

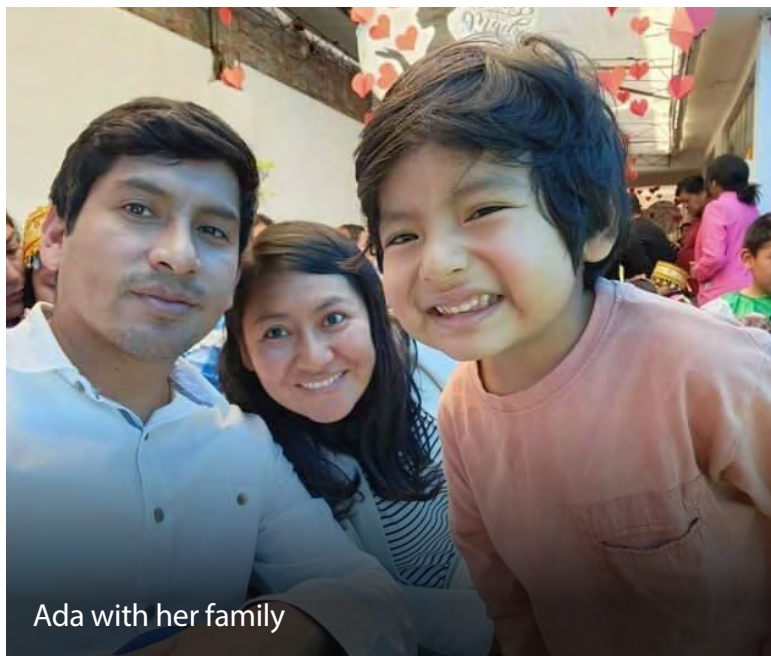


2024

QUARTER 2 IMPACT REPORT

VisionTrust 

*They are worth more. A lot more.*



## In Loving Memory Ada Huertas

May 1986 – August 2024

On August 10th, 2024, our beloved VisionTrust Peru Country Director, Ada Huertas, went to be with the Lord. Due to an adverse reaction to medication during a planned surgery, Ada suffered three cardiac arrests and went into a profound coma, which lasted several weeks before she passed away. Ada leaves behind her husband Koko, her preschool-aged son Matias, her mother Antonia, and her brother Yasser. Our VisionTrust Peru children, staff, and families, as well as our VisionTrust International community, are deeply grieved to lose such a dedicated and loving servant of God.

In celebration of her life and legacy, we share an excerpt from her personal testimony, written in 2018:

*“When I was twelve years old, I was in church for a time of ministry, and God spoke into my life. He told me that, ‘He was putting many children and adolescents into my hands.’ I didn’t understand what He was trying to tell me at that time, but as I grew, my love and passion for God only increased. Also, God spoke to me about missions and only told me, ‘Nations’[...]*

*In 2012, while I was studying at the university, my pastor Mariela invited me to help her with the VisionTrust programs, and, from the moment I involved myself in this beautiful ministry, I’ve been able to see the promise that was given to me when I was twelve years old come to fulfillment. Thanks to God, today I am the Director of VisionTrust Peru, serving with my husband, to see in the heart of every Ayacuchan child the life of Christ.”*

While we will never understand why God called Ada home at such a young age, we take solace in the fact that Ada answered her calling and lived a full and mission-driven life serving her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Her dedication to Him was evident in her servant-leadership, compassion, and loving kindness. Ada’s life is a testament to what the love of Jesus can do — bring healing, hope, and expectation for a brighter and better tomorrow. The seeds of love she planted during her life will continue to bear fruit for generations to come.

May we carry on the work she has started, with the hope to see the life of Christ in the heart of each child we serve through the ministry of VisionTrust.

*“I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.” II Timothy 4:7 (NLT)*

# BRAZIL

One of the most thrilling highlights of this past quarter is the success of the Esporte Vivo Project, which leverages sports to bring positive change to the lives of students. One hundred thirty students from our two VisionTrust Learning Centers are participating in judo on a weekly basis, honing important skills such as discipline, resilience, and goal setting. VisionTrust Brazil Country Director, Humberto, shared his perspective on the importance of this program:

*“It does not matter the size of the adversary, but that in Christ we can overcome and win [...] The purpose of judo in the programs is to reveal Jesus and His love, to generate opportunity and to stimulate dreams and transform the physical, mental, educational, and spiritual reality of children and adolescents.”*

This quarter, Gabriel and Nicole won a gold and silver medal, respectively, and they will travel to the national judo competition at the end of August to represent the state of Goiás. They are nervous but thrilled about the opportunity!

In May, our staff facilitated important workshops focused on the prevention of sexual exploitation of children. Volunteers led a workshop on internet safety, coaching sixty-four mothers on how to monitor their children’s use of websites and cultivate an environment of trust so that children feel safe reporting concerning online interactions.. A medical intern and psychologist also met with parents to educate them on their children’s rights and the legal protections available to promote a culture of protection and honesty. Children and adolescents also received age-appropriate instruction via videos, music, and conversation circles.

In spiritual development, our students continue to grow in their faith and love for the Lord. One of our newer students, Wendel Gabriel, shared with a staff member that he did not have his own Bible. He was thrilled to receive one as a gift, and older students quickly helped him learn how to understand the chronology of the various books and how they function together. Wendel Gabriel decided to give his life to Jesus, and he told his teachers, “From now on, I am saved and when Jesus returns, I will be with Him.” We praise God for Wendel Gabriel’s transformative experience, as well as the decision of two other students — Kethelyn and Ana Jullia — who also made first-time commitments to Jesus.

God’s unconditional and irrepressible love continues to shine forth in the lives of the children we serve.



Nicole (left) and Gabriel (right)

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

During the months of April, May, and June, our students in the Dominican Republic celebrated many memorable moments alongside their VisionTrust teachers, peers, and family members.

Cultivating a culture of literacy continues to be a priority across our ten VisionTrust programs. Five programs have established reading corners with developmentally and culturally appropriate books, and a sixth program will receive a reading corner during the next quarter. The children enjoyed participating in creative activities to celebrate special days such as Earth Day and Mother's Day. For Mother's Day, our students expressed their love through acrostic poems, small gifts, and songs. In the community of Camino de Libertad, a short-term mission team from Faith Bible Church in The Woodlands, Texas, helped facilitate a men's retreat for the fathers in the community.

Our students finished their academic year in June. At our largest school, located in the community of Herrera, 95% of the students moved up to the next grade level. Our school principal, Yvelise, shared this reflection:

*"I want to express the great pleasure it gives me to tell you that we have arrived at the end of a school year in which God has been with us all along the way. God is good and I hope that the students who leave the center this year will be able to study careers that will allow them to live in a dignified manner — and above all that they will be able to be multipliers of the Word learned here."*

A short-term mission team from Journey Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado, visited the Ketty's House orphanage in June. The children were thrilled to have special visitors who facilitated games, crafts, and outings — what a perfect way to kick off summer vacation!

In spiritual development, our staff at half of our program sites planned and facilitated evangelistic events during the first half of 2024. Family and friends were invited to join the children at their VisionTrust program to hear the Word of God, play games, do crafts, and share refreshments. We praise God that five students — Glori, Berainy, Samuel, Jeremy, and Maikel—made first-time decisions to follow Jesus during this quarter.

We continue to empower children to care for their physical bodies and make positive choices. For example, students from 1st – 5th grade at the Centro Educativo Cristiano Mi Esperanza attended a program called "Smashed," which provided age-appropriate instruction on the risks of alcohol for both minors and adults.

As we look forward to the remainder of 2024, we trust God will continue to strengthen and equip the children in our schools, orphanage, and Learning Centers.



# GUATEMALA

Our VisionTrust Guatemalan team has been enjoying a wonderful year thus far serving the students in the ministry. Rut, our VisionTrust Guatemala Country Director, shared this reflection:

*“Staff bonds have become stronger and that always brings fresh air to the programs. It has really helped us to look at one another as vulnerable people who are working together. Sometimes the busyness makes us forget that behind each face there is a story [...] Realizing this and opening up, owning our vulnerability has softened relationships and made us a stronger team.”*

In the area of academics, our students have enjoyed a variety of rich educational experiences this past quarter at their VisionTrust programs. At the Cruz Blanca Learning Center, our students put together presentations about the various cultures of Guatemala, promoting respect and celebrating the value of multiculturalism in their country. They also created art projects to study different subject matter — the younger children made murals to celebrate Guatemalan authors and literacy, while the adolescents made geometric constructions to emulate sculptures made by Roberto González Goyri and Efrain Recinos. At the Los Verdes Learning Center, our students participated in a round table discussion about health, covering topics such as proper diet, drinking enough water, protecting your skin from sun exposure, and getting adequate sleep. Our adolescents attended a sex education talk facilitated by community health professionals and interns from a local university. In June, our 7th and 8th grade students engaged in a hands-on learning project about entrepreneurship in which they invented a product and a marketing plan that would appeal to the public.

In the area of spiritual development, we praise God that seven students made a first-time decision to follow Jesus—Jonathan, Christopher, Marcio, Yanira, Ana, Norma, and Alisson. Our middle school students also participated in a workshop on empathy, studying Scripture to understand how to follow the example of Jesus by expressing emotions in an assertive way and reflecting God’s love and forgiveness.

We praise God for the big and small ways we are seeing the Holy Spirit move in the lives of the children we serve in Guatemala as they mature and grow in their faith.



# PERU

During the months of April, May, and June, our students experienced a multitude of joyous moments at their VisionTrust program sites.

Firstly, two of our church partners — Lakepoint Church and Cypress Church — have provided an outstanding amount of support in nutrition through their meal packing events. The highly nutritious meal packets are being utilized weekly in our program sites and are also being distributed to families during academic breaks. The second quarter of the year brought about health challenges due to the dry and dusty conditions; however, the students who contracted respiratory illnesses recovered well.

One of the biggest highlights this quarter was two mission teams visiting in June. Cypress Church from Columbus, Ohio, completed two reading corners and hosted a wonderful professional development workshop with the VisionTrust Peru teaching staff. The team also enjoyed leading Bible lessons, engaging the students in crafts and games, and reinforcing proper dental hygiene habits. Lakepoint Church from Muskego, Wisconsin, hosted a Vacation Bible School and sports camp. The students loved diving into the Old Testament story of Joseph, and they had a blast learning how to play American football. The team also blessed the Maranatha Learning Center with a new laptop and printer, along with backpacks and educational supplies for all the students. A heartwarming moment of their visit was a family fun night, which created an opportunity for children and parents to spend the evening together enjoying snacks, games, crafts, and other exciting activities.

We continue to see God move in amazing ways in the lives of our students. Two of our adolescents—Anahi and Sol—were accepted into university! We also celebrated the baptisms of two students, Nashira and Leydi. VisionTrust Peru Country Director, Ada, shared this testimony about Nashira:

*“We have seen in Nashira’s life how she has grown in the [VisionTrust] program, and we have witnessed her growth in the ways of God. She attends discipleship and is an active part of the evangelism group. She recently made the decision to be baptized and publicly show her love for God. She took this step of faith even in the midst of difficulties and family problems.”*

We also celebrate the decisions of Angie, Eva, Sayuri, Brisa, Cesar and Briseth, who each indicated a first-time commitment to follow Jesus this past quarter. Praise God for the wonderful ways in which He is moving in the hearts and lives of the children at the Casa Luz orphanage and the four VisionTrust Learning Centers in Peru.



# SOUTHEAST ASIA

During April and May, our VisionTrust Southeast Asia children and adolescents enjoyed their summer academic break. Activities included a Bible camp, English lessons, a visit to the zoo, sewing lessons, planting trees, screen printing, card making, basket weaving, and reading books.

The weather is extremely hot during these months, and our leaders took care to coach children on food safety, protection from sun exposure, and mosquito abatement methods to prevent disease. Our students received deworming medication to protect against dangerous parasites. We celebrated important water and sanitation improvements across our program sites, including a new well, three new toilets, and a new water filtration unit. Affordability and accessibility of food staples, such as rice and cooking oil, are severely impacted by ongoing challenges in the region — please pray for God’s provision for our students and families.

Our students started their new academic year in early June. While there are consistent difficulties in the educational system due to limited resources and personnel, our students work hard to master important literacy and numeracy skills. Book reports are a helpful exercise, and students have shared their knowledge about a variety of topics, such as famous historical figures, animals, energy resources, safety practices during natural disasters, and character development.

We praise God for the spiritual growth in the lives of our students. Fourteen children made first-time decisions to follow Jesus as the Lord of their lives. Our VisionTrust Southeast Asia Country Director shared this reflection about Nellie\*, one of the young women who put her faith in Christ this quarter:

*“She prays to God for what she wants. She testifies again when God answers. She has lost contact with her mother. She takes strength from God and tries to take care of her brother and sister and does what they need.”*

Lastly, we celebrate the silver anniversary of one of our orphanages. Over the past twenty-five years, one hundred forty children in our care have graduated secondary school, fifteen students have graduated from Bible school, and two hundred ninety-four people have professed faith in Jesus Christ. This is a beautiful testimony of the legacy of the VisionTrust Southeast Asia ministry—we cannot wait to see how God will continue to move in the years to come!

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



# SOUTH ASIA

First, we want to share a heartfelt message of gratitude from our VisionTrust South Asia Country Director, which he wrote after the successful completion of Vacation Bible School programs across our ten VisionTrust Learning Centers during the month of April:

*“In every Learning Center, there are children eagerly waiting for such celebrations so that they can get to have a day to themselves, away from the daily troubles and abuses they face at home. There are children who do not get to eat all three meals a day, let alone have a whole feast. Children are struggling to get their basic needs fulfilled, adolescent girls not being educated about personal hygiene, and children dreaming to get into colleges for higher education [...] We are extremely grateful for every donor who has contributed for these precious children and pledge to work hard for the upliftment of these beautiful souls every day!”*

As our students wrapped up their academic year in April, they excitedly counted down the days until the Vacation Bible School program at their VisionTrust Learning Center began. This annual tradition is always a highlight for the students, and this year’s event was “The Quest for Purpose,” based on Philippians 2:13. The students had a traditional hot breakfast upon arrival, before jumping into a time of singing and dancing. Learning an African song called “Hamba Nachi Kululu Vachu,” which means, “joy and peace in the house of the Lord,” was a delightful experience! Next was coloring and Bible study, followed by a scrumptious fried chicken lunch.

In the afternoon, the children learned more songs, played group games, and participated in quizzes for exciting prizes. Local leaders performed a moving skit in which a family struggling with the negative impacts of substance abuse received aid from a local teacher offering a helping hand. Many students related to the narrative due to firsthand experiences in their own homes, and their VisionTrust leaders reassured them with these truths: God is on their side, He listens to their prayers, and He fulfills their heart’s desires. At the end of the day, each child received thick, soft bed sheets, a practical gift for our students who often have little to protect themselves from cold temperatures at night.

Our hearts are full, knowing experiences like these help our children internalize God’s love and build meaningful staff and peer relationships, which will enrich their lives now and in the coming years.





# LIBERIA

This quarter brought so many exciting milestones for our VisionTrust Liberia ministry! In May, our students participated in a variety of dynamic field trips, including visiting the Ministerial Complex at Congo Town and participating in the River of Life Conference in Margibi County. Students also enjoyed fun activities onsite at school, including an eating contest and a day dedicated to wearing traditional clothing to celebrate their heritage. Final exams and teacher evaluations took place in mid-June, and our local leaders were pleased with the positive results.

Our students continue to participate in spiritual discipleship through Bible classes and church programming at all three of our schools. We praise God that six students—Geredine, Harris, Junior, Fatu, Jennifer, and Gifty—decided to make Jesus the Lord of their lives. We also celebrate the strides students have made in their faith. VisionTrust Liberia Country Director, Stephen, shared this beautiful testimony about one of our elementary students, Princess:

*“She joined the VisionTrust program in 2022, a bright-eyed third grader with dreams larger than the distance from her hometown near the Ivorian border [...] Despite the economic hardships that led her parents to send her 600 kilometers away, Princess’ spirit remained unshaken [...] With each passing day, she blossoms both academically and spiritually. Princess leads her peers in songs during Bible study, inspiring the students who are afraid to lead. Princess’ growth is a testament to the nurturing environment provided by VisionTrust.”*

Lastly, our staff has been working to strategically improve the health of our students, leaning into the popular Liberian adage, “Sanitation is everyone’s business.” In May, two rooms of modern flush latrines were built at our VisionTrust school in Kpondeh. At the Howein school, a major facility improvement project rolled out, which involved completely replacing the roof on the school building. For these projects, VisionTrust Liberia hired local community members, which fostered a sense of ownership and interpersonal connection. In the coming months, we look forward to continuing improvements at all three VisionTrust schools.

We are grateful for the ways we see God’s love and grace pour out into the lives of the children and families we serve in Liberia.



# MALAWI

During the months of April, May, and June, we have seen the Lord bless our VisionTrust Malawi ministry in a myriad of ways. We praise God that amid unaffordable prices for food, our ministry was able to purchase a stockpile of maize and rice to ensure steady meals for the children in our VisionTrust Learning Center until the next harvest season. The price of cooking oil is notably high, which is causing challenges for the community of Katsekera, where our Learning Center is located.

Our students continue to perform well in their academics. Positive relationships between our staff and the parents and guardians help foster a spirit of collaboration and unity. Our teachers are working hard to support our students, which is producing encouraging results as students scored well on recent exams. Students continue to enjoy reading together in small groups, and our teachers hope to secure new books in the fall to continue to nurture an interest in literacy. The academic year ended in June, and the students are looking forward to an extended break from July to September.

Nomsa is one of our outstanding students this year. VisionTrust Malawi Program Director, Evance, shared this reflection about her life:

*“This child has shown her growth in Jesus Christ, and this is demonstrated in many ways. She is very helpful to her friends at school as she likes storytelling, mainly about the Bible and Jesus. Nomsa is respectful of her teachers, and she has a good heart to help others.”*

Lastly, we celebrate the first-time commitment of Tiyamike to follow Jesus. Our hearts are full as we praise God for this young woman’s decision to follow in the footsteps of her Savior, Christ Jesus.



# TANZANIA

The months of April, May, and June brought forth memorable moments for the children we serve through our VisionTrust ministry in Tanzania. First, we celebrate the creative and engaging educational opportunities our staff provided for our students. On April 20th, our preschool – 2nd grade classes took a field trip to Mikumi National Park. VisionTrust Tanzania Country Director, Peter, shared this heartwarming reflection:

*“As we entered the park, the children’s eyes lit up with wonder as they spotted various wildlife [...] The students were particularly thrilled to see a pride of lions resting under the shade of acacia trees. Guided by experienced rangers, they learned fascinating facts about each animal’s habitat and behavior. The day was filled with laughter, curiosity, and the joy of experiencing nature’s grandeur up close, making it an unforgettable adventure for all.”*

Our 5th – 7th grade students also joined in on the fun of offsite learning, focusing on civics and government during an outing on June 20th. They traveled to Dodoma to tour the Tanzanian parliament. The students gained firsthand insights on the workings of the legislative process and the significance of civic engagement. It was fascinating to observe parliamentary sessions and speak with government officials about their roles and responsibilities.

In the area of spiritual development, our students continue to enjoy chapel sessions, which give them the opportunity to sing gospel songs, memorize Bible verses, and participate in guided Bible readings. We celebrate three students—Ethan, Melissa\*, and Mark\*—who dedicated their lives to following Christ this quarter.

Our staff is thankful for improvements made on the school building roof to provide a better learning environment for our students. From June 26th-27th, our school hosted in-service training to benefit both the staff and the families we serve, focusing on educational development and well-being. Food security continues to be a high concern, especially since heavy rainfall in earlier months damaged crops and triggered higher prices. Our leaders are praying for God’s provision so that we can continue to serve nutritious meals for the children in our programs.

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



# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

During the second quarter of the year, rainy weather increased the risk of contracting mosquito-borne illnesses in the neighborhoods where we serve. Praise God, our local leaders were able to secure a donation of one hundred and fifty treated mosquito nets, one hundred and fifty blankets, fifty sleeping mats, and twenty-five water jugs from the Central African Red Cross. These resources, along with the contract VisionTrust International has with a local health clinic, are important tools that support the health of the children in our programs. In June, our leaders were able to distribute sanitary napkins to our adolescent female students, enabling them to avoid gaps in attendance at school and at their VisionTrust Learning Center during their monthly cycle. Our staff continue to encourage and support our students in their academics. In April, our staff had the opportunity to celebrate and encourage five secondary students who made great strides in their academics during the first quarter of their school year.

Our students have been enjoying studying the Bible with a focus on “abiding in Christ.” During the second quarter of the year, lessons included passages from Luke 22:47-53, Matthew 5:44, and Acts 12:5-17. The students also studied the theme of putting your trust in God (Genesis 22:1-19 and Isaiah 26:4) and the importance of honesty (Ephesians 6:13-14 and Proverbs 12:22). Our adolescent students learned about resisting temptation and honoring God with their bodies, focusing on Matthew 4:1-11 and I Corinthians 6:18-20 and 10:13.

Siarra, one of our fifteen-year-old students, shared this beautiful testimony about how the VisionTrust ministry has shaped her life in the wake of the tragic loss of her father:

*“Right after my father died, my life was completely turned upside down. I became nervous and refused the advice people gave us [...] One day, the teachers and the VisionTrust Centrafrique staff took time to pray for me. My teacher took me to her home and took the time to share with me the Biblical truth about future hope for those who believe in Jesus Christ. This is where the Holy Spirit convinced me. [Now], I come to the orphans’ meeting, I forget my worries, and I feel comforted by the Lord, Father of the orphans [...] Since I accepted Jesus into my life, I feel at peace and secure as if there is a person who is close to me and watching over me. The Lord filled my void.”*

Lastly, we celebrate five students who made first-time commitments to follow Jesus this quarter. May God be with Princia, Jéhu, Yosette, Ben-Oni, and Adora as they strive to follow Him.



# ZIMBABWE

First, we praise God for eight children who each made a first-time commitment to follow Christ. We pray for strength and joy to accompany Ramsey, Raviro, Diana, Joice, Negilgence, James, Tichawanda, and Divine as they follow Jesus with their lives.

Our VisionTrust staff have faced formidable challenges during the months of April, May, and June. A devastating drought hit Southern Africa, which has affected crops, people, and animals. Cholera and malaria have taken a toll on communities in Zimbabwe. Schools took a temporary pause due to high numbers of flu and cold cases. Thankfully, our children and caregivers have remained safe despite the problems impacting the region.

We continue to see progress in the lives of our students as they work hard in school, enjoying games and activities to reinforce their numeracy and literacy skills. In June, one hundred seventy-eight students participated in an experiential history lesson during an outing to the Zimbabwean Ruins. It was wonderful to introduce the students to an important part of their country's past!

This quarter, our students enjoyed studying the book of Genesis together. Participation in discipleship lessons has helped children increase their spiritual growth and deepen their understanding of human rights and responsibilities. The students have enjoyed reciting verses aloud and praying together as a group.

Our VisionTrust Zimbabwe Country Director, Davison, shared the testimony of Rumbidzai, an eleven-year-old from the community of Mavende:

*“Our family is made up of my mother, who is a widow, and my two brothers. I am the youngest of the three children. I love going to school. I play with my friends Ruth and Susan. I play basketball on the school team. My family is a Christian family. We always go to church to worship God [...] I am glad to be part of the VisionTrust family.”*

God's abounding love continues to shine through in the lives of the children we serve day in and day out. We are grateful for every blessing manifested in the lives of the children and adolescents who are part of our VisionTrust Zimbabwe Learning Centers.





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



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