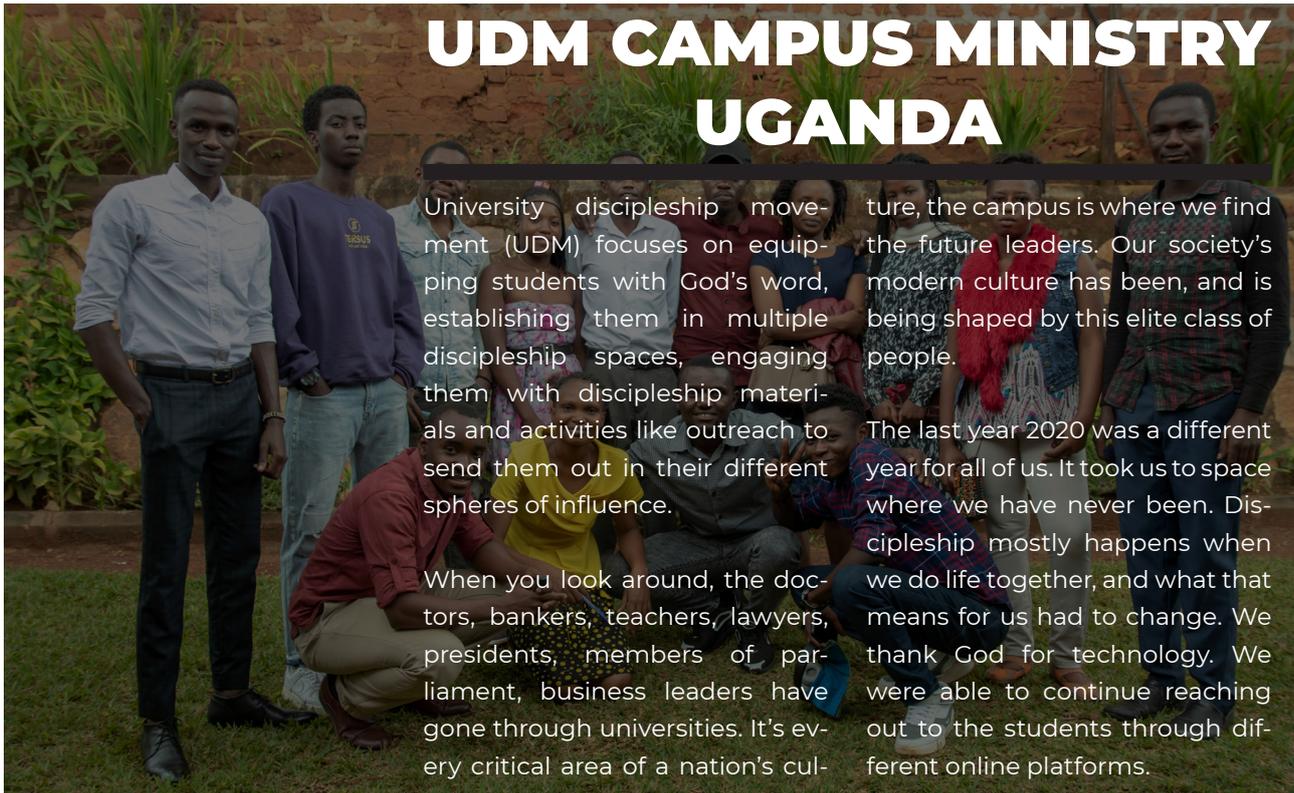


UDM NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #1 || APRIL 2021





University discipleship movement (UDM) focuses on equipping students with God's word, establishing them in multiple discipleship spaces, engaging them with discipleship materials and activities like outreach to send them out in their different spheres of influence.

When you look around, the doctors, bankers, teachers, lawyers, presidents, members of parliament, business leaders have gone through universities. It's every critical area of a nation's cul-

ture, the campus is where we find the future leaders. Our society's modern culture has been, and is being shaped by this elite class of people.

The last year 2020 was a different year for all of us. It took us to space where we have never been. Discipleship mostly happens when we do life together, and what that means for us had to change. We thank God for technology. We were able to continue reaching out to the students through different online platforms.

We are excited that Schools are gradually opening up and this has allowed us to continue doing discipleship in different campus locations. We are currently having two small groups at Cavendish University, each group having about eight students, four small groups at Kyambogo University and each group with about ten to fourteen members, and one group at IUEA University with twelve members. At KIU, we have thirty two small groups with over 130 members registered. As a ministry, we are more focused on small group meetings as we continue to observe the SOP's put in place.

“UDM is a conducive place where i have met with different people from different backgrounds but serving the same God. Not only have i grown, i have learnt how to approach life with confidence and faith knowing that God got me. UDM is a place where i feel loved and cared for. I wouldn't ask for more God blessed me with a family and a home”

Maclean, KIU

It's such a very humbling experience to see what God is doing in these students as they continue to engage with different discipleship materials in their small groups.

This year, 2021 we have different things planned. To kick us off, we are beginning the campus hub. This is a fellowship that will unify all the small groups and also gets to celebrate through dance and drama, spoken word, music, and hearing of the word. We plan to have prayer and fasting meetings, leadership seminars and retreats, outreach events, and bible studies.

God promised to pour out his spirit on his sons and daughters, Acts 2:17. We anticipate and hope for a great revival in the world. We have to be ready, to equip the younger generation with God's word. As a ministry, we are geared to that through the help of the Holy Spirit.

Albert



University Discipleship Movement is there to fulfil the great commission that our Lord Jesus Christ gave to his disciples in Matthew 28:19-20. In Kenya we have a team dedicated and ready. They go out to fulfill the command and call, as they reach out to students in different institutions both in South and North Rift region. These places have several institutions that have a vast number of students, the need for discipleship is huge. In our mandate we recognize God as one who transforms and helps us to do what we've been called to. We rely and allow him to work in us first, to learn from him and thereby as a result of that relationship with and growth in our lives we extend it onto others as we make disciples, teaching them to obey all that Christ has commanded us and assuring them of Christ's presence in their lives forever.

Kenya generally has had challenges especially at the start of 2020, there about in March, the pandemic struck and we were left in quarantine and lockdown, the grounds where we were physically, the universities, were left empty as many students left for home. The pandemic had and continues to cause negative effect on people economically, socially, physically and even spiritually as places of worship were shut down. But at the same time, it has brought a challenge to many in the way we view each other, in the way we conduct our daily affairs, in the way we see

family and friends, and ultimately in the way we do ministry as we fulfil our calling altogether.

We have now come to embrace more technology in our lives as we use social media platforms like YouTube, Facebook, WhatsApp, Zoom, Google meet, Instagram and so on to communicate, to do meetings, to conduct bible studies and devotions, to follow up and to proclaim Christ. In Kenya, we have embraced these technology platforms right from 2020 and we have continued with it through 2021 as it has its purpose in the current times, more so, it helps us to be relevant as stated in one of our core values. As Joshua, a student of Theology at Kenya Highlands University says;

“Despite the fact that churches were closed, where it was a difficult time, but it was a good way to reach out to the youths and we thank God for UDM”



“UDM is a ministry that we work together at the university and they have been a blessing to us. We have worked together throughout the covid period through the internet, having an online WhatsApp group, where we used to do bible studies. UDM would provide materials, send them to me, then I would post in the groups, then we would go through the study personally, then in the evening we would meet and do the discussions. And it was really, really wonderful. Despite the fact that churches were closed, where it was a difficult time, but it was a good way to reach out to the youths and we thank God for UDM”

Joshua, Kenya Highlands University

Caren Mwabodze, a student at Bomet University College, has this to say;

“Most of us learnt a lot from that ministry - we were able to get out of our comfort zone,”

In this year, we continue to see the faithfulness of God through the ministry as we serve. We have had an addition to the team as Timothy Kamirut joined UDM Kenya in January. Timothy has continued to learn, grow and step out in fulfilling the call work-

ing together with Benon and Hezekiah. The activities and programs have also increased as we keep looking out for opportunities to reach out to the students, and for that, we thank God. In relation to addition of activities, we have also seen North rift region being expanded with several activities as we reach out to the students where several institutions are on our target list for ministrations.

Hezekiah



“Soul Friday was a new thing, but it picked up well and fast, it has impacted many students. Apart from Corona affecting its continuation, we will work to see to it that it continues. Most of us learnt a lot from that ministry - we were able to get out of our comfort zone, we learnt more from you, we were able to see the sacrifice you gave to see the ministry work is going on well and we really thank you.”

Caren Mwabodze, Student at Bomet University



In January, after prayer and waiting since January 2016, The Safe Haven Hostel was officially opened on 7th January 2021 and dedicated on 24th January 2021.

The Safe Haven is now home to 11 beautiful female students and a hostel manager who resides on the premises.

Why Safe Haven? Safe and secure accommodation facilities are few and often not affordable for many university female students. The students are many times forced to compromise their values and morals to afford decent accommodation. Many who join the university for the first time experience a good measure of culture shock and too much freedom away from the watchful eye of the parents/guardians. The transition from home to campus life can be overwhelming and without proper discernment, judgment, and guidance, many end up making wrong decisions that affect their performance in class and quality of life. For others, the transition is less bumpy, but there is always a desire to have a friend present through the seasons of life. Peer pressure, loneliness, insecurity, heavy class workload are some of the other challenges that students face.

As the name suggests, The Safe Haven creates a homely and safe environment for the female students who come to us. Space where they can thrive and be safe as they go through campus life. We exist to make the transition easier and offer counseling and guidance where necessary. Discipleship is at the crux of our existence: we have committed to do life with all the ladies that God brings to our care at the Hostel. We hope that by the time they leave, they will know they are deeply loved, appreciated and that their identities are in Christ. That is why the hostel manager, who doubles up as a counselor/spiritual guide, resides in the hostel premises so she can be available to do life with them and cheer them on as they go through their studies and seasons of life.





SAFE HAVEN Cont.

Social events like movie nights, regular meals together, devotions are some of the avenues that not only offer accountability but also bring the ladies together as one unique family, away from home. All these, including serving opportunities in our church, give the ladies an edge over others. It is such an honor to do life with these students to the glory of the One under whose wings we all find refuge!

That's why The Safe Haven Hostel!

We are excited to be part of the change that is happening to these young ladies. And we want to invite you to be part of it. You can support us in prayer and in kind as we continue to fulfill this commission. Running the hostel means that many resources are required to maintain it. You can partner with us to keep the hostel running.

Please feel free to get in touch for more information.

Lillian



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April 2021

**P.O.BOX 11788
KAMPALA, UGANDA,
0788 216 748 , 0708 312 282
www.udmafrica.com**