

(Kenya) Feed My Lambs: Discipleship & Devotional Camp in Kenya (By JUMA FUCHINGO)

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

After our Easter Bible conference, many students were touched by Jesus' directional message from John 21:15, which was our last message of the conference. They approached their shepherds and wanted to be designated as shepherds of Jesus' flock, too.

In the previous years, we designated students after their first year on campus. However, our leadership felt we needed to give first-year students time to grow and mature so that they could have a proper understanding of what it means to be a shepherd. We therefore agreed to designate them from the second year onwards. This year we had several students from the second year and some are in their final year of study. When they requested to be designated, we realised we had only three weeks before they begin their final semester exams. We prayed that God may help their shepherds be ready and available to help them prepare and have a clear calling in their hearts as they take up the role of being shepherds of God's flock.

God gave us John 21:15 as the directional message for this program. We prayed that God may touch all the participants deeply to accept Jesus' direction as they take up the shepherding role as an obligation, but a spiritual show of love to Jesus, who died for our sins. We began our Discipleship camp immediately after the Easter conference and focused on three key basic spiritual principles: faithful morning devotion, life testimony, and shepherdology bible study. For bible study, we usually have a four-lecture series, but this time we focused on two since we had studied the first one from John 21:15 during the conference. Our junior leaders, Shepherd Davis and Clifton, led the team to study the two lectures respectively. The first lecture came from John 1:35-51, learning Jesus' example of how to invite sheep "Come and see!" and the second from John 10:1-18, (Know your sheep). Through this study, the word of God opened their hearts to look at shepherding as a noble task from God. And a show of gratitude and love for Jesus' salvation grace.

At the end of the program, we all gathered in our bible centre to listen to their life testimonies. Through their sharing, we felt a unique spirit of maturity, confidence in accepting God's work, and a clear spirit of humility and acceptance to serve God from their heart. We pray for them and believe that they may devote their lives to be faithful and reliable campus shepherds. When we began the program, I personally felt like it came too soon after our Easter conference, and the time seemed too short. So we had some kind of crush program. However, while praying for this program, God gave me peace that God's work is done by God himself, rather than our human effort and creativity. I could therefore pray every morning for God to do his work in their hearts and help them meet Jesus deeply as they prepared to be shepherds and shepherdesses.

Eventually, we all witnessed God's work among them as they went through the DDC, culminating in their sharing of genuine repentance and sincere acknowledgement that they were sinners who didn't deserve God's mercy but were ready to be used as instruments of noble purpose.

Through this year's program, twelve (12) students accepted Jesus' calling to be shepherds of his flock. Among them were two (2) sisters and ten (10) brothers. During the designation Sunday, we were blessed to host Missionary John Park from New Jersey. He had visited Kenya for business and joined our Sunday worship service. His presence made our designation ceremony very meaningful. All the new shepherds (esses) were honoured to have him present our UBF- Kenya designation certificates.

We now pray that God may raise these new shepherds (esses) as faithful, available, and teachable servants of God and as shepherds of lost campus souls. We also pray that they may always remember Jesus calling through John 21:15 and continuously feed Jesus' lambs. Amen!



