

As of Africa grows, Youth and Students for Peace's importance grows

Robert Kittel
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David Pilling, Africa editor for Financial Times, wrote last August, "Populations in Europe and the Americas have stopped growing. The population of Asia will peak at around five billion by 2050. For the next century, most of the increase in the world's population will happen in Africa. The UN's base case is that the number of Africans will double in thirty years to two billion and at least double again, to four billion, by the end of the century. If all those new people can find jobs and opportunities, global [economic] growth will gradually shift to Africa."

Writing seven years ago about the African Development Bank in *The New African*, Stephen Williams warned, "Africa has the fastest-growing and most youthful population in the world. Over 40 percent are under the age of fifteen and 20 percent are between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four (the definition of youth). These statistics present a serious challenge. Can Africa seize the opportunities being presented, or do Africa's youth constitute a ticking, demographic time-bomb?"

Similarly concerned is a prominent Nigerian senator, Ibrahim Mantu, who is prompting young people to acquire skills, to learn a trade, become a carpenter or an electrician, learn masonry or auto repair, improve their skills or increase their education in order to avoid a dismal, impoverished future. Significantly, he is not just a senator and a former deputy president of the Nigerian Senate, he is the chairman of UPF Nigeria. He was among the important figures that attended the launching of Youth and Students for Peace in Abuja, Nigeria in 2017. More than five hundred people attended the launching, including members of FFWPU youth groups, the National Youth Council of Nigeria, Peace Corp-Nigeria, ambassadors for peace, Gbagyi Reform and Youth Empowerment, Abuja (an ethnic organization); Nigerian Police, Nigerian Security Civil Defense Corp, Federal Road Safety Corp, State Security Service, National Youth Service Corp, and local media.

These are vital times for Africa. Some are calling the rapid population increase -- especially the large component of youth as part of the population -- a demographic dividend, like a financial bonus. So much depends on what young people make of themselves. True Mother's creation of Youth and Students for Peace is great news for African nations. Chapters are multiplying, as Koreans tend to say, like mushrooms after a rainfall.

Some national chapter activities

In Côte d'Ivoire, in April last year, YSP led training of trainers programs in three cities, Abidjan, the commercial capital of the nation and home to about twenty percent of the nation's people; Yamoussoukro, the nation's administrative capital, and Grand Bassam, which was for a time the capital when Côte d'Ivoire was a French colony. They trained twelve primary or kindergarten teachers and administrators in the Family School, in Abidjan. Thirty-five underwent training in Yamoussoukro, including some principals. Collectively they have 1,400 students under their care. In Grand Bassam, they trained three hundred student teachers who will be dispersed to various public schools.

Côte d'Ivoire started with fourteen pilot schools. Eight regional education inspectors who work for the government's Ministry of Education recognize the value of the educational material. The inspectors accepted the mission of establishing 120 pilot schools nationwide and of persuading the Ministry of Education to add Hyo Jeong Character Education to the national curriculum by next year.

YSP-Ghana with their local UPF chapter held a meeting of businesspeople, civic leaders, presidents of

university student governments and members of the Disabled Association of Ghana on Sunday, August 12, to celebrate UN International Day of Youth. A key topic of discussion centered on the Guns-Down Africa 2020 Peace Campaign as well as a Peace Award Night.



Ms. Isis Christelle Gohi, first vice-president of YSP-Ghana, led the Youth Day commemoration. Tegha King, president of YSP Ghana, explained the intent of the Guns Down campaign and added that because of Ghana's national legacy, the nation was well suited as a mediator to bring peace to Africa. He was perhaps alluding to Kwame Nkrumah (1909–1972) a political figure who led his nation out from under colonialism and was a key proponent of African unity and a founding member of the Organization of African Unity.

On December 7, YSP held the fourth annual East African Camp for high school students, eight from Rwanda and twenty-seven from Uganda. The Ugandans came from twenty different schools, which is fortunate, because one purpose of the camp was to establish school-based Pure Love Clubs in each nation of the East Africa subregion. The students learned their role in creating a peaceful culture. They listened to a talk on four types of love in a family, heard an introduction to the Divine Principle and received internal guidance. A musical on the dangers of HIV/AIDS moved them.

