



**2024**

QUARTER 1 IMPACT REPORT

**VisionTrust** 

*They are worth more. A lot more.*

# A Special Announcement from Devlin Donaldson

For almost six years, I have had the joy and honor of serving as the President / CEO of VisionTrust International. During this time, I have developed a true passion for our worldwide ministry and a deep love for the thousands of children we serve in our learning centers, schools, and orphanages. I have been humbled and inspired by the unwavering dedication of our global leaders, stateside staff, donors, and partners, who have gone above and beyond to guarantee our children see and believe that they are worth more.

I am entering into a new season of retirement and stepping down from my day-to-day responsibilities at VisionTrust. Jeff Behan, one of the original founders of the organization, is stepping into the role of President / CEO, and I will transition to a consulting role, continuing to offer my knowledge and guidance.

Jeff has been an integral part of the organization since its inception in 1997. Having served in various capacities, most recently as the Board Chair, he has been a steward of the organization's strategic direction and values. His deep commitment to VisionTrust's mission and ministry is evident in his longstanding service and visionary leadership.

I have asked Jeff to share a brief message of introduction with you:

*“I am humbled and excited to step into the role of CEO of VisionTrust and am eager to continue building on the strong foundation we have in place. My commitment to our mission has never been stronger, and I look forward to this new chapter working with our team here in the US and around the world.” - Jeff Behan*

I look forward to supporting Jeff and the team in my new capacity and am confident in the organization's future under his leadership.

God bless you,



Devlin Donaldson



# BRAZIL

During the first quarter of 2024, our VisionTrust children, staff, and families had to contend with a concerning outbreak of dengue fever in the municipality of Goiânia. A combination of intense rains and ongoing issues with improper garbage disposal and stagnant water led to a heightened number of cases. Our VisionTrust staff worked hard to empower the children with education on how to protect themselves and their community as well, which has been highly effective. Our students continue to enjoy healthy food at their Learning Centers, and in February, our students were thrilled with the addition of some new menu items, including bananas, watermelon, oranges, and juice.

In education, our students continue to make great strides in their learning and academics. In February, our students were gifted backpacks with school supplies from a local business and participated in a hands-on robotics lesson. In March, our adolescents went on a field trip to learn about stock car racing – they even met professional drivers! Our students also had the opportunity to tour the Madero Restaurant and participate in a finance workshop facilitated by a local bank. With joy, we share that three of our students — Anny, Meury, and Miguel — qualified and will compete in the Brazilian Judo Championship! Lastly, we celebrate fifteen-year-old Kayla, who has been participating in a weekly workshop focused on reading and writing. Our VisionTrust Brazil Country Director, Humberto, shared this reflection on Kayla's accomplishments:

*“Kayla was a featured student in the Government program ‘Apprentice of the Future.’ Education is a solution for overcoming social inequality and overcoming social vulnerability, especially for girls like Kayla, a Black woman who comes from a complicated family background.”*

Kayla is a shining example of how our Learning Center programs equip students to build important skills that will unleash opportunities for their futures.

In the area of spiritual development, our students continue to enjoy reading the Bible together and spending time in worship and prayer. Two students — Luisa and Isabelly — made a first-time commitment to Jesus during this past quarter. During a lesson on God's power to heal, Luisa asked many questions and shared that she was healed of a strong allergy. After the lesson, she spoke with her VisionTrust teacher and shared how she felt God during the devotional. She explained to her teacher how He has made a difference in her life and that she understands the true meaning of what it is to follow Jesus. Praise God for the transformative experiences that Luisa, Isabelly, and many more are having because of the faithful support of our local VisionTrust leaders and stateside partners..

On March 28th, one hundred and sixty-five students gathered at our two Learning Centers to celebrate the Easter holiday and enjoy a special chocolate egg treat. It was a beautiful way to remember the resurrection of Christ with loved ones and friends!



# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

After an eighteen-day break for the holidays, our students returned to their VisionTrust programs in mid-January excited for a new year of growing and learning. We praise God for five students who made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus — Luis José, Enmanuel, Sorilande, Ruby, and Ana Cristina. Mariluz, our VisionTrust Dominicana Country Director, shared this beautiful testimony about Sorilande:

*“Sorilande has been in the program since she was three months old. Sorilande is an outstanding student, and when asked her how she feels at [her VisionTrust program], she just replied: ‘I feel at home.’ Today she is eight years old, and we see a great future ahead for this little one.”*

Throughout the first quarter, our students enjoyed a variety of engaging and exciting activities. At the end of January, students learned about the life of historical figure Juan Pablo Duarte. In February, children celebrated Valentine’s Day by reflecting on God’s love and the gift of friendship we enjoy with special people in our lives. At the Tia Tatiana School, students participated in an activity to promote literacy called “Fall in Love with Reading.” At the Deaf School, our students took part in an Internet safety workshop. In March, our students observed International Women’s Day with marches, songs, presentations, skits, and guest speakers who taught about influential women in history, including Biblical figures. Our students also commemorated Water Day, learning about the importance of water in our lives.

Our VisionTrust leaders in Cotui were overjoyed to share the wonderful news that two former students — Crisverly and Frankeuris — graduated with degrees in computer science. These students started their VisionTrust program when they were three years old, and we are immensely proud of their accomplishments! We are also thrilled to share that a new vocational program started in the community of Cotui, and some of our older students in the VisionTrust program have signed up to learn hairdressing, baking, and more!

Another highlight of this quarter was receiving short-term mission teams at our program sites. Thrive in Joy served at the Tia Tatiana School, installing two reading corners and improving three others. They also painted a lovely mural on the wall of the new garbage storage closet. Students from University of Virginia at Wise visited three different VisionTrust programs, facilitating a Vacation Bible School program and taking down an old storage shed. High schoolers from Worthington Christian School put on a fantastic two-day Vacation Bible School program for our students in Ensanche Altigracia.

Our leaders have immense hope as they see our children continue to blossom and embrace their God-given talents as they interact with family, teachers, peers, and neighbors.



Sorilande

# GUATEMALA

After enjoying their academic break in the beginning of the year, our VisionTrust Guatemala students returned to their Learning Center programs in February excited to acquire new knowledge and develop important life skills.

In the area of education, literacy continues to be a key focus, and our students have enjoyed a variety of engaging exercises such as sharing a book with a classmate, authoring short stories, borrowing books from the VisionTrust reading corner to enjoy at home, and re-telling stories with puppets and skits. During the month of March, our students at both Learning Centers explored the field of engineering — the children loved playing building games, working with blocks, solving problems, and practicing logical reasoning. At the Cruz Blanca program, the young men facilitated a celebration to show honor and respect to their female peers who are part of the Learning Center – a beautiful and formative exercise for young people who are surrounded by cultural norms which often devalue women. At the Los Verdes program, our 7th and 8th grade students completed a science unit on the atom. Our VisionTrust Guatemala Director, Rut, reported:

*“The students were super excited to learn about atoms and prepared an exhibition for the younger students. They interacted, explained, and got the children excited. It’s been heartwarming to see their growth and positive attitude towards education.”*

Health education continues to be a foundational element of our programming, ensuring our children know and practice important life skills and habits. As the summer months began in March, the students had a “Splash Day,” with games and crafts to reinforce the vital role water plays in our daily lives. Our preschool students also learned about personal hygiene with fun, hands-on activities.

Our students continue to dive into studying the Word of God, and our adolescents particularly enjoy reading *The Action Bible*, which is a graphic novel style presentation of the Scriptures. The students love the drawings and have started to enjoy retelling the stories they already know. We celebrate five students that made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus. May God grow and strengthen the faith of Glendy, Alejandro, Zulmy, Carla, and Juan in the months and years to come.



# PERU

During the months of January and February, our students enjoyed a respite from their studies, and many traveled to visit relatives in the country. At the Casa Luz Orphanage, the girls experienced memorable moments during school vacation, including a hike and spending time reading books outside in the afternoon. On January 15th, Elizabeth celebrated her Quinceañera (“sweet fifteen”) with a heartwarming party at Casa Luz.

During February, Cypress Church sent a short-term mission team to install a playground unit at the Casa Luz Orphanage. The children were thrilled to have special visitors and the joy on their faces when they first tried out the equipment was priceless! The team also created a reading corner at the Rios De Agua Viva Learning Center. The students were overjoyed to see all the new books they will get to read from week to week!

In March, our students started their new school year and returned to their routine gatherings at the Learning Center programs. We are thankful for the generosity of a donor who provided new uniforms and school supplies for our girls at Casa Luz. At the Getsemani Learning Center, the students benefited from a dental hygiene lesson in March facilitated by a visiting volunteer. At the Maranatha Learning Center, the students have enjoyed gathering in small groups once per week to read and discuss books. Three students from this program —Natsumi, Jhorisha, and Adriana — are actively involved in teaching the younger children Bible lessons and participating in evangelism. At the Primitiva Learning Center, the staff enjoyed meeting with parents on March 27th to support and encourage them. At the Rios de Agua Viva Learning Center, the students are jumping into reading their new books by gathering in three groups throughout the week for library time.

As we reflect on these three months, we echo the words of Pastora Juana from the Maranatha Learning Center:

*“We are grateful for the start of a new year, the attention provided to our children and adolescents, and for the sponsors who faithfully support us.”*

We anticipate God continuing to work in mighty ways in the coming days, months, and years.



# SOUTHEAST ASIA

Although our children, adolescents, and staff are surrounded by unbelievable difficulties in their nation, a posture of gratitude and prayerfulness defines their day-to-day lives. Political instability has led to a heightened level of societal brokenness — forced labor, child trafficking, bombings, murders, exploitation, arson, and robberies are widespread. Our VisionTrust Learning Centers and orphanages continue to be safe havens for the young people in our care. One of these students is Mariel\*, and here is what our VisionTrust Southeast Asia Country Director had to share about her life:

*“Her father is a tenant farmer, and her mother is a seamstress. Mariel is the eldest of three siblings. When she grows up, she wants to be a doctor [...] Although she was born in a non-Christian family, she gradually became involved in spirituality after [coming to] the Learning Center. She participates in prayer and Bible recitations [...] She actively attends the children’s camp led by VisionTrust. Not only does she work hard in her education, but she also tries to help her mother with sewing to make a living.”*

This past quarter, the temperatures climbed extremely high, and our leaders worked carefully with the children to ensure they stayed safe in the hot weather. Students were reminded to wear hats and use umbrellas outside, to stay in the shade, to drink plenty of clean water, and to bathe during cooler times of the day. In several of our program sites, students received important routine vaccinations to prevent against dangerous diseases, such as measles.

In January, our students enjoyed special New Year’s celebrations. The festivities included cooking competitions and sharing a variety of traditional foods served on leaves instead of plates. Students also performed cultural dances and participated in sports competitions. It was a joyous time for all!

Praise God, our students performed well during their end-of-year examinations in February. Our top performing students received special awards, such as an outing to the cinema! Summer holidays started in March, and our children and adolescents were thrilled to jump into fun activities such as Bible classes, math and reading enrichment exercises, and English and language arts classes.

In March, our leaders facilitated a spiritual development Zoom training for seventy-one children under the age of thirteen. The students studied the Bible together, learning about heroes of faith, such as Daniel and Noah. The students also practiced their reading and English-speaking skills during the training. These types of intentional activities are instrumental in helping grow and strengthen the faith of the children in our programs. This quarter, fifteen students made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus. May Christ’s love and faithfulness give them strength as they follow Him.

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



# SOUTH ASIA

As our VisionTrust South Asia leaders embraced the promise of a new year, they reflected on the testimonials students shared during their annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service on New Year's Eve. We have captured a few snippets here to highlight how our ministry programs are providing holistic support to the children in our care at our ten Learning Center programs. Amid political instability, socioeconomic challenges, illnesses, and religious persecution, the light of Christ's love is burning bright and marking the lives of our children in amazing ways.

*Nestor\**

*"The journey through 11th grade was challenging, but with God's guidance, I passed my exams and excelled academically. His wisdom and strength sustained me through the rigorous curriculum, reminding me of Philippians 4:13 – 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me'."*

*Samantha\**

*"I have been suffering from ear pain since May. I went to a doctor, and he diagnosed me with a hole in my ear. I was under treatment and took the medicines regularly. I was told that I had to undergo surgery, and all the children in my [VisionTrust] center prayed for me regularly. I used to suffer a lot during the rainy and cold seasons, but after July, I did not experience any pain in my ear. God heard my prayers and healed me completely."*

While we celebrate the breakthroughs and victories in health and education, what brings the deepest joy is seeing the spiritual growth in the lives of the children in our ministry. One of our students, Isabelle,\* is the perfect example. Her family members are followers of another religion, and they did not know anything about Jesus. Isabelle started to learn about Jesus at her VisionTrust program through stories and Bible verses. She began to pray for others, and when her parents realized this, they told her she could not attend her VisionTrust program. Isabelle did not give up but persevered in praying for her parents. God answered her prayers and her parents accepted Jesus as their personal Savior and now attend church regularly. She is grateful for their changed hearts and the opportunities given to her family to know and experience Christ's love through her VisionTrust program!

Nestor, Samantha, and Isabelle are just three of the hundreds of children whose lives are being transformed by the health, education, and spiritual development support they receive at their VisionTrust Learning Center. Despite ongoing hostility towards Christianity, God's love is breaking through in profound ways in the lives of the children and families we serve together.

*\* Names changed for the privacy and protection of these individuals.*



# LIBERIA

The new year began with continued answers to prayer as a smooth transition of power unfolded after the recent presidential elections. The new president of Liberia, Joseph Boakai, is a Christian, and our VisionTrust leaders are hopeful that he will be a humble and wise leader for their nation.

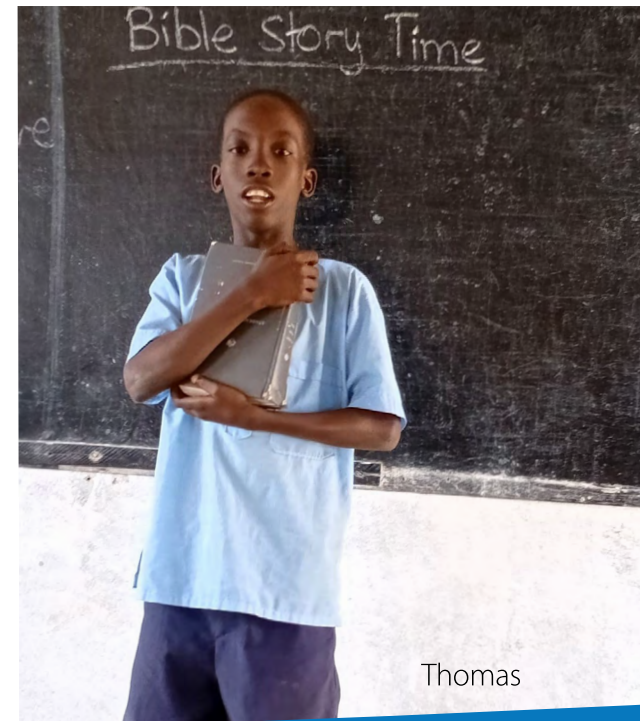
Sadly, the economy continues to cause hardships for the children in our care. Our VisionTrust Liberia Country Director, Stephen, shared this reflection:

*“The provision of meals for schoolchildren is a crucial lifeline. Considering that many families in Liberia struggle with having just one meal a day, these school meals serve as more than sustenance. They act as a catalyst for attendance, encouraging children to come to school and providing them with a net contributor to daily nutrition.”*

Our children are thrilled to see the continued infrastructure improvements at their VisionTrust schools. In Howein, the new block walls are complete, and the roof will be installed during the upcoming academic break. In Gbarnga, ninety percent of the outdoor plasterwork has been completed. The students are working hard in their studies and successfully gaining foundational literacy and numeracy skills. Our Liberian leaders recognize the importance of equipping teachers with vital training and support, and our staff are looking forward to a professional development training, which will happen later in 2024, through a group called Grassroots Liberia.

In the area of spiritual development, we celebrate eight students — Janet, Dorcus, Gorpu, David, Josephine, Princess, Korpo, and Rebecca — who made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus during the first quarter of 2024. One of our students, Thomas, has also shown incredible growth in his faith. Since he joined his VisionTrust school in 2020, he has loved learning the Bible and sharing the stories with others through the KIDStory method. During devotional time, Thomas participates in a variety of ways – reading the story, re-enacting it, and discussing what he learned with others. His teachers also observe the fruits of the spirit being lived out in his life. For example, during recess, if he is not chosen right away when playing a game with his peers, he waits patiently for his turn.

We love seeing how our children’s faith impacts their lives and the lives of others in big and small ways each day. They are actively sharing the love and grace of Jesus with friends, family, and neighbors, bringing positive change in their circles of influence in their local villages.



Thomas

# MALAWI

We give thanks to God as the children we are serving in the community of Katsekera have had a wonderful start to 2024. Our local VisionTrust Leader, Evance, shared this heartwarming testimony about one of their students, Trinity:

*“Trinity is a girl born in a family of two kids. She likes going to school and she is doing very well. This year she will sit for national examinations [...] Being intelligent in class, Trinity seems to be a good child and a God-fearing girl. She has grown in faith, and this has been demonstrated in many ways. She likes to read the Bible and other stories concerning the Gospel. She likes to go to church, and she sings in one of the big choirs in her church and she is reliable.”*

In the area of education, our students continue to work hard in their classes. Our tutors at the Learning Center are cultivating a love for books by placing the students in peer groups, so the children can assist and encourage one another during reading time. Our staff love empowering the stronger readers to coach and support those that struggle with reading, building confidence and competence for both groups.

Our positive relationship with a local health clinic continues to be a fantastic asset for our Learning Center program. The clinic has faithfully supported our children by providing health education about diseases and disease prevention. The clinic has also provided medication and medical care when our children fall ill and need professional support. One challenge our leaders have encountered is adolescent girls missing school during their menstrual cycle due to lack of access to period care products in their homes. Our Malawian leaders continue to collaborate with our VisionTrust International staff on how to overcome this barrier and many others that impact access to education.

Last, but certainly not least, one of our new students who was registered in January 2024, Sarah, made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus this quarter. May God continue to grow her faith and expand her love for Him and for others.



# TANZANIA

There is much to celebrate as we reflect on the amazing ministry that took place in the first quarter of 2024. Our students continue to grow in their faith and enthusiasm for serving Jesus. We praise God that two students — Madison\* and Selena\* — made a first-time decision to follow Jesus. We also celebrate the blossoming faith of Jestina, who leads prayer circles during recess and spearheads community service projects. Her VisionTrust leaders shared this reflection:

*“Jestina’s faith is palpable within the school environment, inspiring her fellow students to deepen their own relationship with Jesus. [She] stands as a shining example of how faith can flourish within the nurturing embrace of a supportive school community.”*

In February, our students received important deworming medication. There has been outbreaks of cholera in other parts of Tanzania, but thankfully, the community of Morogoro has not been impacted. Our local leaders continue to reinforce proper handwashing, personal hygiene, and other healthy habits which help our students avoid preventable illnesses. We also celebrate the wonderful news that the government has provided access to a more reliable water source for our school program.

Our VisionTrust students also have been enjoying a variety of sports and games such as netball and soccer. In addition to exercising their bodies, they learned about inclusivity, teamwork, sportsmanship, respect, fair play, and perseverance while participating in friendly matches and inter-class tournaments.

An exciting update in academics is the launch of a school-wide reading challenge in which students set personal goals for the quarter. The staff put together fun incentives, such as certificates and small prizes, for the students who reach their goals.

During March, the students at the Morogoro Baptist Primary School participated in an inspirational celebration for International Women’s Day. VisionTrust Tanzania Country Director, Peter, shared:

*“We organized empowerment workshops tailored for girls, emphasizing self-confidence and leadership skills. Through these efforts, we endeavored to instill in our students the values of respect, equality, and empowerment, ensuring that Women’s Day served as a catalyst for ongoing dialogue and action towards a more inclusive and equitable society.”*

At the end of March, our students completed mid-term exams and then began a short break to celebrate the Easter holiday. Our children are deeply grateful for the many ways the love of Christ is manifested in their lives.

\* Names changed for the privacy and protection of these individuals.



Jestina

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The new year has started with extremely hot temperatures in the Central African Republic – the highs peaked at 109 degrees Fahrenheit! Yet despite the stifling weather, our leaders are working hard to help keep the students engaged with their academic learning and spiritual development activities. One of our sixteen-year-old students, Esperance, shared this reflection on how his spiritual life and academic success are integrally connected:

*“In the 1st quarter of 2024, I am first in my class [...] Discipline and prayer are my two secrets of academic success. When I go to school, I pay attention to follow the teachers’ teachings. When I get home, after eating, I rest and around 4:00 in the evening, I take the lessons of the day and review them [...] With my four classmates, we also organize ourselves to do mathematics exercises during break times at school. All this happens through prayer. I pray to God before going to school, even in the classroom and before doing class assignments. I pray that God will give me wisdom like King Solomon in the Bible.”*

In January, our VisionTrust Centrafrique staff were thrilled to receive Tom Peters from our VisionTrust USA staff for a visit. It was an encouraging time of sharing God’s Word together, singing, and dancing. Tom visited the Ngola 2 Learning Center, and the children were so excited to have a special guest spend time with them.

Throughout the first quarter, our students dove into a study on spiritual gifts, which was incredibly impactful. Our teenagers were inspired by the lessons and began to identify the gifts God has granted them with the goal of beginning to implement their gifts at their Learning Center gatherings, at school, and in their church worship services. Our students worked on memorizing II Timothy 1:6-7, so they can remember the Spirit of God gives them power, love, and self-discipline in their lives.

In the area of health, there is a drought causing water wells to go dry and a scarcity of vegetables, such as spinach, okra, and tomatoes. Our children and adolescents continue to benefit from the nutritious food they receive at their VisionTrust program, as well as access to medical care as needed through our contract with a local health clinic.

Although our children and adolescents face challenges in their day-to-day lives, the constant love and support from our VisionTrust leaders strengthens their hearts and fortifies their spirits to persevere.



# ZIMBABWE

Our VisionTrust children and adolescents started the new year off with Christmas celebrations in mid-January. Everyone had a wonderful time enjoying a scrumptious meal together as they celebrated the birth of Jesus. Each child received a new backpack and uniform. Smiles abounded!

During the past several months, the El Niño induced drought has caused momentous challenges for the Zimbabwean people. Crops are failing and the lack of rain is life-threatening for both livestock and people. The drought has also negatively impacted the supply of hydroelectricity, and the local currency continues to decline in value. Praise God our ministry was able to purchase all the shelf-stable food for the first half of the year before prices began to spike. The feeding program is going strong at our Learning Centers, and the families are so grateful for the nutritious meals their children receive. In March, our students and leaders planted beans in the farm garden plot.

In the area of health, the cholera outbreak continues throughout Zimbabwe and our leaders are steadfast in providing cleaning supplies and health education to the children and families to help prevent them from falling ill. Our students also received important routine immunizations during the first quarter of 2024, such as the polio vaccine.

Despite the hot temperatures during this first part of 2024, our students faithfully attended classes. They are working hard in their studies and preparing for important national examinations that will happen later in the year. The children have been enjoying literature — especially novels! Ten of our students from the Zunga Learning Center went to the Chivi Mission to train for provincial athletic competitions. While they did not proceed to the national-level competition, the students had a fun and memorable experience.

With immense joy, we share the wonderful news of ten first-time decisions to follow Jesus. Please remember Pamela, Tanisha, Samuel, Tangai, Sivara, Musevenzo, Pensani, Munhoi, Natasha, and Perserverance in your prayers as they grow in their faith and love of the Lord.





**THANK YOU**

for believing these children are worth more.



Stay connected

[www.visiontrust.org](http://www.visiontrust.org) • [info@visiontrust.org](mailto:info@visiontrust.org) • [@visiontrust](https://www.instagram.com/visiontrust)

