



Memories of Zambia Trip

2024

From the team leader

I led a team of 18 volunteers to visit Zambia. They came from the United States, Canada, Singapore and Brazil. In Zambia, Light and Love Home has been sponsoring a school, and our church has been doing gospel work. On this trip we organized activities for the local students and held a student leadership training camp.

While the youngest member of our team was 13 years old, the majority of the team were high school and college students. They were fuelled by vigour and passion. But they had minimal knowledge of what life was like in an African village. They didn't know how to deal without electricity and running water.

Nevertheless, on this trip, everyone enjoyed the presence of God very much. They loved one another, worked happily together and improved together! Also, we were able to bless the local church and community!

Each team member was paired with a local Zambian brother or sister. These team members would like to share their own story as well as their partner's story.

We'd like to publish this booklet to express our gratitude to God and as a memoir for this trip to Zambia.

Violin



Table of Contents

Anthony & John	1
Austin & Onius	3
Elvis & Daniel	5
Enoch & Gift	7
Estelle & Mazhu	11
Frida & Cynthia	13
Gayla & Constance	15
Gladys & Sylvia	17
Haydrian & Matthews	19
Jacob, Sevas & Joseph	21
Kira & Priscillar	25
Lena, Bernice & Mirriam	29
Michelle & Mable	31
Peter, Andrew & Moses	33
Rute & Anna	37
Stanley & Misheck	39
Zachery, Steward & Goodson	41

Anthony

My time in Zambia was a pleasant surprise. I thought that there would be no water and electricity, and that the weather would be very cold. But when I arrived, I saw the pump on the well, water taps, solar panels, and the bright Sun. Though getting water sometimes required manual work and electricity was limited, the experience helped me to treasure more the resources and access I have back in the United States. With this village lifestyle along with the spiritual pursuit, the whole camp was abundant and full of mission.

Through the spiritual training I saw the effect of faith in my life. I gained more understanding on how to use faith not just in situations, but in every thought, spoken word, and action. I am determined to make my faith cover my whole life. In this camp I was also inspired by the reason behind the frequent changes made throughout the camp. A true leader needs to have wisdom and consideration to review what could be made better in order to effectively help others. I see it's not that I need to notice more details, but that I should have considerations about each detail and not be afraid to look for a better solution, even if it's already good. Like faith, it starts with my every thought. I'm excited to keep on practicing, training, and improving for the Lord!

John

John Kaladeni is a young respectable teacher in Chalubemba, a school in Zambia, and a beloved brother in God's family. Inspired by his father, John lives by 2 tenets: fear God and be humble. Living with these 2 standards has made John a role model since young. Teacher always praised John for his character, and his peers aspired to be like him. While others misbehaved, John lived in the light, always respecting others and showing care to all. However, John was not always like that.

When John was very young, in first grade, he was quite the troublesome child. He would get into fights and disrespect his parents, misbehaving to the point where he had to leave his parents and stay with his aunt instead. It was then where he met Moses Lungu and the overseas team from the Church of God. John was taught the truths about the role of parents and the importance in respecting and obeying them as their child. John finally understood that God gave him his parents for a reason. John started to change his behaviour--from disrespectful to kind and loving to his parents.

As he learned more truths from the Bible, not only did his character change for the better, but he gained a heart to share and teach others to do the same. There is a truth in the Bible that John has held on to all these years: how God will exalt the humble and put down the proud. Praise from others may easily boost one's ego, but John continues to pray to God for wisdom and humility. He knows the glory belongs to God and God only. Praise the Lord for John's changes and continuous improvements! His heart and character is crucial to the revival in Zambia.



Austin

I didn't know much about Zambia before I came. I didn't expect there would be no water, and that I would have to cook some meals on our own. I thought it was going to be something like the camp that I joined in the Philippines last year.

When there was no water, it taught me how to use water more wisely. At home I would use as much as I want, but in Zambia I need to use it well or else it would run out quickly and there would be no more water for me to use.

One time the Lord appeared to me when we were singing **Deep Deep Love of the Lord**. I felt very touched when singing the song. After that we had some time on our own, I kept repeating the line "I know You did everything for me." This was the Lord appearing and speaking to me. He wanted to tell me He did everything for me. I was very touched, almost to tears. Now I give my whole life to God. I should have faith in Him and trust in His plan.

One thing I want to keep from the trip is that "I am smart, but God is smarter." I usually do things according to what I think the best way is. I don't really ask God how He wants me to do it. Therefore, I would panic and easily get frustrated. But now I'll try to tell the Lord that I am going to do it, and I'll ask Him how He wants me to do it. I tell the Lord, "You have the best plan," or "You have your reason." This comforts me. I try to lay it aside. Now I don't need to worry because God always has His reasons and solutions.

Onius

Onius was born on Nov 29, 2008. He is 16 years old. In his free time he likes to do gardening and spend time with his friends. He also likes running. He is very fast at running.

In the past Onius would disobey his parents. He would talk back to them and not listen to them. He would also argue with his siblings a lot. When it was his turn to do chores, he would not want to do it. He would say that it was his siblings' turn and they would start to argue.

An older brother named John introduced him to the leadership program. He found it very good for him and he enjoyed reading the Bible. After a while, all the other people left. Onius didn't think about leaving. He wanted to know more about God. After a bit, he changed his old bad habits. He would obey and listen to parents and he would have a good relationship with his siblings. Now they do not argue. During the camp in August he experienced God and was even able to get baptized! He said he wanted to follow God until the end. I feel he is very free and he does things from his heart. I am encouraged that he wants to follow the Lord and do his work for Him.



Elvis

I give thanks to the Lord that I can join the Zambia camp. In the beginning I thought I only came for my daughters, but God really encouraged me through the messages and worship. For a period of time, my spiritual condition was not stable; I was trapped by many worldly things. I had many accusations and I struggled to follow the Lord. So bit by bit I started to keep a distance with brothers & sisters and others.

In the camp, God let me see clearly that we should live every day with faith and believe God is smarter than us and the world. Following Him is the only way to be joyful and satisfied. Living by faith needs to be practiced in our daily life. Also, I have to pursue the Lord with brothers and sisters so that we can be influenced by each other. Those with pure hearts to the Lord really attract me and encourage me to move forward. I decided to take away all the wrong concepts from this world and use faith to walk the path ahead!

Daniel

This is the third leadership program that this younger brother joined. Daniel treasures this camp so much that he decided to leave his parents and stay in Ndola to live with his relatives. Even though he is only in grade 10, he always carries a big dream of being a blessing to his nation. He really enjoys pursuing the Lord with brothers and sisters here because he can experience God. In the past, he joined his grandma in a Catholic church, but now he learned the truth and decided not to go. I really appreciate he has a pure heart to God and I feel very encouraged to hear his prayers in the meeting!



Enoch

I am grateful to have the opportunity to attend the Zambia 2024 camp. It was my first time and it was truly an abundant trip!

It was actually my reunion with some of the Zambian brothers and sisters that I met in South Africa back in April. I was more than excited to see them again!

This trip opened my eyes in many different ways: seeing how Zambians live, doing cross-cultural ministry, appreciating different lifestyles, fixing our daily schedule, and learning what it means to live by faith.

One highlight was going out to explore with the local brothers. The original plan was for the locals to show us around the community. To my surprise, we were able to visit some brothers' houses and their parents. There I took a closer look at the Zambian people's livelihood. I have come to respect Zambians even more in regard to how much effort they put in getting food on the table. It made me more grateful for what I have.

I also enjoyed having personal conversations with the local brothers, where we got closer to one another on a deeper level. We shared about how God found us, our families, our childhood and differences in our cultures.

It was also amazing that 6 brothers and sisters were baptized in the camp. I had the opportunity to talk to two brothers to prepare them for their baptism. It was an eye opening and humbling experience as I do not often share this truth with others. I learned to have good consideration on how to share the truths in a condensed yet casual manner. This gave the brothers a clearer understanding and let them feel free to ask questions and share their feelings.

I felt touched and happy for them when they got baptized. These brothers and sisters took a big step to show their commitment to God. I had deep feelings when each of them got baptized. I felt the joy from Abba and the Lord.

Personally, this camp reminded me of the importance of having a good daily schedule. I was reminded of the importance of being on time and to always be prepared for unexpected changes. One key thing that I continue to sharpen in is to prioritize things properly. For example, during meal time, it is good to converse with others, but my main task should be eating my meal. Using this same concept, I can apply to many other different aspects of my daily life to do the important things first, or to do the things I have planned to do. This also helps me to worry less about things to come but to be well organized, as I would have no time to stall but to continue on what I need to do. Overall, this allows me to become more productive and it expands my capacity to do more.

In the camp, through different messages on Hebrews 11, I have gained a clearer understanding on how to use my faith. I particularly enjoyed Violin's sharing about Noah (Hebrews 11:7). I was reminded that faith is built up through endurance and tests. Sometimes we may not see it, but every little detail in life (such as being more organized) is related to building our faith. It is like how Noah built the ark. He did not see the whole ark when he was building it. He was taunted and laughed at by others. His faith was tested and so was his endurance. Noah's faith was from his trust in God's words.

Likewise, we do and face many things in life, which we may not regard as important at the moment, but it will eventually make a lasting impact on our overall faith.

The message from Violin motivated me to desire to be a person of faith that does not rely on the environment but puts his full trust in God's promises and words.

The Zambia camp is now over. However, I will continue to keep my spiritual discipline every day. I will seek Him always to deeply experience His most personal presence with me. I will continue to build up my faith by realizing more of God's promises to me.



Gift

Gift is an 18 year old Zambian adolescent. When asked about his family, Gift answered humorously that he is “the first born and the last born,” meaning that he is the only child. His parents are in their late 40s and early 50s. He loves his family very much. His favorite food made by his mother is soy porridge, because his mom puts in a lot of effort in making it for him.

Gift is very grateful for Misheck, who preached to him one and a half years ago through the leadership program. Gift has grown a lot spiritually since then.

Currently, Gift goes to Chalubemba Combined School. He has been living at the Light and Love Home Centre next to the school as his home is quite a distance away from the school. Gift has lived in the centre for around 6 months. Gift lives with 5 other roommates, who also go to the same school, one being a teacher. They depend on one another in terms of doing chores and work such as tending to their crops in their garden and looking after the chickens. Just like the others, Gift is seen to be very diligent and hardworking.

Gift is very unique in many ways. One physical trait of Gift is that he always wears a toque. With Gift's slim physique with a touch of charm, I'd describe Gift as a person out of a book.

At first impression, Gift gives a very warm and charming smile, which gives others warmth and care. On the other hand, Gift may seem to be more reserved and quiet, but it is not true at all! Gift actually loves talking! He is not afraid to speak his mind often. One of Gift's strengths is that he always shares from the heart. Thus, it shows what kind of a person he is: pure, genuine and sincere.

When asked about the most important to Him in life, without hesitation Gift answered that God is the most important to him. The love of God in him overflows, which is why Gift chose love as the second most important thing to him. He desires to show and express this love to others also.

Gift wants to build an orphanage when he gets older and more mature. He cares for the youths and his community. He sees many youths in his community going down the wrong path in life due to lack of role models and proper environment to thrive. He wants to help the younger generations to rise up to live a meaningful life.

Gift does not know what the future holds for him but he trusts in God's plan for him. Gift is a role model, who brings life and joy to his community and those around him. Gift is a proud disciple of the Lord and a proud Zambian.



Estelle

I am grateful to have the opportunity to attend the Zambia 2024 camp. It was my first time and it was truly an abundant trip!

Right before coming to this camp, I struggled with how to prepare myself. I would be in a completely new environment, and I did not know what to expect. So, with no expectations other than experiencing God and having the opportunity to work alongside local brothers and sisters, I attended the camp.

In all honesty, it was not the hardest environment to adapt to. We simply had to be more mindful of how, what, and when we used certain resources. Life during the camp was simple; we planned our schedule according to the sun. At times, we had to be concerned about the supply of water, electricity and food, but it was never too extreme. In fact, it was interesting to experience what life is like for some of the brothers and sisters in Zambia.

My most memorable moment from the camp was our first family night together. We had so much fun imitating each other and learning more about one another. Seeing how quickly we bonded as a family warmed my heart. I treasured the time I spent witnessing and supporting God's work in Zambia, and the moments I shared with my brothers and sisters.

During this camp, I was constantly reminded about the promise I made to God when I was 10 years old. Over the past 10 years though, I have had my ups and downs and gradually forgot the promise I made to Him. However, through my personal time, chats with brothers and sisters, meetings, and Bible study, God reminded me of this promise—to give my life to God. This camp helped me to exercise my faith in my daily life, starting with learning to love and appreciate what He has given me. It truly is the first step I can take towards giving my life to God.

Mazhu

the Choma Girl (Village Girl)

Mazhu Chalubemba, affectionately known as the "Choma Girl" from Ndola, is a young village girl who grew up in a Christian household, attending church every Sunday with her family. For much of her early life, she viewed God as a distant figure, only relevant during mealtimes, Sundays, or when she was hurt. Despite being a busy child, having to fetch water, attend school, and work for her family, Mazhu often felt lonely and misunderstood, even while surrounded by many relatives.

She attended Chalubemba School, which had a special connection to her family. The land for the school was donated by her grandfather, who valued accessible education. Mazhu's life took a significant turn in grade 8 when she joined the leadership program. Initially drawn by the snacks offered to participants, this seemingly simple decision opened up a new world for her, and she began learning about God's love through the Book of John, which transformed her understanding of faith. God was no longer confined to Sundays; she began to see Him as her best friend.



Mazhu's spiritual journey deepened, though it was not without challenges. Her desire to join a new movement faced resistance from her mother and grandfather, who were initially opposed to her decision. However, after a visit from a team of brothers and sisters, who explained the movement to her family, her mother and grandfather gradually became more supportive, allowing Mazhu to attend meetings.

Mazhu's newfound understanding of worship and her relationship with God grew, and she aspired to be baptized during a camp in South Africa. Although logistical issues prevented her from attending that camp, in this camp she was finally able to be baptized, marking the beginning of a new chapter in her spiritual journey.

Mazhu, once an ordinary "Choma Girl," found her way back to God!

Frida

When the camp was first announced, I remembered telling my dad and Stanley that I didn't want to join. However, after spending some time thinking about it, I decided to go, believing it could be a good experience for me. When I arrived at the camp, I didn't have many expectations. However, on the first day when I drew near to God, I felt that the Lord was telling me how happy He was and how much He missed me. I felt that I was able to understand the Lord's heart a little more after that personal time.

After that, we had our first training, which was about body language and eye contact. Violin reminded me about my facial expressions, which I found really helpful. She told me that I react very quickly and that I should smile more and not give in to my flesh. In the second week, Violin shared about faith. I learned that I have very little faith in God. Moreover, I learned that Abba created me in His own image, and thus we are perfect in His eyes. So, I should have faith and trust in Abba's creation. I also learned to give thanks for the things I have, such as my skin and my eyes. Personally, I struggle with that a lot, and it is very easy for me to compare myself to others. I am also very sensitive to what people think about me. Violin then reminded me to have true faith in God.

On the last day of the camp, I drew near to Abba. I understood Abba's heart towards me when I sang **The Love Song of the Father's Heart**. This time around, I used everything Violin taught us. For example, before worship, I would look up, close my eyes, tell Abba that I am here, and ask Him to draw close to me. When I sang the song, I sang it from my heart, as if it were Abba's love message to me. I was moved to tears as I realized that even when I forget that Abba is there or don't draw close to Him, Abba is still waiting for me with open arms. I pictured a father kneeling down with his arms wide open while his child runs in the opposite direction. I felt how Abba feels whenever I don't draw close to Him or forget about Him.

In summary, in this camp, I decided to give my life to the Lord and to continue practices such as sharing what's in my heart with Him and drawing near to God. I am very thankful that I chose to come to Zambia.

Cynthia

Growing up in a family of eight, with three brothers and three sisters, Cynthia had to endure a lot after her dad passed away when she was just three years old. Even though her father had died, her mom, Loveness, managed to support the family by working as a farmer and selling any extra harvested food. In addition to farming, her mom single-handedly raised Cynthia and her siblings.

As the three older brothers grew up, they got married and left home. Unfortunately, they also started smoking and drinking, which made Cynthia and her mom very unhappy. In grade 8, Cynthia joined Chalubemba Combined School, where she met Misheck, who introduced her to the leadership program. At first, she didn't want to join because her friends and the people around her were not interested, and she felt the program wasn't suitable for her. However, she decided to follow her heart and not let others' opinions influence her decision.

Through the leadership program, Cynthia began to learn about the gospel and the truth. She also started learning how to read the Bible and pray. When her mom saw how her older brothers had chosen the wrong path, she became unhappy and even began questioning God why her children were not supporting her. She feared that one day, when Cynthia and her sisters grew up, they would leave home and not take care of her. But Cynthia promised her mom that they would help her in every way possible as they grew older. Despite this promise, her mom remained skeptical. Feeling sad, Cynthia prayed to God for her brothers to return and lead a better lifestyle.

She often prays, "God, You love me. You placed me in this family, and I know how to live in You and in this world. I believe that I will be able to keep my promise."



Gayla

Hi, my name is Gayla and I am 14 years old. At the start of this missionary trip, my goal was to experience God and improve myself. I wanted others to see my changes after the camp.

Throughout the trip, I learned many different things from the activities and meetings. The messages about faith really stuck out to me. I learned and practiced how to live by faith, following examples from the Bible. I gained that living by faith means that every word, every decision, and every action from morning to night should be done with faith. During the break-bread meeting on the last day, I felt God was with me. He moved my heart in the worship, talking about His great and personal love to me. I have a greater desire to do everything for God with faith.

I also really enjoyed meeting and spending time with the local children and the Zambian brothers and sisters. I particularly enjoyed teaching ukulele class as well as meeting my partner, Constance, reading the Bible and having fellowship with her.

This trip to Zambia was a very enjoyable and meaningful experience for me, and I hope to come back one day.

Constance

Constance Mulenga is a fifteen year old girl living in Ndola, Zambia. Before joining the leadership program, she was very selfish and often stubborn towards her family members. Whenever her parents asked her to do something, she would answer in a way as if they were not her parents. She didn't want to be controlled or have people telling her what's right and wrong.

In the past, she also had some wrong concepts. For example, she would feel that her parents love her older siblings more than her, and would give them more things. She would sit alone and cry, and ask God why she has this family. However, her older brother John introduced the leadership program to her. She joined and learned more truths about God, such as God's great love for her. She enjoys being in God's family because she feels that everyone is treated equally, unlike her previous church, where some may be favoured over others.

When she went home, she opened up to her parents about her feelings and problems. They were able to reconcile and help each other. Now she has a happy family and she likes to spend time with her sisters and mother. She enjoys worship and drawing near to God, as she feels free to talk to God and tell her heart to Him. She can voice out and share freely in the meeting.

Constance is a very hardworking girl, both at home and at school. She does many chores to help the family. At school, she will also help out to clean the classroom and lead others. She said it is because of God that now she can help others to grow as well. She would like to thank God's family for guiding her to experience God's great love.



Gladys

I was grateful for the opportunity to join this camp in Zambia. I felt the presence of God in many meetings and the joy of God's family. In Zambia, we had a simple lifestyle and a structured schedule. This helped me to spend more time before God without distractions. I was reminded to have quiet time in the morning and in the nighttime to give space for the Lord to speak to me. In this camp, I had more opportunities to bless others and help others to experience God. It was no longer only a camp for myself to experience God, but a missionary trip where I could be used to bless others.

When I first met the Zambians, I was attracted by their smiles and enthusiasm for God. I sensed that all of them had a pure heart. I thank God for my partner Sylvia. We had daily Bible reading and we opened our hearts to one another. I felt that her heart was more drawn to God. I was so excited that she was able to get baptized on the last day of the camp. I hope her story will touch your heart.

Sylvia

At the age of 5, Sylvia's dad left their family, taking the firstborn son with him. This left Sylvia's mom to raise Sylvia and her two younger sisters by herself. Her mom worked as a maid and did not receive much income; their family were not strangers to hunger and feeling unsatisfied. Many times, Sylvia and her siblings had to stay with their grandmother while their mom went away to work in other houses.

Sylvia frequently had negative thoughts and many questions about her living conditions and family situation; she felt like she wanted to run away or even kill herself to escape from her life. Thankfully, one day, one of her school friends asked her to accompany him to his church. When she arrived at the meeting place, she was attracted by the warmth and the sight of brothers and sisters reading the Bible. In her heart, she felt the desire to join this church. Through all the meetings and training in the camp, she experienced God's fatherly love towards her. She felt that Abba is her true Father, and she enjoyed His care and love for her.

Her dream is to build an orphanage for street kids because she knows how it feels to be lonely. She wants to help more people to experience God and this family. In the camp, she also got baptized to show her determination to follow God!



Haydrian

My name is Haydrian. I am 13 years old, and I am going to grade 8. When I first went to Zambia I was very shy to talk to the locals. But when I did talk to them, they were all very friendly and kind to me. After talking to them, I was not shy anymore. I even made new friends with the locals. I really enjoyed staying in Zambia because the people were very friendly, the weather was good, and it was peaceful and quiet. Although sometimes there was no water, it trained me to use the resources wisely and not to waste any of them. If there was no water, we had to pump it from the ground.

In one of the messages about faith, God spoke to me in my heart. He told me to always trust in Him and have faith in Him. God also told me to always give thanks and not complain.

When I interviewed Matthews, I felt he really spoke everything from his heart. I also felt he did not hold anything back. He was really honest when I asked him questions about himself. I wish I could stay in Zambia!

Matthews

Matthews is 21 years old, and he is going to grade 12. He has 2 older sisters. He is nice to them and they are nice to him. He always listens to his parents and he does not argue with them. He always helps them. In Matthews's free time, he likes to do gardening, sing hymns, and read the Bible.

In the past, he would always disrespect people. He was selfish and he always played video games. He would even play for more than 2 hours. After he joined the leadership program in Zambia, the Lord changed him. Now, he is not selfish anymore and he does not play any video games.

Now Matthews respects others, and he loves and cares for them. One experience Matthews had with God was when he was really sick. His mom told him to pray to God. He listened to her and prayed to God. Two days later, God answered his prayers and he was healed. Another experience he had with God was in his grade 9 exam; he did not study, so he had to write the exam again. He prayed to God that he could study more. After he studied, he passed the exam.



Jacob

I really treasure that I could come to Zambia for the first time and visit the brothers and sisters here. We came with a relatively small team compared to other missionary trips I have been. We were able to share freely with one another and give reminders easily. After Violin shared with us how the Lord spoke to her about His need, I felt that all of us had a clearer vision for the camp--we did not just come to pursue God. We came to bless others and build the church.

I treasure all the time spent here: the meetings, community outreach, home visits, family time and dance time. I especially enjoyed the time when we shared in groups about our past struggles and how God helped us. We realized that no matter Chinese or Zambian, we are all similar. I also treasure the hearts of our young Zambian brothers and sisters. They want to serve God with all that they have, and they are clear of the Lord's commission at a young age.

I feel that there is a great need for the Zambians to know God's true image. It is a Christian nation, yet most people go to church meetings because they fear going to hell. The people cannot enjoy God and don't know the true image of God, nor do they know how God loves and cares for them. I was happy that the overseas team could bring the hymn book of translated hymns in the local language. Now the locals can use the hymn book to enjoy the Lord more, especially those who do not know English. When the local brothers and sisters were singing the translated hymns, the Lord encouraged me that He needs a team to go to the corners of the world. Abba needs His children to go back to Him and enjoy Him. I want to have greater capacity to be sent, and a clearer vision on saving the world. I need to carry this passion in my every day and improve in arranging my daily schedule.

In Violin's messages, she used Hebrews 11 to talk about faith, which encouraged me a lot. I was reminded that Abba is the Creator and that He makes all things beautiful in its time. Regardless of my physical condition, personality, and circumstances I face, they are all the best for me and I can give thanks. I may be smart, but God is always smarter! I should entrust all to Him and not rely on my own intelligence. God also spoke to me personally.

Many years ago, the Lord told me, "I need you," to encourage me to lay down all to follow Him. In this camp, the Lord spoke to me again using the same words during my personal time. I felt very touched, because recently I experienced many accusations, saying that I did not have enough skills or I was not good at certain things. In spite of the limitations I have, the Lord still needs me to do His work. I am most important to Him and I need to trust Him more. I was also reminded that faith is a continuous practice - every thought, every action, every decision. No matter big or small, everything is related to faith and we need to use it every day, every moment.

I really enjoyed my time here in Zambia. I treasure God's personal appearance to me and helping me to see the world's needs. I enjoyed the peaceful and quiet walks with God under the gentle glow of the beautiful sunsets. I cherish the pure hearts of brothers and sisters here. I want to continue to use my faith in every moment when I am back home. I would love to come to Zambia again soon.

Joseph

Joseph is 23 years old. When he was in grade 8, he went to boarding school. He hung out with a bad crowd, who were mostly in grade 12. One day, his friends asked him to break the rules and leave the school compound together. He could not reject them. They asked him to try alcohol and illegal substances. This eventually led him to addiction, and Joseph bought alcohol and drugs regularly while he was still in school. When he was in senior high, he went out to drink with his friends and they drove home drunk. They got into a serious car accident, which left Joseph with a scar on his neck. That was his first wake up call to stop drinking and doing drugs. His family also encouraged him to stop. It wasn't until a year ago that Joseph finally found the strength to cut off from his bad friends and quit drinking and drugs once and for all.

Joseph joined us for the first time in this camp. I am happy to have met him and witnessed his change since Day 1. He learned to open up his heart to brothers and sisters, and I also witnessed how he learned to tell his heart to God in worship. I still remember how he told the Lord that he is thankful for God helping him change from his dark past. In the camp, we made clear different biblical truths to Joseph, and he even got baptized on the last day! I am encouraged by Joseph's improvement within a short time, and I look forward to seeing him continue to enjoy the Lord more and improve!

Sevas

Sevas is a grade 12 student of Chalubemba Combined School. When he was only 3 months old, his parents separated. He describes his childhood as an unhappy one. In grade 6, he went from living with his mother to his father, where his stepmother did not treat him well. He later moved to live with his aunt, but his cousins bullied him and called him names. Sevas was short-tempered and fought back.

When he was in grade 8, Sevas' father did not have enough money to pay for his school fees. Thus, he missed 8 months of school. When his father finally had money to pay for his school fees, his school only allowed him to resume classes in the next school term, as he had already missed too many classes and they thought he might not be able to pass his exams. However, Sevas insisted on starting school right away. So, he decided to transfer to Chalubemba Combined School, starting Term 3 there.

Here in Chalubemba, Sevas joined the leadership program, as he wanted to try and learn something beneficial. Misheck preached the gospel and made clear different truths to him on the first day. Through different practices, Sevas felt close to God. This helped Sevas to be able to overcome his short temper. When someone says something bad to him, he has learned to pause and not react just yet, and turn to God. In his current community, Sevas is regarded as a role model, and his neighbours often say, "Be like Sevas!"

In the future, Sevas wants to help more in the church and even outreach to other regions in Zambia so that more can enjoy God and know their meaning of life.

In my talk with Sevas, I was inspired by how he wants to care for those around him and share what he has. He told me that if he has 2 pairs of shoes, he would want to share one of them with his friend. I am happy that God has changed Sevas and I am sure that he will be an even greater blessing to those around him in Zambia. I am glad to have met Sevas and I really hope to see him again soon.



Sevas & Jacob



Joseph & Jacob



Kira

The friendliness of the Zambian locals and their desiring heart for God attracted me to come to Zambia again after the camp in 2023.

Less is more

Life is simpler here. We hand-washed our clothes, fetched water from the outdoor tank to flush the toilet, and showered with a bucket. I learned to be wiser in using the resources we have, and it was enjoyable to do it together with the sisters who lived together. The absence of the Internet also added to the simplicity of our daily life. I've come to realize more the saying of "less is more"— although it seemed that we have less from the outside, I feel that my spirit was always full. Sleeping at 8:30pm and going out to draw near to God before 7:00am actually felt great. I was able to leisurely enjoy Abba and the Lord without worrying about the time, and it was easier to feel God's closeness when I came before Him. It has been a while since I had such a long time to stay before God, and I desire to also have more time before God when school starts. I will for sure miss drawing near to God in front of where our "encocos" (Bemba for chickens) live.

Unforgettable messages and worships

The messages about Faith encouraged me a lot. Violin shared about Hebrew 11 in a way that is very new to us. We usually focus on the people who had great faith in God, but she focused on how God is the Creator of all things, and we should have faith in Him, trust that He is all knowing and gives the best to us. We should give thanks for all that God has given us. I felt comforted when she guided us to give thanks for our appearance, our skills, our family, etc. one by one. The split group sharing and worship also helped me to consolidate and deepen my gains from the message. There are times when I look down upon myself and fall into comparisons, but realizing deeper that I'm perfect in God helps me to take away the thoughts that press me down. I feel set free from expectations that I have on myself, and I learn to improve joyfully without the burden of feeling the lack in me. I can embrace who I am now, and change for the better.

Memorable moments with the locals

Family time was always one of the highlights of our day. You would be amazed by how observant and set free the locals were when they imitated the laughs of our Chinese team brothers. We had fun dancing and playing games together in the meeting hall. I also enjoyed very much coworking with the leadership program brothers and sisters during our 3-day community outreach. Our team planned and led music classes together, and I was proud of Daniel, Mirriam, John, Onius and Steward for leading the children directly in Bemba (their local language). They used what they have learned to bless their people, helping them in their local language. I can see that a team is being built up to bring a powerful impact on the community.

There is so much more I want to share about this camp, but I would like to conclude it with a memorable moment I had with the Lord on the second night of the camp. I was touched by Violin's sharing about what God spoke to her, and I felt a greater burden to do God's work. I told Him that I desired to know what He wanted me to do for Him. If it was to support Zambia, I was more than willing to come again. But before that, I need to keep what I gained in the camp, such as having a good schedule, spending more time with God, and most important of all, having more faith in Him.

Priscillar

If you have met Priscillar, you would remember her timid, sweet smile, and her beautiful big eyes that tend to shy away as she gives you a soft laugh.

I met Priscillar a year ago when I came for my first missionary trip to Zambia. We were in the same group and spent a lot of time together. Our only photo was taken on our last day, and she looked sad as she would miss us a lot. I was looking forward to seeing her again on this trip, and I was glad to be her partner again.

Priscillar lives 35 minutes of walk away from school, with her aunt's family and her 2 younger sisters. At home, she helps with chores such as fetching wood, washing and cooking. She does not have a lot of free time, but when she does, she would take out her Bible to read or bring out her hymn book to sing. She loves to sing and dance, and she's like another person when she's enjoying herself dancing. When I asked about her favourite hymn, she started singing "It's so wonderful when we come together..." I was surprised that she remembered the whole song of God's Happy Family and even sang it with actions. She likes this song because she enjoys having many brothers and sisters gathering together. Priscillar is especially excited about the new Bemba song book, as she can quickly understand the lyrics in her local language, and it's easier for her to worship and respond.

Priscillar loves joining the leadership program, and it's through the program that she decided to join meetings with us. She treasures how she was taught to read the Bible, draw near to God and comfort her friends. Even though her family joins meetings elsewhere, she chose to join us for Sunday meetings. I asked her what she wanted to do for God. I was touched when she answered me that she wanted to bring more people to know Abba. She prays for her friends Memory and James to join our meetings because their parents do not go to church, and both of their fathers smoke and drink.

This was the 4th camp for the leadership program brothers and sisters, and Priscillar has joined them all. When we drew near to God together, I could tell that she kept in her heart what she had learned. When we worshiped, she would quickly look up and say "Lord, I come to You." She used to be distracted easily, which is why she gained the name "Focus," but previous trainings had helped her to be more focused when coming before God. Near the end of the camp, I guided her to pray the 5 main points of the precious prayers. I was impressed and touched by what she said to me afterwards, "I will go back and write them down so that I won't forget." I treasure her desire for God.

We took another photo together on this trip under the beautiful Zambia sunset, and there you can see her timid and sweet smile while we spent our last evening together.



Lena

Going on this missionary trip, I felt unsure at times of how to actively help the local youths because in my eyes, many were already spiritually very mature and skillful. This is a quality I came to appreciate deeply about them, that although their circumstances may be more difficult than ours and they may have less in their lives, they still have such a pure desire to know God.

Soon, I realized that I didn't have to always have the mindset that I must be the one to help them, but rather, it was an opportunity to pursue God together and share the fruits we have with each other.

Many of the youths were very free to voice out multiple times in meetings, and Mirriam even took the lead during our partner Bible reading time, not worrying about our age difference, or the fact that we had only known each other for a couple days. I felt if all the youths in Vancouver could also be this free, we would have great revival.

I am inspired by Mirriam and many of the other youths that rise up for the Lord in Zambia. I see our similarities and how we have all made the decisions to follow the Lord in our lives.

I treasure the organized schedule we had, and I saw the wisdom of doing ministry in other countries. I learned to be more flexible in my expectations and that God's way is always better than man's way.

Although I feel bittersweet about leaving Zambia, I know that the Lord has even greater plans for all of us. I look forward to seeing how He will use and raise us up.

Bernice

Hi, my name is Bernice and I am 14 years old. This missionary trip has taught me to be less shy and more free with God's family. In the past, I would always be the last to pray and not share, as I would either overthink or be too afraid. Through the help of Violin, I was able to voice out much earlier and go up to share even when the older ones didn't tell me to. I was also able to be more free and initiate conversations with both local and missionary team brothers and sisters. I give thanks that I could go to this camp, experience so much and meet all of these lovely brothers and sisters.

Miriam

Miriam is 15 years old and is a student at Chambemba Combined School. She first joined the leadership program in 2022 after Misheck mentioned it was for those that wanted to know God and the truth more. Although her parents are leaders in another church and she lives quite far away, she continues joining the fellowship and activities in the program because she feels God's presence there. Mirriam was especially motivated to stay after Misheck helped her to improve spiritually and see the benefits of encouraging all to voice out in meetings instead of just the leaders.

Miriam is young but she has a pure and sincere heart to want to know God more. She has good understanding of the truth and her prayers are very deep. They aren't just words but she really speaks from her heart. Mirriam's favourite colour is pink and she hopes to become a doctor in the future. She wants to spread the truth of God's love to more in Zambia, like her parents. She wishes that her family can understand her heart towards God. Currently, her parents still struggle to allow her to join our Sunday meetings and she prays that they can be touched by God to change and understand the truth more.



Michelle

I feel that this camp is very different when compared to the other missionary trips that I've been on. The Zambian brothers and sisters that I met in this camp really have a pure heart towards the Lord, and their testimonies became a great encouragement to me. God's presence was great in this camp. The camp helped me to open my heart more and be more open to reminders to help myself to improve for the Lord.

I remember on the second day of camp, I went out to draw near to God, and that day I felt He appeared to me. I remember praying, hoping that He would say something on the lines of "I love you," or "I've always been here." Instead, I felt that He was so close to me and He changed my thinking. He told me that He was the one waiting for me. At that moment, I felt my heart change and I was touched to tears. I felt that He was waiting for me. Throughout the camp I kept asking Him what it was that He was waiting for. This deep experience with Him made my heart softer and easier to be touched by the Lord. I remember many times in the camp I was touched by His presence. For instance, in the meeting where we talked about faith and how if we had true faith, we could give thanks for all things. When we were worshiping, I gave thanks to Abba for my family. I felt I truly meant what I said and that He was there. It touched me very deeply. Now knowing the true meaning of faith, my heart can always give thanks, and I know and trust that God has a great plan for me. I don't need to overthink or rely on my own plan, but I just need to activate my faith. I feel that He is still waiting for me and I want to continue to improve, whether it be my habits, lifestyle, or spirit—I want to do it for Him.

Mable

Her name is Mable Mwepu, but her closest friends and family lovingly call her Kalenga. She is from a family of 7 and is a middle child, having 2 elder siblings and 2 younger siblings. Mable grew up in Zambia and thoroughly enjoys the simple and safe life in the village she is from. Having farmers as parents, she grew up growing her own food such as maize among many other crops.

2 years ago her life changed for the better when she joined the leadership program in Chalubemba Combined School. There she learned how to pray using her heart and to focus so that she may feel God's presence. She feels that Light and Love Home gives great blessings to the community and she feels that Chalubemba is like a big family.

Her dream is that Zambians can learn how to work together to better their country. She wishes for the crops to be prosperous and plentiful. She also hopes that all Zambians not only go to church every Sunday, but truly understand and experience God's love for them. For herself, she hopes to become a nurse to help and save those in Zambia. She worried about the future and was afraid that her family could not provide her with the funds to attend university. However, in this camp, she learned what true faith is, and now she trusts that God has a plan for her. May God bless her greatly and give her strength to finish her secondary and university education so that she can support her family both financially and spiritually.



Peter

In this Zambia camp, we had good training for both the team and the local youths. I saw them change for the better before my eyes. Some did not have much confidence in the beginning, but gradually became more normal and firm as each day progressed. I, for one, needed to slow down and be less anxious. Talking more with the Lord about everything helped me not to carry so much in my head.

In the meetings, the central theme was about faith, from classic examples of Abel, Enoch and Noah, but told in a fresh new way. I particularly liked how Noah considered how to make the rooms and partitions for the many types of animals. Everything must have been kept in good order. We use faith in our thoughts, speech, decisions and actions...all practical.

I find that many of our problems are related to the lack of faith. I hope to rely on the Lord more so I can feel lighter and happier in my heart. Like the men of faith in the Bible, I hope to trust in God more. By faith, I want to walk and work with God.

Andrew

Andrew is the youngest of 5 siblings. He has 3 older sisters and 1 older brother. He is currently studying in grade 12.

How he met us...

He saw great changes in his cousin Sevas, who joined our leadership program, now a young coworker. Andrew wants to worship with us and learn the biblical truths. He used to join a denomination where they speak in tongues and there was no fellowship with each other. He wants to flee away from these errors. Hence, he enjoys being with us so much, seeing we live out the truths and the essence of God's family. He committed himself to follow God and His ways. Therefore, he was so happy he got baptized on the last day of camp.

For his future endeavours, Andrew wishes to study to become an auto mechanic. He wants to be an honest worker with good customer service to give glory to God.



Moses

This August camp was quite unique in the sense that it included youths who travelled from far places to come and join. For this reason, one of the challenges was how to set up for the incoming team and ensuring that they settle well. I thank God for making everything beautiful. We pursued together with brothers and sisters. The grace of God was indeed sufficient for us.

During the camp, I was reminded to use my faith more and realize the Lord's presence all the time. We were also reminded to lay aside all things and focus only on Him when we worship. Another reminder was that we need to help one another to enter into worship as the spirit can sense.

Over the years, I've seen that the church has grown, not only in number but also in maturity. Camps like this one has really helped brothers and sisters, especially the youths, to deeply experience the Lord and His appearing in their lives. The local youths were encouraged by the overseas team of youths that joined the camp through various sharings.

Now that we have the translated hymns in our local language, we hope it can be of great help to brothers and sisters in the church. We hope that through the local language hymns, brothers and sisters will be able to understand the truth even more.

I am confident that from what has been gained so far, we can have more wisdom on how to outreach to save more souls and bring them to the house of the Lord.



Rute

In this missionary trip to Zambia, my vision of life was greatly expanded. Daily experiencing shortness of energy and limited water supply as well as seeing with my own eyes the hardships of the people in Ndola made me have more compassion and care.

In this community I witnessed many common problems such as having only a single meal per day, leaving many "used to be" hungry, walking hours to go to school, having to sustain a big family with very limited resources through farming. Also, many problems due to being far from God: alcoholism, domestic violence, early pregnancy, corruption, etc.

All these happen frequently in this country where many self nominated as "Christian," who attend to church meetings every week. It is indeed very saddening to see the poverty and great needs of Ndola. But, through worship, I understood more deeply what God feels about these people. I understood more the urge in His heart to bring people to really know Him and experience Him so that their lives can be changed from within. This is the greatest need of humankind.

Giving them opportunities, education and resources are important, but the only way to truly help long-term is bringing them to God, bringing them to live a fulfilling, meaningful and glorious life, and bringing them to experience real happiness and satisfaction in Him regardless of their life situation.

I am deeply touched and more motivated to share His love and truths in different corners of the world!

Anna

Anna is a Zambian sister, who was born in Ndola. When she was a child, a relative of hers worked in the UK and supported many members of her family in Africa. For a period of time, she experienced having enough food, clothes and other material needs.

Nevertheless, after some years, her relative passed away, and her father quit his job due to health issues. Since then, she experiences the hardships of depending on the low income of farming.

At the age of 12, she started studying in Chalubemba School. That's where she joined the leadership program. After 4 years involving in different camps and trainings, she became a rising leader, who truly knows God and has the burden to bring others to know Him too.

But having a heart for God doesn't mean an easy life. She went through painful challenges: for many years, her father was alcoholic and was violent to her mom. She suffered and left the house whenever her dad came back drunk. A couple months ago, he stopped drinking due to health issues, and the relationship of the family improved.

While things were becoming better, another hardship came up. In August, 2024, less than a month before this youth camp, her older brother died in a car accident. She herself felt the loss, but her parents felt the most. Through the truth of eternal life, knowing that this life is not the end, she was greatly comforted by God and by brothers and sisters who went through similar situation. Through faith, she was able to overcome the grief and even comfort her parents. She feels strong and very grateful for knowing the true God and His words. Only He can bring deep comfort.

Although her life has many different trials, through the love of God, she can have a pure and sincere smile.

God's love heals and strengthens us. It is the only hope for humanity. May we spread this love to the whole world!



Stanley

I never imagined I would set foot in Africa for God. My first time on this continent was in the African camp in 2012. I met Moses, Misheck, and others for the first time. I was deeply moved in worship that the Lord ransomed people for God from every nation by His blood. I saw the glory of this global family.

In 2016, I was moved again by the Lord; I felt deeply that the Lord is coming soon and I wanted to give my all to Him. I wanted to live for His will and prepare myself for doing ministry overseas. I decided to take a pause in my career and equip myself in practicing the truths. My next overseas missionary trip was to Zambia.

I witnessed the growth of the Zambia ministry ever since my first trip to this country in 2017. During my first visit, we were searching for someone to support Moses in taking up the ministry in the school. I saw how Misheck was personally moved by God's love to commit himself to help the students of the school. With the local team formed, I was able to connect with them and continue supporting them remotely.

The leadership program team's growth was my great encouragement. During this camp, I worked alongside them as teammates. I admire their pure hearts to follow God and practice the truths. They are eager to learn and share with others so that more can experience God. I hope to help them shine brightly in their country and stand up for the truth. Their experiences with God and changes in their life will be great examples to many.

Misheck

Misheck is the program leader of the leadership program since its inception in 2019 with almost 40 students. Through the past five years, Misheck helped to raise up more than 15 youth leaders who are skilful in helping others and bear good characters to be the examples in the community. These are the youth leaders that worked together with the overseas team in the camp to lead meetings and activities together.

Misheck was motivated to involve himself in this program because he felt God's personal love towards him and the love and care of church brothers and sisters. He had a burden to help the students at school because he saw how God treasured these youths. He was inspired by the example of the overseas team, so he gathered the team and led them to practice and grow in spirit and character. He wanted the youths to have personal experiences with God and be motivated as well.

Misheck has grown in spirit by learning how to experience God and walk out the truth, therefore he can lead the youths in spiritual support, fellowship, Bible study, and daily schedule arrangement. Through the examples of the overseas team, he learned how to understand the needs of others and became more selfless. He became more organized when he actively planned for the next step for the youths in the program.

He hopes to expand the program so the current leaders can positively influence more students in their spiritual life, academics, lifestyle, family, and community relationships. He is grateful for all the support for this program to carry on, from the daily meals to all the training and activity materials as the foundation for this program.



Zachery

One night the local young coworkers received phones. The purpose of giving them the phones was for them to keep in contact with brothers and sisters from other places and to join zoom meetings. The team that gave them the phones reminded them not to let the phones be a distraction. Also, if other local brothers sisters saw their phones, they might compare or have negative feelings. However, that night some brothers slept late because they were trying to set up the phones, and the next day they were using the phones on the car ride in front of those that did not receive them. I was also using my phone and it was not a good testimony in front of them. We all had our reasons to use our phones, but Violin reminded us that the things we were doing were not urgent and we should not use it during the car ride. That day was Misheck's wedding day.

Before the wedding, the phones were taken back because they were not used responsibly. After the wedding, we discussed about this phone situation, and that if the brothers and sisters could be trusted and responsible for their phone usage. Violin asked them questions one by one to understand the situation and why they were using the phones on the car ride when they were told not to. In the end, they all received their phones back, and they also received a good lesson and reminder, in a loving and caring way, not scolding.

I think for reminding others, we ourselves first have to be up for it. For example, if I remind others to be on time but I myself am not on time, then the reminder I'm giving contradicts with my actions. In Zambia, many people are not punctual, and struggle to follow solid plans. We need to teach our brothers and sisters here in Zambia to be responsible and punctual before they can go save their people.

Steward

Steward is 15 years old. He lives with just his mom and his little sister. His father left when he was 5. Mom does not talk about dad much. He has one half brother and one little sister.

Steward was born in Zambia. He started school in 2015 in Riverways Academy. Then he came to Chalubemba in 2018. When he was a kid, he wanted to be an accountant. Now he still has the same goal. He is studying and he wants to improve his math.

He believed in God in 2023; Misheck preached to him. In the past he did not obey parents, but after believing in God, he now respects and obeys them. He asked God to forgive him and asked God for help. Now he feels God is with him and always loves him. In the future, he also wants to help in God's work; he wants to preach to his family and friends.

From the meeting where we sang the Bemba hymns, he thinks it's important to learn songs in Bemba because not everyone here understands English. He says he can try to help translate hymns from English to Bemba.

He is part of the ukulele class. He was acting as the prodigal son in a skit for kids in the program. He is already involving himself in doing God's work.

In one of the meetings he gained that we need to use faith in everything that we do.

Goodson

Goodson is 14 yrs old. His hobbies are basketball, listening to music, and reading the Bible. He wanted to be a pilot when he was a kid, but now he wants to be a mechanical engineer. He wants to go to Vancouver to explore there and see the brothers and sisters there.

He believed in God a year ago, when he joined the leadership program. Misheck and Violin preached to him.

In this camp, he learned to worship and pray, and have strong faith in the Lord. He also got baptized. His reason to get baptized was because he wanted to be closer to God.

We had interest classes for kids during the camp. From helping out the classes, Goodson learned to be attentive and control situations during class time.



Steward & Zachery



Goodson & Zachery

