they were: "...gathered together regardless of party and creed, zealous for the truth and for right relationships with God and man...they recognize that leadership without principles is dangerous." Since that first National US Prayer Breakfast, no U.S. President has ever missed being part of this annual event.

Every movement requires a strong set of values to keep it going over the years and this movement takes the principles, precepts and person of Jesus as its guiding ideals - across all divisions that are existing in the world. This is possible because, despite our differences in the way we might perceive him, Jesus and his ideas are revered global - especially by those from Christian and Muslim traditions.

One of the founders of this movement, Abram Veriede, an executive with Goodwill Industries put it this way: "He is the only universal - belonging to all ages, races and conditions. The basic eternal truths of other religions being largely summarized in the teachings of Christ and exemplified by him...in whose life there was no discrepancy."

Veriedi had two close partners and 'spiritual brothers' - E. Stanley Jones and Norman Grubb. Both of them had international ministries/programs of their own and authored numerous books. As a young man I was drawn to and heavily influenced by both of their writings, although I did

not know they were connected and I didn't know anything about the Prayer Breakfast movement. I even sought out and met Norman Grubb in 1989 a few years before he passed away. It was later in 1989 that I first heard of the Prayer Breakfast movement and then met Michael Timmis Jr. who had become connected to them along with his father. Soon after I met Michael in Uganda, John Riordan who had been in a youth mentoring program run by the Washington DC Prayer Breakfast friends, came to work with Michael in Uganda. Starting in 1990 - Michael, John and myself spent much of the next 7 years together getting Cornerstone Development Africa up and running.

**"My prayer  
for all of them is  
that they would  
be one, just as  
you and I  
are one."  
- Jesus  
(Jn 17:21)**

