



ADVANCING LEADERS

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WE DID IT!

ALI trainer and mentor, Winnie, and assistant, Lynette, organized our first Ugandan-led training at a new school called Royal Christian School. The two-day training took place at the end of September, just as the Ugandan teachers were preparing to start the school year. The teachers were encouraged by a timely message to adopt a growth mindset in order to overcome personal hardships and to inspire their students to do the same.

Winnie's Account

Once in a while, God surprises us, to remind us that not all hope is lost. After a year of working in Rhino Camp, I have learned I must not set too many expectations before I arrive for a training. Of course, I plan and prepare, but I show up with an open mind in case I have to change things up to meet the teachers' needs. I have to be flexible. However, this was not the case working with Mr. Job Candia, the headteacher at Royal Christian School, as we organized our first ever Ugandan-led professional development training. Calm and soft spoken all through our preparatory phone calls, I could not help but wonder if he would have anything prepared by the time we showed up. I was in for a pleasant surprise!

When we got to the school on Monday, the 21st of September, we found Job and his director already waiting for us. They greeted us, and Job led the introductions. I did not have to labor to explain who we were to the director and what we were there to do.



He cut me short by saying, "I know who you are. Job has been updating me about your every conversation and all your plans. Job trusts you and I trust him. Plus, I've seen the impact of your previous trainings with the teachers, so you are welcome." After that, Job took us around to see the rooms we were going to use for the training sessions and meals. Both rooms were already set up according to the COVID 19 standing operating procedures (SOPs). The training was to start the next day, but the rooms were already set up! This was a first! When I inquired about the teachers, he assured me that 20 would attend, and true to his word, 20 teachers showed up the following day, on time.



The training sessions focused on developing a growth mindset, and this topic was a timely encouragement as most teachers were disoriented and contemplating quitting the profession. With schools closed for the last six months, it has been tough for everyone, but especially teachers whose main source of income was put on hold. The training helped them realize we have the ability to choose to have a growth mindset despite our tough circumstances. Teachers were also given time to think through how they could inspire a growth mindset in their students, the culture of their classrooms and in the school as a whole as schools reopen.



Teacher receiving training certificate.

It was a courageous move to have our conference focus on encouragement for the teachers. It was evident that this encouragement was exactly what they needed at this time. However, we were more blessed, encouraged, and challenged by the teachers' full engagement and by Job's leadership. The saying is true: "Everything rises and falls on leadership." With leaders like Job and ALI trainers coming alongside teachers to support and call them to higher levels of growth, indeed not all hope is lost.



Prayer Requests

- Finances for Uganda staff trainers, training events, and supplies
- Establishing a national Ugandan team

Connect With Us!

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Note from the Executive Director - Karin

At the time of sending this out, we have already hosted our second conference at Hope Primary School, and it was a timely encouragement to the teachers at this location also. Winnie travels to both schools every other week to mentor the teachers. **Would you consider becoming an Advancer – a monthly investor to provide the teacher training and mentoring in refugee camps in Uganda?** There are over 500,000 refugee students (2018 stats) needing a quality education. Educational challenges are real all over the world. BUT in this corner of the world the need is so great that we advocate to band together to make a difference. If you would like to be part of the mission to educate children in hard places, join our team!