

Africa Youth Leadership Forum - Kenya

Newsletter

Quater 4 - 2020





Content

04

About Us

AYLF Admin

07

Catholic University Small Group

Chepkemai Sharon Sang

10

Fellows Program

Pigbin Odimwengu & Millicent Hoback

14

A New Dawn Is Coming

Patrick Lavince

16

What to Expect in 2021

AYLF Admin

17

Leadership Insights

Gabriel Achayo

20

Our Partners

AYLF Admin



Welcome!

Welcome to AYLK Kenya's Quarter 4 Newsletter whose goal is to keep you updated on our latest news, programs, leadership tips and inspiring stories of young people leading transformation in their communities.



About US

What is AYLF?

In case you just landed on this for the first time;

AYLF stands for Africa Youth Leadership Forum. It's a collaborative initiative that brings together University Student leaders, students, and Alumni across the country, from both public and private Universities, for mentorship, training, networking, capacity building on Leadership. We seek to advance values and principles that promote transformation, liberation, and servant leadership

Activities in the Last Quarter

Leadership Development Programs

1. AYLF Live stream Broadcasts

We held monthly live stream sessions aired live on our social media platforms. The topics discussed included:

- Leadership that Inspires Hope
- Effects of Covid-19 on Education Sector
- Young people and Politics
- Youth and Constitution at 10
- Unpacking county Assemblies
- Devolution, Healthcare and Covid-19
- Is Gender Equality Overrated?

The conversations were geared towards informing, advocating and inspiring the youth to get involved in issues that affect us directly. Being the majority of the population, young people have what it takes to cause a positive shift in all the sectors of the economy.

Follow these conversations on our YouTube Channel:
<https://bit.ly/3fvn85K>

2. Vision Conference

In collaboration with Hope for Africa, 21 AYLF members were taken through the vision conference which aimed to empower followers of Jesus to take the lead in developing their own communities and nations through cultural transformation. From this, think tanks were formed.

Watch out for stories of transformation soon.

Small groups outreach Program

1. University based Small Groups

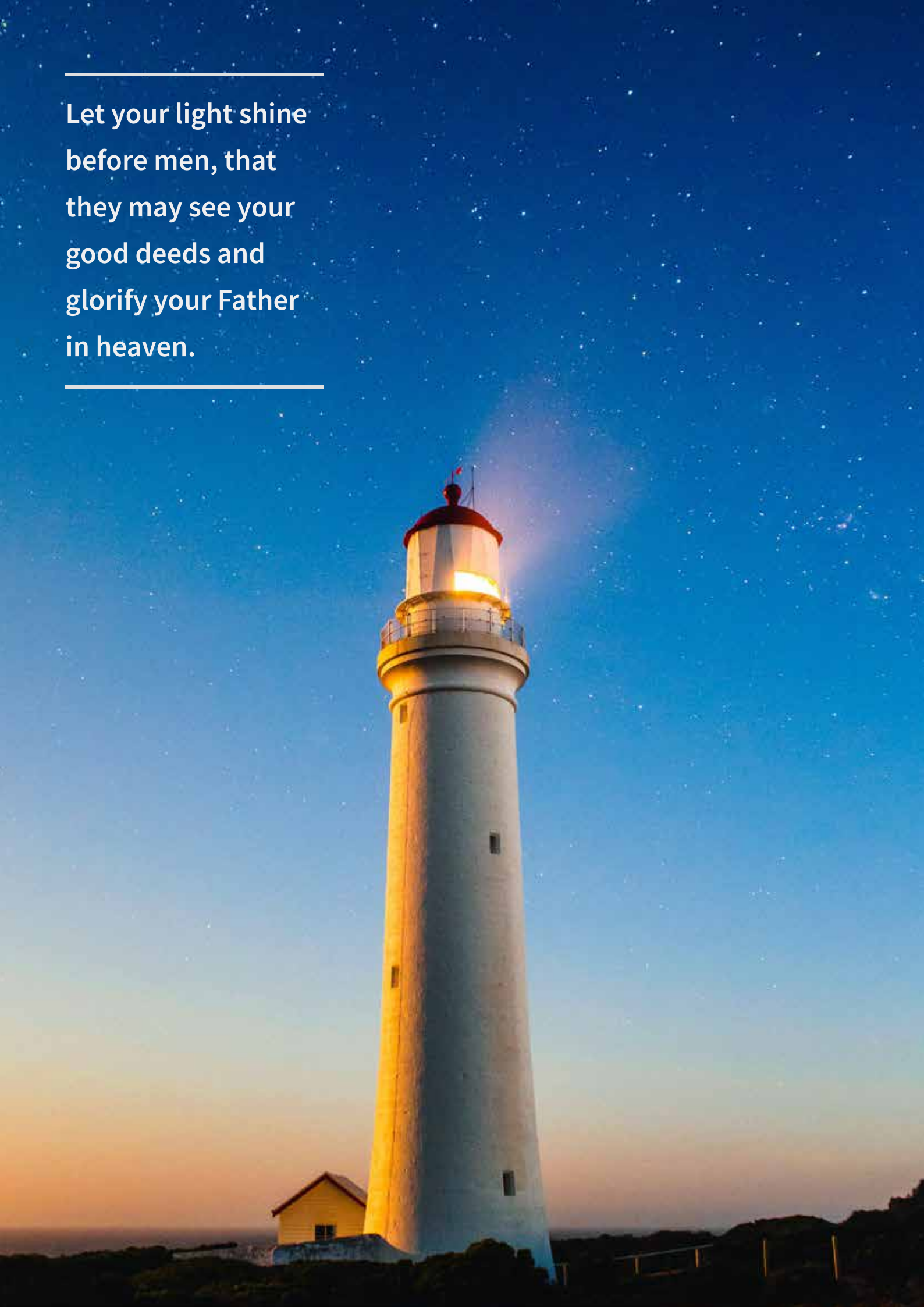
Our work is University-based and we use the small groups model of operation. We have 26 university small groups from various University campuses in Kenya. Each Group has a membership of about 10-15 students and is led by a small group coordinator. The highest membership recorded in a group is 50 and the lowest is 8 members. The groups create accountability structures for members' journeys in their leadership, friendships and following of Jesus' principles and teachings. They also organize to impact communities around them through outreach projects. In the last quarter, we had 3 groups executing such amidst the pandemic.

2. Tuesday Small Group

This serves as a support group for small group coordinators in Universities. It also consists of former coordinators who help mentor the current ones on issues that come with leading a group. It's also a space to develop authentic friendships and accountability structures.



Let your light shine
before men, that
they may see your
good deeds and
glorify your Father
in heaven.



CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

SMALL GROUP

Registered in 2016 as a club, the CUEA AYLF small group now boasts of having 40 active members. We engage in meaningful conversations on various topics touching on leadership, relationships, careers, religion, and many more, and as consequently, many of us have greatly improved on their confidence levels, eloquence, public speaking skills, and listening and speaking skills.

We engage in a myriad of community service activities including visiting children's homes and doing follow up visits, participating in environmental cleanups, planting trees, walks creating environmental health awareness, to offering high school mentorship. Through such engagements, participating members continually improve their organizational and leadership skills.

The CUEA small group members have also benefited spiritually and emotionally from the meaningful long-term friendships they have established. We are a family of friends and are always on the lookout for one another's needs. This bond has been strengthened through outdoor team-building activities. We occasionally take hikes to Ngong hills, Mt Longonot, and Oldonyo Sabuk National Park.

Partnering with Youth Voice Matters (YVM), we visited Drug Fighters Children's home in Kibera which houses 60 young victims of drug and substance abuse aged 5-18 years. We also created a partnership and continue to conduct follow-up visits to the home. On the same, we





visited a home in Kuwinda slum which doubles as a school. The visit entailed sharing meals, playing games, conducting handwashing lessons and a medical check-up by some of our own who is a medical student. They administered dewormers and Vitamin A supplements, and referred extreme cases.

Notably, we have planted hundreds of trees within our school compound which were graciously donated to us by Miti Alliance. Interestingly, other campus students and clubs have taken this as a challenge to also plant trees.

The group has in partnership with Ramani Institute, mentored Mwea girls' high school students. At St Augustine Kasakini Secondary school in Kitui, we donated sanitary towels to 60 girls and got to talk to them about menstrual hygiene. We also took 140 form 4 students, (boys included) through the 7 habits of highly effective people and advised them on career choices.

We had another outreach in a slum where we did a 10 Bob Challenge in partnership with The Period Man and Me and You for Her organization. We managed to donate sanitary towels, tissue rolls, and underclothes.

Finally, our small group was awarded The Small Group of The Year Award by AYLF. We also completed the 7 habits of highly effective people and we have since been able to extend the training to others. We have revived and given birth to 4 other clubs in the university. These are the health club, the scouts club, the liturgical dancers club, and the knowledge Ambassadors club where our small group members hold various leadership positions and display exemplary skills.

I'd like to urge the young people in universities to be very intentional in their deeds and to spend their short time in campus to build themselves and create a positive impact in society.

A report compiled by:
Chepkemai Sharon Sang,
AYLF CUEA Small Group
Coordinator



Fellows Program

It consists of members who've graduated from Universities. The young professionals are either in active employment, business or politics.

Here's two members in the fellows group.



Pigbin Odimwengu Ouma

Party Leader, Accountability and Transparency Party & AYLF Fellow

When and how did your interaction with AYLF begin?

I came across AYLF just online on google search as I was looking for leadership organizations

How has the AYLF helped you in your leadership journey? How did USLA and SLDP contribute to this?

AYLF has improved my leadership skills a lot through SLDP leadership training where I gained skills which I apply in my leadership

even now. USLA also gave me an opportunity to learn and interact with various young leaders and trainers who have been part of my leadership journey. In general, it increases my leadership capacity and networking.

Tell us about your political party. What's the inspiration behind it? How can young people join?

My party is called Accountability and Transparency Party. It originates from the aspirations of young people looking to get a political platform where they can exercise their leadership skills and implement those skills in political arena.

It's inspired by problems we face as a country due to poor governance which I believe as young people we can fix through the party.

To join, just follow us on fb and twitter through ATP party. We will launch our app and website soon.

Why is it important for a young person to belong to a political party?

Young people form 70% of the total population and this means

that they control the politics of the country. By joining a political party, they get a platform to share their vision and control the leadership of this country by either being leaders or electing political leaders.

What drives you?

My ambition to lead this country as a president and change the lives of many poor and young people like myself.

What grounds you?

My values ground me. They are accountability, transparency, integrity and honesty.

Who do you look up to locally and why?

I look up to Obama's leadership. I admire his passion for leadership.

What's your message to young people aspiring to join politics?

We are the leaders of today, not tomorrow and ATP is here to give you that platform to be a politician. Let's unite and create that future we wish for now for our children and grandchildren.



Millicent Hoback - AYLF Fellow
Former AYLF Intern and Kenyatta
University Coordinator,
Currently a Project Engineer at Nelson
Construction and Development, USA

How did you join AYLF and are you happy you did?

Imagine being invited to an event as a seat filler only to end up making the most meaningful relationships of your lifetime. That was how my AYLF journey started. I was a 'connected' first-year student. As an ambitious young student, I was down to a free meal and the networking opportunities presented. We had a great session with a senior friend and it ended up being more resourceful than the freebies I anticipated. Luckily, that would be my first time interacting with the AYLF group. I got to learn more about AYLF and you can imagine my excitement when Shammah invited me to attend the student gathering in Brakenhurst (In those days I thought Brakenhurst was somewhere in Europe). I was so excited for the new friendships and new opportunities! Isn't it amazing how friendships begin in the most unexpected of places?!

If I was to redo life, I would ensure I am the seat filler again. The gains of AYLF are priceless and endless. It has been a culmination of fostering my belief system and connecting with humanity while at the same time chasing my dreams. Above all, I can walk around saying I have seen the

impact servant leadership can make in one's life – my life in this case. Working closely with Gabriel opened my eyes to the realization that all I need is to emulate the leadership exemplified by Jesus. The practicality of this journey is what makes it even more interesting.

How has your background shaped who you are and how you view life?

"I am a Ghetto child, one day I am gonna change the world." Growing up, I resonated with these words by Joe and Shaggy. I was ambitious and confident – a trait I admire in my younger self. Coupling the support and mentorship I received from my community with my traits, I found myself advocating for children's rights on a global stage. I recall walking out of the General Assembly and getting stopped by flashes of camera lights and microphones trying to get a word from the bold little girl. The following week, I would be waking up in our tin-roofed single room with my family back to what was my reality. That exposure to both worlds has greatly shaped my adaptability to different environments and situations. More importantly, I learnt that what matters is the impact our lives have on others regardless of whether there is a stage or not.

A key challenge I face daily is to neither forget the lessons drawn from my humble past nor let it limit my aspirations.

How do you keep your value system in check?

To be honest, having a genuine conversation with myself daily. I think I am my worst critic so I have learnt to ensure that I reflect on what I did well even if it's getting out of bed. Beyond the daily reflection, listening to encouraging music, reading, and networking. It helps with gaining

clarity so I can recharge when my value meter level is running low. I believe you share what is overflowing, so I try to ensure I amass the positive values. I think I still have a lot of aspects to work on, but I think I am improving which is key.

As a person who is always on the move, how has your 2020 been?

I call 2020 my year of restoration. From the day I entered kindergarten, I have been sprinting and I realized I was running out of gas and needed to slow down. You will be surprised to learn that I have never had a month-long rest since high school. It is interesting since most of my peers took breaks between colleges. This year though, I had to take a pause partly due to a career switch and partly due to the pandemic which made job-hunting much harder. It was not easy and I remember getting frustrated, but I learned a lot. There are days I would think I had failed but then I realized that we create failure by measuring our performance with an illusion of what we perceive as success. I have since learnt to focus on what is ahead. This process presented me with new opportunities that have worked out to my advantage.

How have you managed to get through the year especially bearing in mind you are in the USA which has been hardly hit by the pandemic?

One great way has been having the opportunity to have fellowship sessions with some new and old friends. More so virtual sessions made me feel closer to my friends and family. The thought that someone who is 8000 miles away can be a zoom call away made the COVID-19 adventure locationless – with the only inconvenience being time zones.





A New Dawn Is Coming

By Patrick Lavince
(The Gifted Pen)
Poet, Author, Writer & AYLF member

The dawn is coming,
The advent of a new rule,
People-centered governance.
The trees will sway
The winds will blow away
Dead voices will rise to testify
Sad birds will still sing
Sad stories will make the best books
Sad souls will find life again
Wounds may continue being deep
But our scars hold the record of our stories
A new dawn is coming!

Africa wails
The continent no longer our motherland
The Nile bagged by the bodies of our sisters,
Mothers and daughters who gave it all
Whose beauty became fists of redemption and liberation,
Ready to step on the ring
To save a Country they've lived to call home
Tides will sweep away their spirits to the shores
Ripples will carry away their visions to their peaceful place,
But the Nile will remain the source of hope,
Hope again for Africa,
A new dawn is coming!

The sweat on the streets
The tears left on the road
The resilience of a revolution
The brave humans that withstood the bullets
The indignified acts against our sisters, mothers,
Fathers, sons and daughters
The injuries that were occasioned
The brutality that was
The cruelty in the hands of the oppressors
The hundreds that are missing
but hoping to trace their way back home,
The torture and bloodbath
Will only make us stronger.

Freedom comes at a cost,
We are ready to pay heavily.
Our loyalty is too expensive to buy,
We can't be submissive to a brutish regime.

A new dawn is coming,
When Africa will not be a graveyard
When Africa will not be a continent of despots,
dictators and ruthless regimes
When civilian governments will be instituted
When xenophobia will not be cast on our tongues,
When Africans will learn
to stand with their fellow brothers and sisters,
When Africa will be a home of diversity
and not houses of negative ethnicity,
When Africa will uproot the oppressors,
And allow a tree of liberty to grow
A tree of hope and good fortunes,
With fruits of freedom of expression and free speech,
Accountability and transparency,
Development, peace and stability.

A new dawn is coming
When Africa will be free again,
When freedom becomes our first language,
When Africa will rise again,
When Africans won't be ashamed of their skin colour,
Of being black
Because black is royalty,
Black is happiness.
To see the light,
To see the day,
We have to pass through darkness.
Through the night
Dusk will fall,
A new dawn will emerge.
Africa will rise,
We will rise.





What to expect in Quater 1 - 2021

We trust that come 2021, we'll have devised a way as a country to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. When this comes to play, the following will be happening in the first quarter:

1. *Small groups outreach program*

- University small groups weekly meetings
- Small group coordinators Retreat

2. *Leadership development programs*

- Student Leaders Development Program (sldp)
- High School Leadership Program

3. *Fellows Program*

- Advanced Leadership Initiative Launch
- Weekly meetings for young professionals

To participate in any of these programs, reach out to us through email: info@aylfkenya.org or phone: 0796 934 978.

LEADERSHIP

Insights

By: *Gabriel Odhiambo Achayo*
Country Coordinator
AYLF, Kenya Chapter

Planning Flexibly



I believe life should be lived with a strict Flexible plan.

It's good to plan every minute of your life. Know what next, the why and follow through with it. It's said that failing to plan is planning to fail. In a happy world, this is 100% correct.

Unfortunately, in real life, where we have to deal with people, and we have family and children involved, you need an attitude of flexibility. Your family will always need you sometime when you are right in the middle of your plan. If you value family like I do; when family comes calling, you can't delegate this. You can delegate other areas of your life but not when it comes to your most important part of your life, family.

Planning Flexibly or rather planning with an attitude of

flexibility implies that everyone, including yourself, is fully aware of what you are trying to achieve, but also that the path is not curved on stone. Especially if it comes to dealing with third parties. You need to know your non-negotiables and know your negotiables. The non-negotiables should be what is inside of you, that which you have influence over. It could be your faith, your belief, your absolute truth about life, your absolute "WHY" in life. It should be about your core value systems.

As much as your value system could be influenced over time by what you experience, but the core value system should be your guardrail. That which you hold on to dearly and is your filter to every negotiable you come across.

Planning Flexibly



Your negotiables are more about the "HOW." The structures, the resources, the what, the people you meet in this life, money, things that are more out of your control. More of your circle of concern. You need to know that which concerns you and that which you can influence. Our frustration

comes when we can't separate the two. The negotiables and the non-negotiables. So many times, we make negotiables, non-negotiables, and vice versa.

Don't spend time chasing a right answer or a right path, but instead spend time defining how you are going to approach whatever path you choose. What values most define you. What questions do you want to pursue? What it seems right now, might change tomorrow. If you have been engaged in anything in life, I believe you appreciate this fact. I call this relative truth.

It makes sense to you now, but when things change, it will not hold as true. It could be the right path now, but with exposure and more information coming your way, you may look at it differently and be quick to embrace another path that will hold for as long as you operate in the same paradigm/situation.

Remember, this is your negotiable. Your approach is what will be your non-negotiable. This has to be very clear to you because it's about your core value system; it's about what your life is all about.

Be Like Water



I love this quote by Tim McGraw;
"We should all reassess what we think and believe constantly - in politics, in life, and in our thinking. Otherwise, we get too rigid."

The more you get exposed, the

more you are able to realize that some things will not last and as such, they form part of your life experience. You develop a flexible attitude to life. The danger sometimes might be if you lose out on yourself. Continuously reassessing your absolutes and relative truths, negotiables, and non-negotiables, your level of flexibility is very key. Becoming too rigid in this life is very expensive and frustrating.

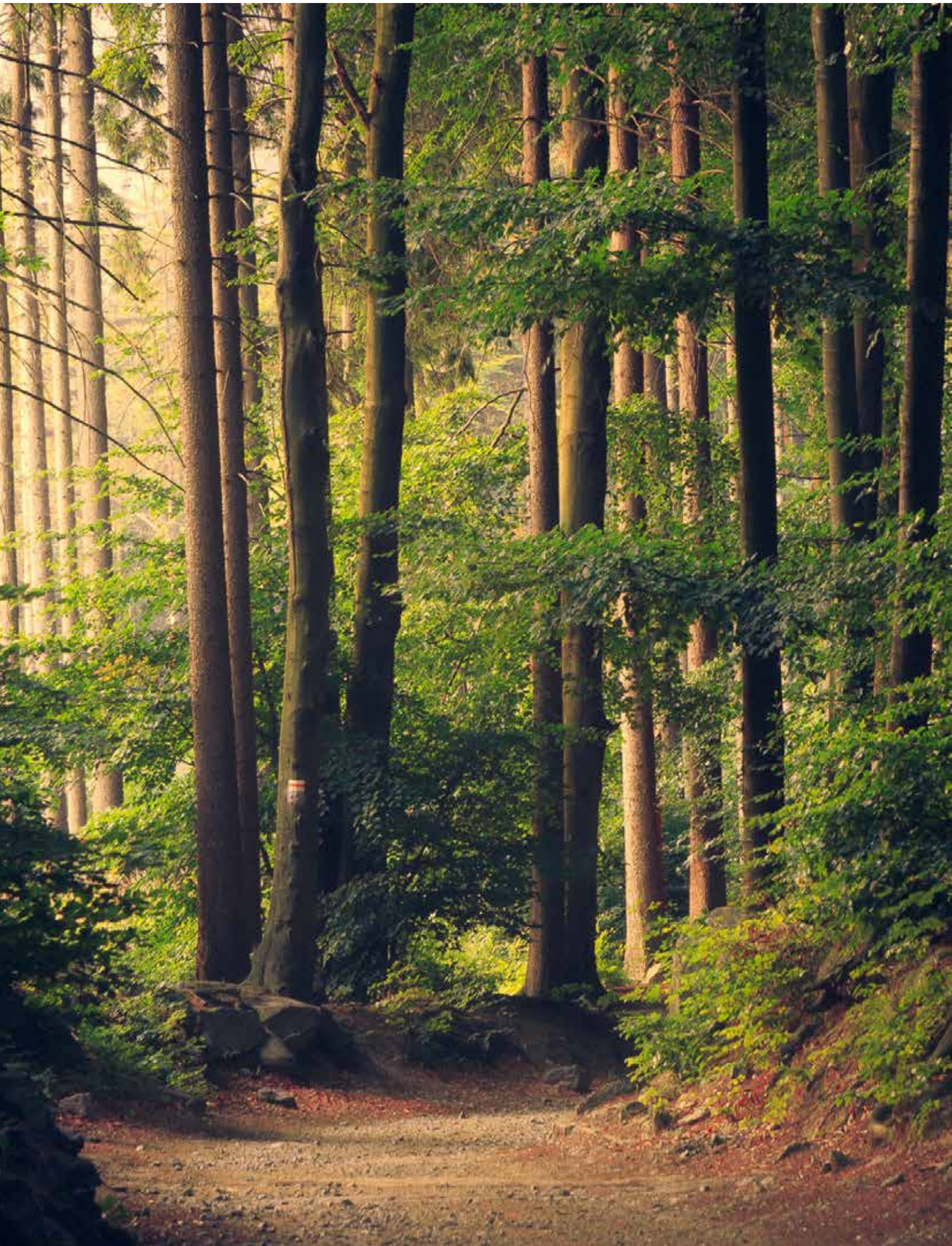
So as you plan your life goals, desires, and objectives, take into account that things will always not work the way you want them to, but don't lose your focus. Adopt a flexible attitude and enjoy the experience as you learn from it.

If this resonates with you, go ahead to evaluate your non-negotiables

and negotiables, your absolute and relative truth. Look for a small community of friends who you can do this together with. Being accountable to a few and practicing with a few. It's about building a community of friends to share each other's journey of life with, as you plan flexibly. You have to be deeply committed to each other and desire to see each other grow in this journey. You have to create a support, encouragement, and accountability platform for each other. The community has to be as small as possible so that there is active engagement by all involved.

Find a community around you and see if these conversations make sense to you.





Our Partners



Watch. Learn. Become.



GiANT TV

Sign up for online leadership development programs in:

1. Personal development *(Become self aware and chart a growth path)*
2. Team performance *(Improve communication and productivity in your team)*
3. Become a leadership guide

Get certified to offer GiANT content.

Email: sherpa@liberate100x.com

Phone: 0796 934 978

To join any of our programs, or support our work, reach out to us through the contacts given below:

Africa Youth Leadership Forum

Uungwana House, Gatundu Crescent - Kileleshwa

Contact Number: +254 796 93 4974

Postcode: 18068-00100, Nairobi



www.aylfkenya.org

Facebook: Africa Youth Leadership Forum - Kenya

Twitter: AYLF_Kenya

Instagram: AYLF Kenya

YouTube: AYLF Kenya