



2022
QUARTER 3 UPDATE

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

During July and August, our VisionTrust Dominicana programs experienced boundless joy as three short-term mission teams visited our ministry programs. Absence makes the heart grow fonder, and our friends from Faith Bible Church and Warsaw Evangelical Presbyterian Church were inundated with hugs from smiling children and grateful staff members. The activities included Vacation Bible School, youth camps, staff care, painting, and creating “reading corners” where children can cozy up with a good book. The new friendships fostered during the visits were just as sweet as the old friendships that were re-ignited.

Despite Hurricane Fiona causing a slight delay in the start of the school year, our children and staff were thrilled to begin classes in September. For the first time in several years, school started without pandemic restrictions. Our children and adolescents are enjoying creative learning activities such as “vowel hopscotch” and “help desk centers” where a child that is strong in a certain skill guides classmates through their assignments.

On September 27th, our ministry programs celebrated National Bible Day. It was a wonderful opportunity for our staff to reinforce the value of knowing God’s word and letting it direct and shape our lives. Our leaders and mentors are committed to walking alongside the children and youth they serve, shielding them from spaces and relationships that could lead to harmful habits or behaviors. Join them in praying for Dalaisa, Milan, Elizabeth, and Genesis — they all recently made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus.



GUATEMALA

During July, our students at the Cruz Blanca Learning Center were thrilled to have their first VisionTrust team visit since the pandemic started. The staff and students enjoyed a Vacation Bible School that included skits, crafts, games, and lots of impromptu hugs. This month was also an exciting time for our preschool teachers at the Los Verdes Learning Center as they received training on how to implement Montessori methods in their classrooms.

This quarter, we were thrilled to see the initiative and leadership of our students as they learned about children's rights and embraced an opportunity to speak up for themselves. Student representatives traveled to Guatemala City and addressed the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala to propose a new law before the senate. One of our 8th grade students, Ashley, shared boldly about the challenges she and her peers face and urged her government to take action to protect vulnerable youth in their country.

We continue to be amazed at the big and small ways the children share their faith. One of our students, Damaris, reached out to an elderly person in her neighborhood and shared food with him so he could eat. Two students, Henry and Rosbely, are receiving training in KidStory, so they can use it in the children's ministry in their local church. This curriculum is used at their VisionTrust program by their teachers, and it is wonderful seeing our students take the initiative to cultivate the faith of younger children in their community.



BRAZIL

By far, the outstanding highlight of this quarter was the summer camp held in early August. The theme was “Spiderman – There Will Always Be A House” based on the parable of the Prodigal Son from Luke 15:11-32. Eighty-five children ages eight to twelve participated in the camp, and the children had a blast going on scavenger hunts, swimming in the lake, canoeing and, most importantly, experiencing the transformative love of Jesus. Fifteen children decided to follow Jesus during the camp and our staff are ensuring these new followers are nurtured, encouraged, and supported as they continue their faith journey. On August 21st, Sara, Geovana, Maria Eduarda, and Gustavo were baptized to affirm their commitment to Christ.

At our program sites, our children continue to have exciting and hands-on opportunities for learning. One of our staff members, Ludovina, has been coordinating weekly workshops on the importance of eating fruits, proteins, and vegetables. Reading workshops have been a great tool to reinforce literacy skills and cultivate a hunger for learning – our students love working with our volunteers Alexandra and Juliana who facilitate these activities.

We praise God that thirteen of our adolescents are participating in courses to explore vocational training and higher education opportunities. Our leaders continue to also work with the adolescents to help them understand and manage the physical, emotional, social, and developmental changes they are experiencing. Once per week, adolescents gather in groups with a trusted adult to dialogue about these themes and develop healthy ways to navigate this season of their life.

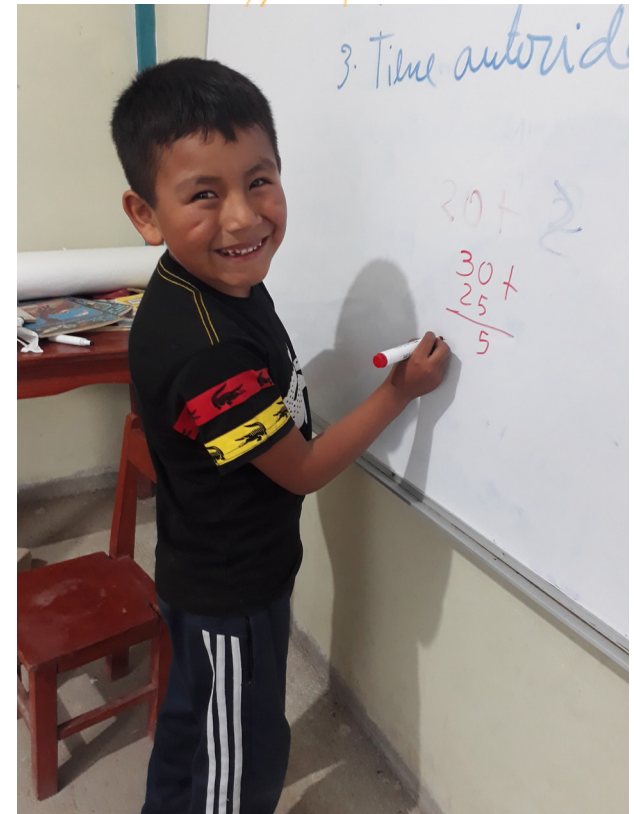


PERU

After months of anticipation, our VisionTrust Peru team celebrated the inauguration of the new facility for the Casa Luz orphanage on August 26th. A beautiful ceremony was held at the building and the children were thrilled to celebrate their new home. When the ribbon was cut and the children were invited inside, their joy was uncontainable! The children look forward to the official move-in date, which will be later in the fall once all the furnishings are secured.

We continue to see wonderful growth in the lives of the students we serve. Huaytall, Axel, and Yheral made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus this quarter. Angiee, an 8-year-old from the Rios de Agua Viva Learning Center, led her family to receive Jesus into their hearts. Seven of our students from the Maranatha Learning Center participated in a regional camp where they learned worship music and choreography — it is heart-warming to see our youth engage in God's word and develop their artistic talents in fun and dynamic ways.

This quarter, our leaders have had intentional conversations with our adolescents struggling with resentment and anger towards their parents and grandparents. Pray for our staff as they counsel the students in how to honor their parents, practice forgiveness, and how to protect themselves from verbal or physical abuse in the home. Some of the teenagers are reticent about their personal struggles and battles. Our leaders work diligently to create an environment where the youth can seek help, support, and counsel from trusted, caring Christian adults.



INDIA

Our Vision Trust India leaders are deeply grateful their students are enjoying the benefits of consistent gatherings at our Learning Center programs. Every day, the children are receiving nutritional food—the cooks love planning varied menus featuring the children’s favorite dishes. Our leaders continue reinforcing the importance of hand-washing and consuming clean drinking water. They have also assessed the unique needs of our adolescent girls, ensuring they have sanitary napkins so they can attend school and the Learning Center during their monthly cycle.

A huge hurdle to clear this quarter was effectively preparing our 10th and 12th graders for their upcoming public board exams. Praise God, a local volunteer group comprised of highly experienced educators provided nineteen students with online tutoring in subjects such as English, mathematics, social sciences, science, economics, accounting, physics, and biology.

Our students continue to grow in their faith as they learn from the Bible. This quarter, they focused on the theme of “living for God and loving others,” and enjoyed studying the lives of Noah, Daniel, Zacchaeus, and others that exemplified these principles. Janel*, one of our seventeen-year-old students, has a beautiful testimony of faith. Her mother fell one day and fractured her leg; after multiple unsuccessful surgeries, Janel felt a great urge to pray for healing. Within weeks, her mother recovered and started walking, which led Janel to accept Jesus as her Savior. Although she still is working through certain doubts, Janel is actively engaged in deepening her faith by facilitating prayer meetings and sharing Bible stories with her community.

*The name of this young woman is changed for her privacy and protection.



MYANMAR

During July, August, and September our children and adolescents experienced moments of immense joy and blessing despite ongoing conflict and violence in their country. Our staff and volunteers are burdened by the uncertainty and stress inundating the children's lives, especially for those whose parents are facing increased poverty. COVID, the flu, and mosquito-borne illnesses continue to be a threat. Our leaders reinforce healthy behaviors that reduce risks such as proper handwashing, good hygiene, and sleeping under a mosquito net. Adolescent girls are getting specialized coaching on how to care for their bodies during menstruation.

By God's grace, all the children are safe and attending school. We applaud their academic and extracurricular achievements. This quarter, the children that earned all A's on their report cards received a special prize to celebrate their success — in one program site, fifteen students were honored for excellent grades. One of our students, Sammie*, played in a football competition at the district level, and another student, Natasha*, won first prize in a violin competition at the district level. It brings extraordinary joy to the children's peers and staff seeing them excel in various activities.

In the area of spiritual development, the children had a competition to memorize and write out Bible verses by hand. We praise God that fifteen children made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus during this quarter. One student, Seth*, has deepened his faith in the wake of his father's suicide. Another student, Margaret*, has maintained a positive heart, despite the lack of support her grandparents show for her education. We thank God for the big and small ways our children practice and live out their faith.

*The names of these children are changed for their privacy and protection.



LIBERIA

In July, our VisionTrust Liberia ministry celebrated a sweet milestone for our smallest students — twenty-three boys and girls graduated from Kindergarten at the VisionTrust Liberty Baptist School. A keynote speaker from the local university shared about the importance of education and praised the children for their accomplishment.

In July and August, our leaders engaged in various trainings. Ten of our teachers participated in a weeklong literacy training by Grassroots Ministry — they are thrilled to have new skills and techniques to better equip and instruct their students. In the area of spiritual development, seventeen of our leaders joined a two-day virtual training on KidStory facilitated by our VisionTrust USA staff and volunteers. Everyone enjoyed the innovative and fun ideas presented to instill God's word into the minds, hearts, and souls of the children and adolescents they serve.

During their school break, our children enjoyed enrichment classes in math, science, and spiritual development lessons, as well as opportunities to play games and share delicious food together. The students also had a special experience writing their supporters here in the United States, sharing reflections on the theme of "kindness." We praise God for how our children are internalizing the love of Jesus and following His leading. In fact, four children — Prosper, Jartu, Marconee, and Marie — made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus this quarter. We pray that their love for Christ will blossom and grow in the months and years to come.



TANZANIA

This quarter, a significant highlight was a training from August 18th – 19th on KidStory, which equipped our Tanzanian staff and leaders in sharing the Gospel with the children in interactive and creative ways. One of our leaders, Paul, shared:

“The community of workers are grateful because through this seminar, we have witnessed great changes both for the workers and also for the children. In general, the seminar had positive spiritual, health, and educational results to our community.”

Our children continue to face threats to their health due to rising food costs and exposure to a variety of illnesses. We praise God for the provision of health education and mosquito nets through a government project in collaboration with USAID designed to eradicate the spread of malaria.

We celebrate a successful start to the school year at the beginning of September and are thankful to see our students growing academically, socially, and spiritually. The meals that our children receive at their VisionTrust program are vital as parents struggle to provide nutritious food at home due to the sharp increase in cost of living. Selina, Kelvin, Happiness, Sebastian, Shadya, and Elizabeth all made a first-time commitment to Jesus this quarter. We pray that God increases their joy and faith as they follow and serve Him.



ZIMBABWE

Our brightest highlight this quarter was the summer camp held from August 26th – 28th. This was the first camp since the pandemic started, so the children and leaders were thrilled to be part of this joyful gathering. The VisionTrust Zimbabwe board members and local pastors helped facilitate presentations and seminars on a variety of topics. Two-hundred and fifty children were blessed with this time of worship, learning, and relationship building. We praise God that two students, Ethel and Dambudzo, made a first-time commitment to Jesus this quarter.

Our leaders continue to guide our students in character development and leadership. In the community of Mavende, our leaders work with the adolescents one-on-one and in small groups to counsel them, sharing Bible verses and godly wisdom to help guide their paths. In Chasiatende, our leaders are using creative tools like skits to bring understanding about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse for our teenage students. In Zunga, our older students are given leadership opportunities during worship and Bible study time. We love seeing them embrace responsibility as they set a positive example for younger children in the ministry.

In the area of health, we praise God that COVID is no longer causing any significant disruptions to gatherings. Our leaders continue to diligently care for the health of our children by reinforcing good hygiene habits, facilitating health education, and providing access to clean water, immunizations, deworming, and nutritious meals. When children have strong and healthy bodies, they can play, learn, grow, and thrive.



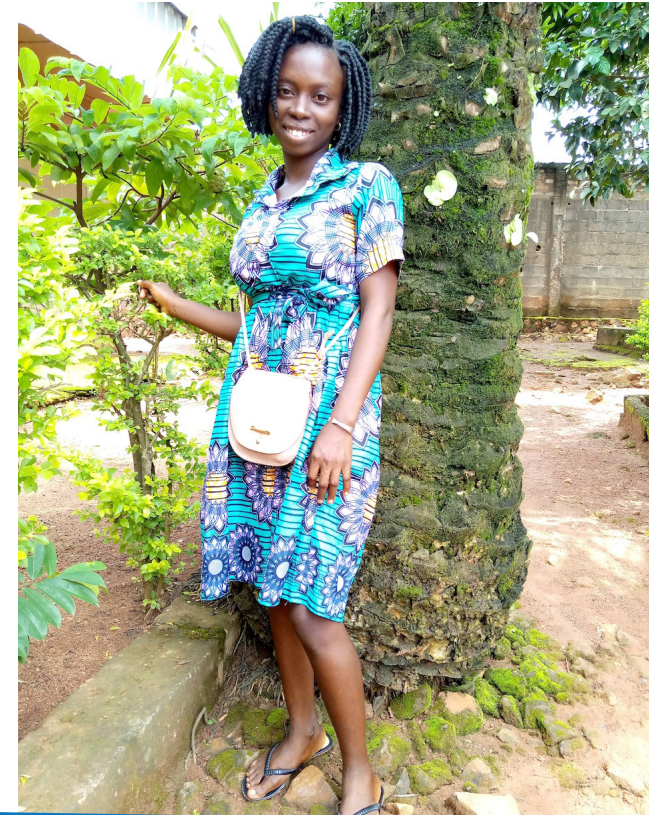
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

During this quarter, our VisionTrust ministry in the Central African Republic celebrated a monumental milestone for three of our students. Ezekiel, Brunelvia, and Laura all graduated with their high school diplomas. Brunelvia shared:

“It is because VisionTrust encouraged me in the studies by giving me school supplies and paying my school fees that today I [graduated high school] to continue at the University. The other orphans in my neighborhood who had no supports like me dropped out of school and married [out of necessity]. When I see them and I see myself today, the word that comes to mind is to say to VisionTrust a BIG THANK YOU. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your passion for vulnerable people.”

In the area of spiritual development, we praise God for the donation of 150 New Testament Bibles. The students are excited to have their own Bibles so they can learn and reflect on God’s word. Recently, they enjoyed lessons on the topic of faith, studying the stories of Hannah and Ruth. This quarter, we rejoice for three students —Benecia, Abel, and Chancy — who all made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus.

Recent flooding has been a challenge for families in the area, and standing water has increased the mosquito population, heightening the risk of malaria for our children and adolescents. We praise God for the health partnership that VisionTrust Centrafrique finalized in early August. This agreement with a local health center ensures timely and consistent care for the children in our ministry when they fall ill. Our VisionTrust Centrafrique leaders also continue to work with the children to coach them on healthy habits and how to keep their home environments clean to reduce the risk of illnesses.



MALAWI

This quarter, our biggest highlight was that all our 8th grade students passed their final exams and can now move on to their secondary education. Our leaders are thrilled with their dedication and hard work in their academics. Our teachers continue to utilize new skills from the online training they participated in during the first quarter to enhance the effectiveness of their reading and math lessons. Our students also continue to enjoy engaging with age-appropriate books during their time at the VisionTrust program.

Our leaders were truly touched to see the development of character in the lives of the students this past quarter. One of our primary school students, Jacqueline, made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus. Please pray for this precious child as she grows in her faith. Innocent, a teenage boy from a non-Christian family, has shown amazing growth. Although he did not go to church growing up, Innocent started going to church on his own because of the transformation of heart he has experienced through his VisionTrust program. Innocent is now sharing the Gospel with his family. Salome, a teenage girl, struggled to have positive relationships with peers at school. Through the Learning Center program, she has matured and now enjoys playing and interacting with friends at school.

Our leaders look forward to the start of the new academic year in early October. We know that God will continue to work in miraculous ways in the lives of the leaders, children, and families in Katsekera, Malawi.





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for believing these children are worth more.



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