

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2019



Introduction

The annual Christmas party gathers together the vulnerable children and youth sponsored by YEGO Rwanda. It's a time for them to meet, celebrate Christmas and the end of the year, and make plans for the new year.

The 2019 Christmas party took place on December 23 at Kigali Parents School. Forty-three children and youth attended, as well as three YEGO Rwanda staff, a guest speaker and guest of honour.

The day's itinerary

Opening prayer, introductions and dancing



The program started at 10 am with a prayer from Emmanuel Gatera. After the prayer, Emmanuel asked the children and youth to give a brief introduction of themselves. He then urged them to listen and pay attention to the presentations and testimonies they were about to hear, that were tailored to their age and respective needs.

YEGO youth provided traditional dance entertainment which the children and youth enjoyed and joyously joined in.

YEGO Rwanda recipient tells her story



Mrs. Jolie K. shared her story of trauma and abuse at the hands of her ex-husband. She spoke about her struggle to raise four children alone, her wounds and how YEGO Rwanda walked with her on her healing journey. She explained how she is now empowered to take care of her own life and how her children have grown and are doing well.

Jolie also shared how she has enjoyed being part of YEGO's Computer-Assisted Learning program, offered at the YEGO office. The program helps girls and women who are vulnerable or have dropped out of school by empowering them with skills in English and computers. It also provides self-confidence, communication skills and job opportunities.

She was happy to share how she is now able to speak and communicate with her daughter's American guests who keep visiting with her but don't understand kinyarwanda. She can now use a computer for email communications. Jolie was thankful to YEGO Rwanda for providing the opportunity to achieve these important successes in her life.

Guest speaker presentation



Pastor Pacifique Karanganza started his presentation by sharing five ways that lead to a successful life walk with God. He gave relevant examples from his own life. He shared how he lived a miserable life as a youth – struggling with drug and alcohol addiction and being involved in banditry. But how knowing Jesus Christ as Savior he was able to change, leave his addictions and turn to God to live a successful life. He advised the youth who may be addicted that there were chances to change their lifestyle and live successful lives.

He listed the five steps as follows:

1. Listen and obey the advice from parents and elders in the community (Genesis 12:1-3)
2. Work hard for a better future and avoid laziness (2 Thessalonians 3:10)
3. Depart from bad and negative influences (Psalms 73:28)
4. Change the direction from the negative side one's life is taking (Genesis 35:2-7)
5. Step out of one's comfort zone and become confident to make decisions (2 Kings 7:3-6)

Lessons and recommendations from the children and youth

After the sermon, the children and youth were split into five groups to:

- reflect upon the presentation
- come up with lessons learned
- make recommendations for application and implementation in their own lives

Group 1 chose to stand by God's word and refuse to indulge in anything that may separate them from God's grace.

Group 2 decided to pay heed and listen more to their parents and elders.

Group 3 decided to change to improve their way and lead a good example for others.

Group 4 resolved to have clear goals in life that will help them to have a sense of purpose.

Group 5 decided to follow God's lead, have purpose in their lives, step out of their comfort zone and have confidence in themselves.

The chair's remarks



Mrs. Athanasie Gatera, chair of YEGO Rwanda, encouraged the children to respect and value themselves. She reminded them that to be the future generation of Rwanda they need to:

- avoid drug abuse which may destroy their lives
- work out their issues instead
- build their lives and their health
- develop skills, knowledge and competencies in order to be successful in life
- help out their families, their communities and their country

Guest of honour



Mrs. Jennifer Benerugo, a YEGO Rwanda board member and guest of honour, urged the children and youth to:

- make good use of their time and opportunities provided by YEGO Rwanda
- take heed of the good advice they receive
- avoid indulging in bad behaviour and habits that destroy their lives
- make good decisions for positive directions so they can overcome traps and obstacles
- avoid being tempted by those who want to trap them into bad actions
- be content with what they have

Conclusion

The program concluded with dance and music, and meals and drinks. The children and youth got a chance to interact, connect with and enjoy one another. At the end of the event they took a group picture with YEGO Rwanda staff and the speakers.

Emmanuel gave the final prayer and wished the children and youth a happy Christmas, holidays and New Year, and more knowledge and wisdom to effectively carry out their plans, goals, and upcoming studies in 2020.

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