



Young Empowered Network training

## TNA successfully holds YEN training

Young Empowered Network (YEN) is one of the TNA programmes that empowers the youth to embrace Christian wholistic ministry and development in their communities, work environment and the marketplace.

TNA in partnership with Compassion International facilitated a 5-day Biblically grounded training to prepare university graduates to view their career as an opportunity to transform the community for the Kingdom of God. The youth were from 6 different Universities in Uganda.

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## TNA Translators Club

Transforming Nations Alliance has pioneered the formation of a Translators Club composed of 22 members from Agago, Isingiro, Iganga and Kampala Districts. It's in these districts that TNA is implementing the Church Based Community Transformation (CBCT) program in Uganda.

The 22 initial members of the Translators Club were taken through the Principles and Practices of translation that saw them translate a CBCT training module from English into 4 languages namely Acholi, Luganda, Lusoga and Runyankore.



Translators team under training

The outcome is that the community members will have their CBCT training in their local language and that will enhance their learning and application of Church-led transformation skills through interventions like Seed projects.



Acholi Translators group in action

## Satan's lies exposed.

The Church Based Community Transformation (CBCT) training helps bring some focus on the lies that Satan has used to deceive communities, families, churches and individuals that they are not in charge of their development either because they are cursed; or uneducated; too poor; or of a low social class. The training is delivered principally to communities in the 4 Districts of Agago (Adilang Sub County); Isingiro (Mbaare Sub County); Iganga (Nakalama Sub County) and Kampala (Makindye division). However, TNA can deliver this training to any Church community that contacts them. Participants are challenged to see how Satan has negatively influenced their mindset (in the day to day activities and decisions they make) through culture and a secular worldview that does not glorify God. These lies have caused them to be miserable. The training has helped many people both in Uganda and abroad to realize that despite the fact that a lot has been lost, a lot can be regained.

## From 25 chicken to 170

Mugila Church of Uganda (Anglican) had been conducting church services under a mango tree for about two years. The Church leaders who were trained through a TNA Vision Conference spearheaded an initiative to build a simple church structure out of locally available resources. It was agreed that church members should contribute chicken to fundraise for building materials. Since every household in the community rears chicken, some of the 50 members of the congregation contributed chicken that were kept in the custody of some members of the church. The local parish council leaders also embraced the initiative and helped to mobilize the rest of the community to participate.



Mud being processed for brick molding

Within 2 months, 25 chickens had been accumulated for sale. One of the newly motivated church members donated part of his land for the new Church structure. The women collected grass for thatching the roof, while the men collected wood poles for pillars that would support the roof. It was so unfortunate that the semi – permanent structure which they constructed was demolished by unknown people due to a land boundary dispute and the congregation went back to holding their church services under the mango tree. This time the church members have resolved to build a more durable structure with baked bricks. The women are now actively involved in the molding of the bricks.



Bricks molded by women in Agago for Church building

The Christians saw their potential to grow as a Church and Community in the unity that was created when they took up specific responsibilities regardless of their social status during the church-building drive. The Church leaders feel challenged at the Church's potential in bringing transformation to the community

and members have increased in chicken giving. The chickens have increased from 25 to 170 and they hope to sell them and finance their church building project. The Chicken would have been more but some have been taken by hawks because the chickens move about in a free range style, while some have died from disease.

## Cleaning of Adilang Health Centre IV

The TNA community CBCT ministry team led by the Chairman LCIII Adilang sub county, Mr. Raymond Okot Omara mobilized the community members in Adilang sub county and cleaned the rooms, and compound of Adilang Health Centre III. Between 35 - 40 members from different Church denominations participated in the cleaning exercise. In addition, they also cleared the sub county Headquarter compound by slashing overgrown grass and picking up rubbish. The community members were surprised to see Churches of different denominations come together to do charitable work.

## Agriculture to boost living standards

Kataama George lives in Butaama Village, Nakalama Sub County, of Iganga District. He is a Pastor in the Charismatic Episcopal Church and a participant in the CBCT program in Nakalama Sub County. After he attended a TNA Vision Conference he redoubled his farming efforts as a way to develop not only in the spiritual but also in the physical/ economic aspect of life as he learnt from Luke 2:52. "The Bible exhorts us to work hard and I decided that I will no longer depend on the stipend I receive through church offerings but eat my bread from the sweat of my brow."



Kataama (right) takes his Senior Pastor around his plantation.

George embarked on pawpaw farming by laying his first seed bed from the seeds of two pawpaw fruits that he bought with the little money he had at hand. Since July 2013 he has planted a garden of 300 pawpaw trees and his objective is 1000 trees. He also diversified into yam growing as another income-generating activity and to date has planted about 600 plants.

Though the scale of production is still low he receives many buyers for his pawpaw fruits. Currently, out of 300 pawpaw trees, 50 are fruiting and/or productive. In each season each productive pawpaw tree gives him about 30 fruits which he is able to sell at between Uganda Shillings 1,000 to 2,000 (\$0.4 to \$0.8) to individual buyers and to wholesale traders at between Uganda Shillings 500 to 800 (\$0.2 to \$0.32). He is hopeful that when he hits his target of 1000 plants he will be able to sell off the equivalent of a medium sized pickup truck of fruit.



From just a few seeds to 300 pawpaw trees

“My quality of life has improved” says George. He illustrated that by explaining that previously the family endured having to drink sugar-less tea but now he does not only buy sugar but also can afford

salt and paraffin for lighting; as well as buy medicine or pay for medical care as the case may be. Though he admits to having poor record keeping skills his sense is that his economic and social status has improved.

Members of other church denominations, village mates, and the Local Council Chairperson visit him time and again to learn from him and assess his progress. They are inspired by his progress such that three of his colleagues at Church have taken up pawpaw farming; and six others have gone into yam growing. His self-esteem is now quite high due to the attention paid to him and the fact that he has become a role model in the community.

George also notes that paw paws are nutritious, and can improve the soil fertility and he thinks that they have improved the environmental ambiance of the village especially after it rains and everything is green!

He exhorts everyone to think upon Proverbs 24:27 and encourages them to prepare their gardens through which they can build an economic base.

## Area Coordinator's tremendous Change

Pastor Francis Habson Okwii is the CBCT Area Coordinator Nakalama Sub County representing the Pentecostal Churches. He is the Pastor of Rapha Deliverance Church, Nakalama. He has great appreciation for the change that is beginning to take place in his life and that of his family. He attributes that to the re-envisioning he received following on the training he received under the TNA Vision Conference that helped him re-evaluate his condition as a Pastor and as Head of his family.



Church supported Community boreholes

In what he describes as a 'tremendous change', he has realized that his ministry was rather imbalanced since it only concentrated on the spiritual side of life with little concern for the other areas of life namely the physical, mental and social as demonstrated in Luke 2:52, a call to wholistic development.

Pastor Okwii decided to work more closely with his wife and family to boost their quality of life and welfare. They started saving money systematically and regularly as a way of raising money to fund small family projects to increase their income. In a fairly short while they were able to buy a cow; and soon they hope to buy a plot of land.



Come all you who are thirsty

In addition, the Church that he Pastors has embarked on a bricklaying project for the construction a larger church building to cater for a growing congregation. Some Church members have renewed their efforts in the area of food cultivation after realizing that garden work (agriculture) can be a blessed activity if it is approached in

faith trusting God for the growth and multiplication of the crops. So there has been an increase in activities related to food crop growing; poultry keeping; and other income generating activities to sustain families. The church members reached out to the needy children in their locality by contributing scholastic materials like books and pens to orphans.

They also contributed towards the purchase of 52 blankets for distribution to orphaned children in the community regardless of their religious affiliation. Thus the beneficiaries included Muslim, Catholic and Protestant/Anglican children.

Moreover, in line with the Seed Project approach to community transformation, they fostered better relationships with the community when the Church leaders from different denominations mobilized their congregations and the community members to clean up the trading centre for a healthier environment. That was not all. They also went on to mobilize for the repair and rehabilitation of a community road that had become impassable.

Pastor Okwii is confident that the improved relationship between the Church and community will go a long way to bringing glory to God.

## Kenjiri Shallow Well



Keminazi community village in Isingiro clears Kenjiri shallow well.

Isingiro is a relatively new District in Western Uganda near the Tanzania-Uganda border. It suffers from long dry spells

made worse by severe environmental degradation. People have cut down trees in order to get firewood and charcoal for cooking. Unfortunately there are very few water bodies in the area and so during the long dry season there is a shortage of water.



Cleared shallow well.

According to Tusiime Dennis, Head of Laity at Rumuri Church of Uganda, a meeting was organized on February 1, 2015 to discuss and plan for the implementation of a Seed Project. This is in fulfillment of the Church Based Community Transformation program. The project aimed at the cleaning up of one of the only two water bodies in Keminazi Village. This water body, Kenjiri Shallow Water had in the last five years become choked with excess vegetation and rubbish because it had not been cleared. Cattle and other animals would wade into the water to drink and thus contaminated it. The little water was basically unusable by human beings.

The Community came together on February 9, 2015 to clear the water body. They carried along hoes, spades, and machetes to open up trenches and clear weeds and vegetative growth. After the work a committee was chosen to oversee the routine maintenance of the water body and the Chairperson is a dynamic lady who lives nearest to the water source. The people are now optimistic that Kenjiri Shallow Water will fill up with fresh water when the rains come. The mobilization was led by Denis and his fellow Christians engaged in the CBCT

program like Mabel, a trainer. The other mobilizers included a 'Crime Preventer' who because his knowledge of the area moved from one family to another explaining the purpose of the project; and one of the prominent Councillors at Parish level lent his support to the effort.

The Shallow Water body is expected to supply water for three years once it receives water from the foothills when the rains come. The mobilization of the community by the Church was unique in that it opened the eyes of the people to the potential they have to solve some of their most pressing problems in this case the scarcity of clean water in the long dry season. It is clear that the benefits to the community rise above religious, ethnic and/or their social affiliation. About 82 people turned up for the work including men, women and grown-up children. They are now praying for the rains to come.

## The Pulpit of Education

Godfrey Kyazze is a Teacher by training. He participated in a Vision Conference in 2005. It was organized by Transforming Nations Alliance in Uganda (TNA). Before he attended TNA conference, he says, he had 'deserted' teaching because he didn't believe he could influence the world in the area of education. "I was being misled by the world; I wasn't thinking that I could impact the world in the area of education."

The Vision Conference he attended came at the right time. He was seeking answers to what God wanted him to do regarding influencing the world for the Kingdom of God. He walked out of that conference with the following phrase ringing in his mind: 'If we are to disciple the nation and if we are to build the Kingdom of God then everything we do must be done from a Biblical perspective or else we will be wasting time.'

He discovered that we are ministers

of God irrespective of where He sends us. It does not matter if we make the distinction that we are in ministry or are pursuing a career. Godfrey discovered that he can be a full time minister in the field of education. He started praying for guidance and also doing research. God led him to resources that helped him discover that it is possible to have a true Christian education where you teach every subject in the academia from a Biblical perspective.

That to Godfrey was transformational and he started trying out various ways to develop a Christian, Biblical - based curriculum in all subjects in the current Ugandan educational system. He knows that it is possible to rework the curriculum and teach for example topics on the Slave trade, Colonialism and Migrations of people into East Africa, from a Biblical perspective.

After three and a half years he went into Teacher training and realized that the burden he had in his heart for a Biblical perspective in every subject in the national curriculum could be scaled to a national level. As a result of the work he has done with like-minded professionals in the field of education a Teacher Training institute has been founded. They hope to transform the education system through a Biblical approach that will enrich domains in education like the Philosophy of education, Psychology of education, History of education, Curriculum development, Educational assessment and Quality Assurance.



Pastor in Education.

In line with Romans 12:2, Godfrey believes that education that is Biblical does transform the minds of individuals to transform their nation. The young minds of students would benefit from being taught subjects at school that have a strong Biblical base. The students at school are part of the Church that sit in school every day from Monday through Friday (8:00 am to 4:00 pm) being influenced excessively by the world because they go to church only on Sunday – they need discipling throughout the week and not just on Sunday! It will be hard to disciple the young people if there is a weak or non-existent Biblical foundation in the subjects they learn at school.

Godfrey emphasizes that whether you are teaching commerce, physics, economics, finance, politics or business, God's desire is that whatever you teach in those disciplines reflects His glory and is compatible with His Word and intentions for the world.

## The Caring Community Church



Young girls making necklaces and other crafts.

Pastor George Wilson Kanyike is the Pastor for Kabimbiri Evangel Church in Mukono District of Uganda. Kabimbiri is on Kayunga road, about 68 km from the city of Kampala. After attending a Vision Conference, Pastor George together with Church members initiated a program in the community to care for the people

living with and/or affected by HIV and AIDS. This care is provided regardless of their religious affiliation or ethnic origin. The program provides food items, and funds for buying medicines among other things. Members of the church that are medical professionals have also helped to provide medical care.



Pastor to the Community.

Later on they found out that when any of the people they supported died, the children were rendered more vulnerable and destitute by relatives who took away the property left behind by the deceased. The Church then took up advocacy activities to defend the rights and promote the welfare of the children. As a result a significant number of orphans have recovered property that was taken away by inconsiderate relatives. The community now trusts the Church in the area of advocacy and child protection. Indeed if there is a case of child abuse in the area, they often run to tell the Church before reporting cases to the Police.

In addition, the Church initiated another program called 'Keep Kabimbiri Clean' which involves cleaning up the environment in the Trading Centre by picking up garbage and removing discarded polythene bags. They do this at least once every six months.

Another program is helping the marginalized Girls in the community, like those who have dropped out of school even for minor reasons! While some of

them stop going to school because of a lack of school fees, some drop out due to cases of misconduct while at school. The Church has started a Rehabilitation Centre where the Girls are provided with accommodation for 3 – 6 months. While in the Centre they are given training in vocational skills like plaiting hair, tailoring and making necklaces for sale. After the third or sixth month in the Centre, many of the Girls have gone back to school. Those who got pregnant and became mothers have also been able to continue with their education. Their parents have commended the Centre for the role it has played in the rehabilitation of their Daughters. Once you rehabilitate a young Girl, it is expected that in about 15 or so years they shall become responsible adults in the community. They will be good role models for their children because of the transforming experience in their formative years.



Supported girls sharing testimonies

The programs described above are all carried out with resources that the Church has raised from the contributions and volunteer work of the Church members themselves. They just have a heart for the community in its most urgent needs.

### TNA Upcoming Events

- Training of Module 4
- AC exchange visit to Iganga
- Networking event

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