



2023

QUARTER 4 IMPACT REPORT

VisionTrust 

*They are worth more. A lot more.*

# BRAZIL

Our VisionTrust Brazil team was thrilled to see the ways our children and adolescents grew in mind, body, and soul during the last three months of 2023. We praise God that four students — Isabelle, Kawanny, Alice, and Gabriel — made a first-time commitment to follow Christ. We pray that their faith strengthens and grows in the years to come.

During October, our children enjoyed an outing to Jaboticabal Farm that included a delicious lunch and a swim in the river. Another memorable event was a “Children’s Day” celebration, which included bouncing on the trampoline, eating ice cream and popcorn, and participating in a toy giveaway. Our students got to dive into the world of robotics by attending a workshop hosted by a local school. Sports continue to be a popular activity for the students we serve, and it was heart-warming to see forty-nine of our students participate in a judo championship where they displayed their skills. Several students received a medal, and it was a rewarding opportunity for all!

In November, our staff had the opportunity to participate in a valuable training course focused on socio-emotional education, an important topic for those serving children living amid a variety of challenges impacting their day-to-day lives. Our children continue to work hard in their academics. Hadassa, one of our top-performing students, authored a book and presented it to her peers at the Learning Center through a dedication ceremony — what a superb way to showcase the benefits of literacy!

December was bursting with various activities for our children and their families. A field trip to a water park was the perfect way to burn some energy and cool off during the hot temperatures. Our judo athletes took part in a memorable “moving up” ceremony where they were awarded new belts highlighting their progression to the next skill level. Both of our Learning Center programs presented a Christmas Cantata. Our VisionTrust Brazil Country Director, Humberto, shared this reflection:

*“We brought out the Christmas concert in the two programs... It is always an opportunity in these events to preach the Gospel and invite families to give their lives to Jesus as Lord of their lives.”*

In celebration of the Christmas holiday, our students and their families were blessed with food baskets and a roasting chicken. Each child in our program received a present as well. We give thanks to God for all the moments of joy and blessing our children and their families experienced because of the faithful generosity and prayers of our sponsors and partners.



# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Countless moments of life-transformation unfolded throughout the final months of 2023. Firstly, we praise God that Fanni, Ana, and Ruby all made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus — may their faith blossom and grow in the years to come.

In October, our students celebrated Global Handwashing Day and World Food Day with creative activities to help reinforce healthy habits. Our programs also participated in a WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) assessment led by one of our VisionTrust expert volunteers, Chip. The data collected will help our ministry evaluate WASH projects to prioritize for the coming calendar year. Our students at the Tia Tatiana School enjoyed an inspiring visit from the Spirit Airlines Foundation — the students loved meeting new friends and learning all about airplanes and the air travel industry.

On November 25th, our students celebrated International Day for the Prevention of Violence against Women, which annually recognizes the memory of three Dominican sisters who were assassinated in 1960. Throughout our ministry sites, our leaders organized special activities in November for parents and their children to help strengthen family bonds. For example, at the San Miguel School, our leaders hosted a Family Day outing. VisionTrust Program Director, Pastor Freddy, shared:

*“Seeing the joy of the children, playing and competing with their parents and other families was something beautiful. There were many competitions, gifts for the winners, Biblical contests, dances, a little bit of everything. It was truly an unforgettable experience!”*

We are deeply grateful for Warsaw Evangelical Presbyterian Church, whose support made this special Family Day outing possible.

In December, each VisionTrust program held Christmas celebrations. The children sang carols, reflected on the birth of Jesus, enjoyed festive drinks and snacks, and opened presents. Our leaders at the Camino de Libertad VisionTrust program even expanded the celebration to the local community, welcoming 365 children for a special Christmas lunch. It was a wonderful time of worship, recreation, and feasting!

Praise God for our VisionTrust Dominicana leaders who have clarity in their calling from the Lord. Their dedication is making a lasting impact on the lives of the children in our programs, as well as on their families and local communities.



# GUATEMALA

The VisionTrust Guatemala ministry embraced moments of jubilation and weathered times of mourning during the final months of 2023.

In early December, one of our beloved mentors, Cris, who served on the VisionTrust Guatemala staff for many years, died unexpectedly from a heart attack. Our staff and students were heartbroken to lose someone who had been part of the very fabric of VisionTrust Guatemala for many years. Cris' passion for the Lord was unwavering and his example of servanthood and loving kindness touched the lives of so many students. While the loss is extremely painful, we find solace in the fact that his legacy will continue in the lives of children who have been inspired to love and follow Jesus because of his faithful example.

Prior to Cris' passing, our ministry celebrated a tremendous milestone as twelve seniors received their high school diploma at the close of the academic year in October. One of these students, Hilda, has been in our VisionTrust program since 2014. Her mother never went to school, and when her family moved into Cruz Blanca, they found out about our Learning Center through their church. Hilda and her sisters joined the program to meet new friends and get support with their academics. Hilda worked hard at her studies and joined the Distance Education Program at our Learning Center when she reached high school. Our VisionTrust Guatemala Director, Rut, shared this about Hilda:

*“She says her experience being part of the VisionTrust Learning Center has been a great blessing for her, because not only did she find a place to continue her studies, but a family with a great heart. She says that God has been so faithful and merciful that in the midst of the storms, God has been there with her.”*

Hilda's dream is to become a civil engineer and help her family and her community as well. Hilda and our other graduates enjoyed a memorable graduation ceremony with family and friends in early November. We are proud of their accomplishments, and we know they will continue to carry their love of the Lord and heart to serve others into their adult lives.

In December, our students at the Cruz Blanca Learning Center celebrated the birth of Jesus with their friends and VisionTrust teachers. Our Los Verdes Learning Center students embraced the opportunity to deepen and strengthen their faith by participating in a three-day long spiritual retreat. Forty-two students attended and it was a transformative experience. We praise God that ten students — Geremy, Ever, Ingrid, Christian, Jonathan, Eddy, Damaris, Alisson, and Elida — all made a first-time commitment to Christ during the final months of 2023!

In the highest moments and the lowest ones, our staff faithfully remind our students that the love of Jesus is constant. He never lets us go.



# PERU

God's loving presence was evident in so many ways in the lives of our children and adolescents during the final three months of 2023. Many of our students have faced unbelievable hardship in their young lives, such as one of our fourteen-year-old students, who was assaulted by a relative during the pandemic. Our VisionTrust Country Director, Ada, shared this reflection:

*“Through it all, she never let sadness rob her of the joy that God could offer her. Over the years, she has discovered, thanks to the support of her mother, that she is not alone and that she can still fulfill her dreams and goals. The [VisionTrust] program has been a source of blessing for her.”*

In October, one-hundred and thirty of our adolescent students participated in a spiritual camp retreat. Our teenagers had a transformative experience, learning about how God's plan for our lives is “Plan A” – He has the best in store for us when we follow Him. Games included slip-and-slides, mud races, balloon games, and tug-of-war. Our adolescents also shared delicious food, listened to sermons, and worshipped together. This event was one of the highlights of the entire year!

During November, our students participated in special workshops to learn about the dangers of pornography and how to protect their hearts, bodies, and minds. Our leaders also had the opportunity to connect with parents and encourage them in healthy parenting practices. Thanks to the generosity of Cypress Church, our VisionTrust Peru ministry received 100,000 OneMeal kits, which include lentils, rice, dehydrated vegetables, and vitamin packs. We are thankful for God's provision of these meal kits, which help our staff to continue making steady, nutritious meals for the children in our ministry. The kits are also being distributed to the families to utilize during vacation breaks.

Our students finished the academic year in December, performing well on their final exams. Right before Christmas, our children gathered at our program sites to enjoy a traditional treat of hot chocolate and sweet bread. The students celebrated the birth of Jesus together, and each child received a present. With joy, we celebrate six students who made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus! May Angie, Sumaq, Bianca, Vaina, Leonel, and Elian continue to grow in their faith and love for Christ in the months and years to come.



# SOUTHEAST ASIA

Our children and adolescents continue to experience the irrepressible love of Jesus despite ongoing challenges in their region. The cost of transportation has spiked, and the inaccessibility and unaffordability of food, medicine, and other necessities cause great strain on families. By God's grace, our leaders have been able to faithfully deliver consistent support to the children we serve, demonstrating a tangible expression of God's loving kindness in their lives.

Travel limitations have not stopped our leaders from delivering meaningful training and activities for our staff and children. This past quarter, eighty-one children and eight staff attended a virtual youth development training event that covered topics such as health, goal setting, ethics, literature, and abuse prevention. One of our program leaders shared this testimony about Martin\*, who participated in the training:

*“After he attended the youth development training, he started reading the Bible. When he had an upcoming monthly test, he was not feeling well. When he prayed, he recovered and was able to pass the exam well. After that, he became stronger in reading the Bible and praying. He also enthusiastically participates in prayer and obeys the teachers’ words.”*

Martin, along with fourteen other students, made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus this past quarter. Our leaders are thrilled to see how a relationship with Jesus is transforming their lives.

To celebrate Global Handwashing Day, our students participated in a friendly competition, filming music videos to reinforce the importance of proper handwashing to protect one's health. Each program's performance was unique and creative — everyone had a blast with this special project! Our students also were able to have medical check-ups and receive deworming medications as needed. Steady, nutritious meals continue to help our children and adolescents grow up healthy and strong.

In December, our students gathered at each program site for our annual Christmas party celebrations. The students put on skits, watched videos, performed songs and dances, shared delicious food, received presents, and reflected on the birth of Jesus Christ. Our leaders were thankful for the opportunity to share the Gospel with some of the non-Christian families whose children participate in our programs, as well as provide food packages for families experiencing significant financial strain.

We praise God for all the ways — big and small — His love is touching the lives of those we serve in Southeast Asia.

*\*Name changed for the privacy and protection of this individual.*



# SOUTH ASIA

Our VisionTrust South Asia children continued to grow and learn amid harsh difficulties facing their communities.

In mid-November, our students participated in a friendly Bible exam competition. This was a fun and challenging way for students to internalize scripture verses and stories from the Bible. The children and staff all enjoyed the activities, and the top achieving students were honored with a special prize at the annual Christmas party gatherings in December.

In early December, a slow-moving cyclone brought sustained and heavy rains impacting three-hundred families in the communities where our Learning Centers are located. Flooding lasted for several days, cutting out cellphone service and electricity, and causing health and safety challenges due to water mixing with sewage. Dangerous animals like crocodiles and poisonous snakes became a threat as they traveled into neighborhoods via the flood waters. Another storm came through shortly thereafter, impacting one of the communities we serve further south, causing considerable damage to area roads and family homes and possessions. In the wake of these storms, our VisionTrust South Asia leaders worked tirelessly to check on families, evaluate needs, and seek assistance.

Despite the widespread challenges due to the flooding in December, our VisionTrust leaders hosted joy-filled Christmas celebrations at six of our Learning Center program sites. The children put on special performances for their peers and families and enjoyed a delicious meal together. Our staff distributed food provision kits to families in need, and our adolescent females received hygiene kits. In all ten of our programs, our children received a special Christmas gift of a VisionTrust branded backpack filled with essential school supplies.

Our VisionTrust South Asia Director, expressed his gratitude to everyone who has supported the children in their care through the good times and the challenging times:

*“I truly appreciate all your help, support, and prayers for [South Asia].”*

We give thanks to the Lord for the hope our children carry because of His great love for them.



# LIBERIA

As we reflect on the final months of 2023, our VisionTrust Liberia team is full of immense gratitude that the presidential elections in October were peaceful. Many Liberians feared violence would erupt during the voting process — praise God our leaders, children, and families remained safe and went about their day-to-day activities without any significant interruptions. The economy is still putting a great strain on the families in our ministry. However, the nutritious meals the children receive at their VisionTrust program continue to be a vital and sustaining support for the families we serve.

Our children are excited to see infrastructure improvements at their VisionTrust schools. In Kpondeh, our staff improved the handwashing stations. In Howein, notable progress was made on the installation of new block walls. In Gbarnga, metal doors were installed on our school building, and plasterwork on the walls is under way.

In October and November, the students worked hard on their academics in preparation for important exams in December. The students enjoyed a special message from Reverend Lloyd on leadership, based on Samuel 16:1-12. We praise God that two students — Ayres and Prince G. — made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus during this quarter. Our leaders also have seen significant spiritual growth in many students, including Princess, a young woman that leads devotional prayers in school and eagerly arrives on time for each church service.

In mid-December, our VisionTrust schools hosted Christmas parties, giving our students the opportunity to celebrate the birth of Jesus with singing, dancing, drumming, skits, presents, and delicious food. We echo the prayer request of our VisionTrust Program Leader in Howein, Reverend Daniel:

*“We pray for a peaceful 2024 and that God will help us prepare godly servant leaders for the future.”*

We embrace the coming year in faith that God will answer Reverend Daniel’s prayer. May our children continue to experience God’s transformative love in their VisionTrust Liberia programs and grow up to lead and serve with excellence in their local communities.



# MALAWI

Our VisionTrust Malawi children continue to grow and thrive thanks to the sustaining support they receive from their VisionTrust program. Families have been experiencing immense strain due to economic challenges. The value of the local currency, kwacha, has been devalued, causing soaring prices for fuel, food, and other necessities. Nutritious meals, access to clean water, educational support, and spiritual discipleship make a positive impact in each child's life who participates in the learning center program.

Praise God that our VisionTrust ministry was able to purchase a stockpile of dry food supplies earlier in 2023, successfully preventing interruptions to our feeding program due to issues of affordability or accessibility of food. The growing season last year was adversely impacted by Cyclone Freddy. Our leaders are praising God for good rains and healthy crops thus far during October, November, and December.

In the area of health, our students have benefited from oral hygiene education. Support from the local public health clinic continues to be a great asset to ensure our students are up-to-date with important immunizations and deworming medication.

In the area of education, our students are performing well in their academics. Our leaders have arranged with a local primary school to borrow books so students can have more titles to choose from during reading time. Our VisionTrust Program Director, Evance, shared this testimony about Bridget:

*“Bridget is one of our kids that we are hoping will put our program on the map. This girl is very intelligent, and she is doing well in her secondary education. She is very humble and a respectful girl. We are encouraging her to continue working hard so that she can make her dream come true.”*

Our students continue to grow and develop in their faith. Simon made a first-time decision to follow Jesus, and Melia has shown exceptional character, helping her friends at school and demonstrating humility and respect in her interactions with both peers and teachers.

Lastly, our students ended the year with a festive Christmas celebration on December 27th. The children and staff enjoyed reflecting on the birth of Jesus together and celebrating God's many blessings.



# TANZANIA

The Lord worked in wonderful ways in the hearts and lives of our VisionTrust Tanzania children during October, November, and December of 2023. Our VisionTrust Tanzania Country Director, Peter, shared this reflection:

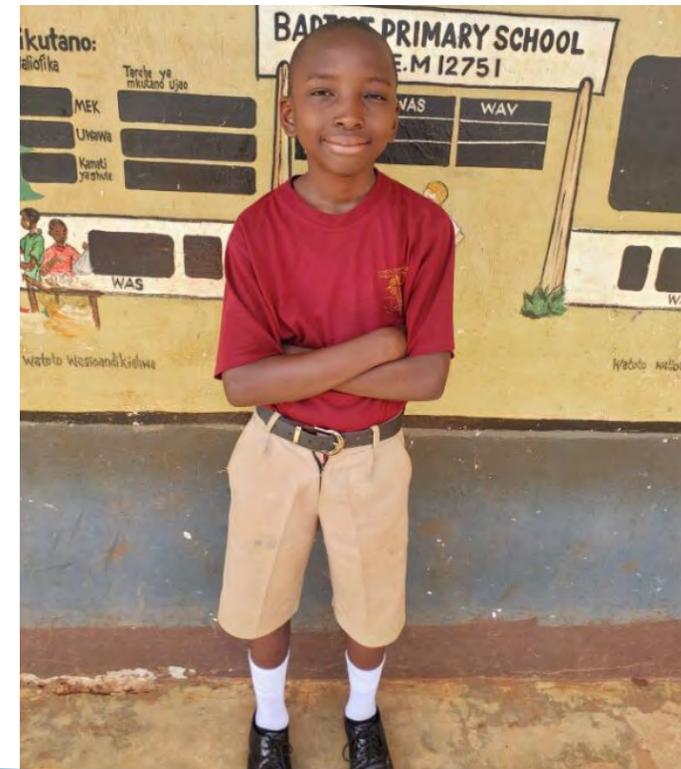
*“We thank God [we are] alive and safe; God is good and enabled us to finish the year 2023... Despite the many challenges in 2023, God was on our side.”*

After months of hard work and preparation, our students took their annual end-of-year academic examinations. Praise God that every student who took the Standard Seven national primary school examination passed, granting them the opportunity to continue to secondary education. Our teaching staff have also noted commendable improvements in the lower grades, as students are working hard on their English speaking, reading, and writing.

Our school continues to be an attractive option to parents in the community seeking a quality education with an emphasis on spiritual growth and development. Our students love starting their school day with an activity they call “morning glory,” a devotional time where they can center their hearts and minds on Jesus’ love before they begin their classwork. Our VisionTrust staff strive to model a spirit of unity and they pray for students to do their best in all spheres of life.

A donation of additional chairs for our Morogoro Baptist Primary School has been a great blessing, giving students a comfortable place to sit during classes. Our staff have also been working on important infrastructure projects at the school, including painting and repairs. With heavier than usual rains, multiple classrooms have been adversely affected by leaky roofs. Early in 2024, our ministry hopes to secure funding to install a new, higher quality metal roof to rectify the problem and avoid further water damage to our classrooms.

On December 7th, VisionTrust Tanzania hosted a special parent and child gathering to celebrate the end of the academic year and the Christmas holiday. Families enjoyed a delicious meal together, report cards were distributed, and everyone had a wonderful time of fellowship. Our staff were able to share their heart and vision for the upcoming 2024 year – parents, children, and teachers are all anticipating the Lord will do remarkable things as the future unfolds!



# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

We witnessed God working in amazing ways in the lives of the children and adolescents we serve in the Central African Republic in the final three months of 2023.

Octavie Danielle, one of our VisionTrust Centrafrique Leaders, shared:

*“Praise be to God!!! In 2023, there have been a total of five VisionTrust Centrafrique orphans who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior and testified to it through baptism. There was a total of eight orphans who committed themselves to serving the Lord in the different programs of their local church in order to grow spiritually.”*

In the area of education, our students learned about various concepts which will help them succeed academically, such as work hard, be disciplined, be wise in relationships, stay focused, and always trust God. These values were also reinforced with verses and passages of scripture. To stay in touch with graduates once they complete their VisionTrust program, our staff created a WhatsApp group, curating a space of encouragement and edification for these young adults as they begin college or a vocation.

Our VisionTrust leaders are supporting the children in their health, and our contract with the local health clinic is an invaluable resource for those that fall ill and need professional medical support. Our most vulnerable students are on a specialized nutrition plan, and our leaders measure their height and weight monthly to monitor their progress.

Leading up to Christmas, our VisionTrust children and leaders took a deep dive into the beginning sections of the Gospels, studying the events around the time of Jesus’ birth. Each VisionTrust program site held a joyful Christmas celebration, with delicious food, presents, singing, skits, and a time of reflection on Jesus’ birth. There were smiles all around as the children and staff were reminded of the immense love that God has for them. We anticipate many milestones of continued growth in knowledge, character, and faith in the year to come.



# ZIMBABWE

Countless moments of joy and blessing happened in the lives of the children we serve in the communities of Zunga, Chasiatende, and Mavende in the final months of 2023.

Firstly, due to outbreaks of cholera and typhoid throughout the country, the government of Zimbabwe declared a state of emergency and suspended unsupervised large gatherings. Because our ministry programs have excellent health and hygiene practices, they received permission from the authorities to continue meeting at the program level. We praise God that our children have remained healthy and have not had any interruptions in their VisionTrust programming due to the outbreaks!

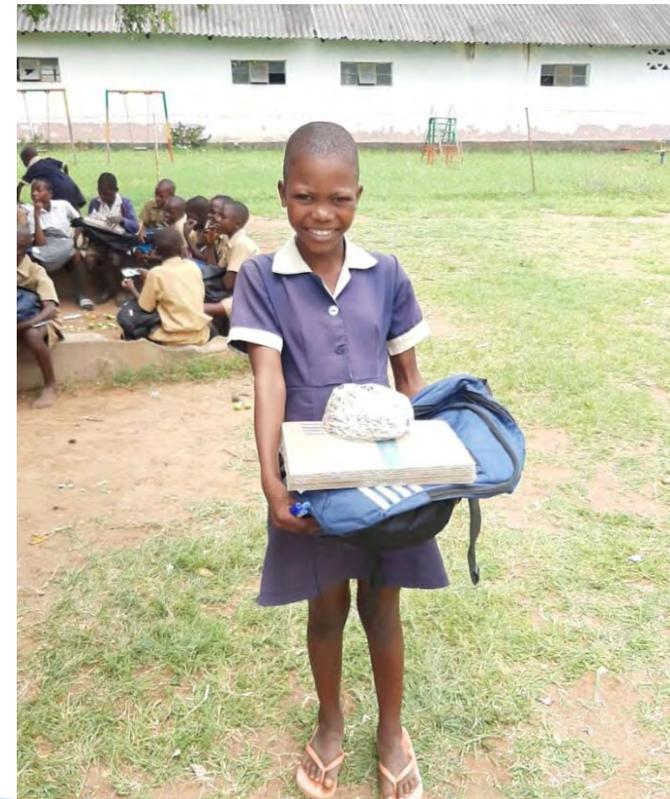
Our children and adolescents are working hard in their academics. One of the fun ways they have strengthened communication skills is reading books and then participating in debate sessions to express their ideas and viewpoints. Students also have had opportunities to relate what they are learning in the Bible to other subject areas they are studying in school. A highlight of this past quarter was a field trip to Great Zimbabwe, a historical heritage site that has much significance to the Zimbabwean people. Sixty students from the Zunga Learning Center participated in this educational outing.

With grateful hearts, we celebrate the decision of twelve students – Maxwell, Tafadzwa, Anotidaishe, Elizabeth, Tabeth, Privilege, Chigohwi, James, Jerera, Tinashe, Alisha, and Takudzwa - to follow Jesus. The care and support the students receive impacts their lives in a profound way. Tinashe, shared this reflection:

*“My father passed away when I was in grade two... We went and stayed with our grandmother who is a widow. Life was not easy, because no one was looking [after] us but God alone. I was then registered to VisionTrust Zimbabwe, which paid my school fees, uniforms, and stationery.”*

Tinashe is now in sixth grade and participates regularly in discipleship lessons. He loves singing praise and worship songs and reciting Bible verses.

Our students look forward to 2024 with great anticipation. One of the first activities will be a Christmas celebration on January 13th with special food, worship, and presents – our students cannot wait!





**THANK YOU**  
for believing these children are worth more.



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