



WESTERN OUTREACH (WESO) MINISTRY

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THE REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) AND THE SECRETARIAT-2024/2025

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the entire WESO Ministry leadership, I would like to sincerely thank God for His endless favour and grace in the spiritual year 2024/2025. Secondly, I would like to thank my fellow leaders for holding on and working together despite the difficulties we encountered. Bravo! Lastly, I also wish to thank the WESO members for their unwavering devotion and support to the ministry programmes. The report captures the testimony of how the spiritual year has been.

Bank Account

As indicated in the previous report, the leadership was able to open a bank account and it has been helpful in mobilizing for finances to run our activities. We would like to call upon the members to cheerfully give by sending their contributions to this bank account:

MPESA Details:

Paybill: 522533

Account Number: 7918698

The receiving account is **1333442548** for those who want to do bank to bank transfer.

Ministry Finances

We would like to appreciate the members of WESO Ministry and other stakeholders who have gladly been giving towards our numerous activities at fellowship and national level. However, we have the following issues that we would like to bring to the members attention. Some of the issues were captured in the previous report. They are:

- a) Failure to have a stable source of income to support ministry activities.
- b) Overreliance to members contributions
- c) Very slow and unpredictable response to the call for financial support.
- d) Leaders personal sacrifice to help the ministry to run.

Leadership Burden

a. Facilitation

All the leadership organs of the ministry have been forced on several occasions to get into their pockets to run the various activities. This has made WESO Ministry leadership very unattractive because it is a source of struggles and pressure. For example, when visiting student fellowships during their special events, NEC leaders mostly use their own finances because we do not take honoraria from them.

BIG QUESTION: What will happen if leaders will no longer sacrifice their finances?

b. Dormancy and inactiveness

There are leaders who have never taken up their leadership roles ever since after being elected in the AGM. This has left a void and constrained the other leaders. Some, despite being reached out, they gave no response.

Visibility and emerging trends

A lot is and has changed ever since the inception of this ministry. As such, we also need to go by the times. We appreciate our forerunners for the good work they did to give WESO a foundation and an identity. In line with the need to make the ministry visible and respond to dynamism, the following issues and changes have occurred:

a) Place of ICT and social media

The leadership has recognized these emerging trends and ably responded to them. WESO Ministry now has a working website and is domiciled on various social media handles as has been shown by the media team.

b) Social response

Though the original vision that established WESO remains missions and evangelism, it has come to our attention that members need spiritual and social welfare for them to fully belong and function. Members who have had cases such as bereavements and weddings and were never supported by WESO leadership will most likely stray away thereafter. *They will always ask: How can I do missions with people who care less when I am at my lowest moment?*

c) Attachment to friendly churches

It is no longer a secret that most student fellowships have aligned themselves with churches and pastors who are closer to them and sometimes respond to their economic and social needs. This has made most of them breach ministry regulations and invite these pastors in special events meant for WESO leadership. When the ministry leaders have appeared in these events, some fellowships have showed them very cold reception.

Place of None Student Fellowships in WESO

The entire WESO Ministry leadership sincerely thanks most of the non students for their unwavering support to the ministry. However, truth be told; several non students are practising as senior pastors and senior leaders in churches today. This has made most of them inactive and unavailable. Nonetheless, we thank God for this expansion. Though such members may admire to be present in most events, they can't manage it. **THE BIG QUESTION IS:** *What is the best way for such non students to support the ministry?*

Furthermore, we have non students who feel like they moved on after campus and have very little to do with WESO. Whenever they are reached out, their sentiments and silence can tell it all. This view has presented a challenge to the leadership in two key ways:

a. Special events

Some non students who have been cold in the ministry suddenly appear when they need WESO members and leaders to support them when they have special events. This puts the leaders between a hard place and a rock.

b. Presiding over student events

Though some non students are cold towards the national leadership, we have had moments of bumping into them whenever we visit their alma maters and found them presiding over special events designated for national leaders. This puts us in an awkward situation as leaders.

Secretariat land acquisition and development

This has been a long held view by most leaders and members of WESO so that we put WESO on the same level with other Evangelistic Ministries. As communicated in a special announcement prior to the AGM, this project will officially be launched in this year's AGM. All members are encouraged to support this long term mission. *Members will resolve how to handle the current asset hosting the secretariat.*

Funding Student activities

As the WESO leadership, this has been one of our areas of constraint. WESO Student fellowships in universities and colleges have shared with us their frustrations whenever they see other ministries supporting their own student members yet we are unable to. For instance when it comes to missions, students only need to avail themselves: transport and accommodation logistics are catered for by their secretariats. *What is it that other ministries are doing that WESO is not doing?*

The future of Evangelistic Teams

We have experienced several hurdles whenever we interact with student fellowships. It is unfortunate that some of the hurdles are instigated by FOCUS and their mentees-Christian Unions. In the past we may have worked well by relying on good will of the leaders of the two aforementioned groups. However, today the harsh reality has hit us: *The centre is no longer holding!* Some CUs, under the tutelage of FOCUS, have come up with very punitive and unbiblical resolutions which have left us with bitter pills to swallow. Cases in point include: Moi, Maasai Mara, Kibabii and Kisii University.

As national Evangelistic Team leaders, we started engagements with FOCUS to come up with amicable working relationships. However, I am afraid to mention that the latter has been dealing with us with dishonesty; the Moi university issue broke the camel's back. As a result, I wish to report to us that the talks with FOCUS collapsed. The whatsapp pages were pulled down. Presently, ETs' leaders have formed their own page and forum and by the time of writing this report, talks are ongoing on how best we can safeguard the place of ETs.

Following the meeting we had with the chaplain of Moi University, we realized that we can no longer operate in the shadow of FOCUS. He advised us to seek audience with all universities and properly domicile ETs because some of chaplains do not know anything about national secretariats but view them as student clubs in the CUs.

From the national ETs Consortium, ETs are urged to start thinking of registering a national body to govern operations of the ETs.

Membership Registration and Welfare

This is an ongoing exercise in response to the legal dictates of the **Registrar of Societies**. We can no longer operate as an *amorphous group*. Secondly, as mentioned earlier, it has become increasingly difficult for leaders to respond to special events and cases involving "members." Kindly, registration

will make it easier for us to respond. To the elders who started this great ministry, bravo to you! However, this is now a reality that we cannot run away from. Let us all register.

Leaders and Members Identification

Because of the embarrassing moments we have found ourselves in whenever we visit our student fellowships and government offices, it is important for leaders to have name tags. During missions, this question has also come up: “*How can I differentiate comen from missionaries for me to open my door?*”

Taking new territories

For long, WESO Ministry had restricted its membership drive to Universities. However, as an emerging trend, ETs are opening fellowships in tertiary colleges. In response, WESO has already opened a fellowship at Wanga TTI.

Appointment of the General Secretary

Ever since we resolved in 2023 not to have a substantive General Secretary until our finances have stabilized, we are yet to have one. This has made our working difficult, especial for the NEC Chairperson who has on most occasions been forced to do the work of the General Secretary. In addition, we were forced to legally retain the office holders of the ministry as indicated in the file at the registrar’s office until proper transition has been done. Legally, the substantive office holders of WESO have been:

- 1) *Wafula Barasa- Chairperson-now patron*
- 2) *Aineas Marakia- Secretary-now BOT member*
- 3) *Bilha Naandi- Treasurer-now BOT member*

This AGM is expected to elect new office holders whose details will be forwarded to the Registrar’s office for ratification. We hope that this will include the secretary’s position; read General Secretary. In addition, we hope this will not open another constitutional query about the terms of the current leaders, who legally speaking, have been working as interim leaders of the ministry.

Appreciation of retiring leaders

This may not sound so appealing to some of us. One time, a former leader commented that branding WESO leadership is very difficult.

Conclusion

This far, we can confidently say that the Lord has been Ebenezer. God bless WESO!

Recommendations

- 1) Members offer themselves whenever approached to stand in as guests in scheduled generous offerings.
- 2) All WESO members should register as guided for proper record keeping.
- 3) Ministry leadership to solicit for support from well-wishers through project proposals.
- 4) The ministry should launch new fellowships in TTI’s
- 5) Churches led by our very own are encouraged to organize special and generous giving in support of WESO.

- 6) Only WESO Ministry national leaders shall preside over special events/activities in student fellowships.
- 7) In order to lift off the burden from our student members, the national treasury should not ask them to contribute towards special national events to encourage most of them to attend.
- 8) The AGM should mandate their national leaders to engage with other ETs to shape their future following the present challenges.
- 9) The ministry should have badges and appointment letters for leaders in the new spiritual year.
- 10) The secretariat should purchase branded reflectors that will have WESO labels to be used during missions.
- 11) We propose that the ministry, through the AGM, finds a way of seeing off those who have faithfully served their terms in WESO ministry to encourage them to come back and serve in other capacities.

Report Compiled by,



Job Sinino Wekesa,

National Executive Chairperson.

RCC: Regional Coordinating Committee

NSF: Non Student Fellowships

SF: Student Fellowships