

STREET KIDS NEWS

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

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① DAY CAMP IN THE PARK

In mid-October, we had the incredible opportunity to hold a youth day camp at Lusaka National Park, bringing together 75 young people from diverse backgrounds for a day of worship, teaching, and fun. Thirty youth from Grace and Truth Ministries and 45 youth from the streets of Lusaka came together for a life-changing experience that will be remembered for years to come.

We arranged for two buses to transport the kids—one to pick up the youth from the church, and the other to collect the young people from the streets. The buses were packed to the brim, with kids sitting on each other's laps and even hanging out of the windows! The excitement and energy were palpable as the journey to the park began.

Upon arriving at the park, the youth were thrilled to drive through and witness the wildlife. The beautiful surroundings set the perfect tone for the day ahead. We then gathered at a scenic picnic area to begin our program.

The day kicked off with a time of worship and prayer, which quickly led into a teaching session where we shared the Word of God and the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. It was an incredible moment as almost every single youth prayed the sinner's prayer, clearly grasping the depth of the gospel and the significance of salvation. It was evident that these young people were not just hearing the message, but responding with open hearts, acknowledging that Jesus is the way.

After the teaching session, we distributed scriptures and clothing to each of the youth—gifts that were received with much joy and gratitude. The youth then had the chance to engage in a variety of activities, from football (soccer) to drama and other team-building exercises. For some, the peaceful atmosphere of the park was an invitation to take a well-deserved nap amidst the serenity of nature.

In the afternoon, Chad and Reverend Muke took the opportunity to connect with the youth one-on-one. They listened to testimonies of God's transformative work in the lives of these young people as a direct result of the ministry efforts. Many shared stories of how they had encountered God in their lives, finding hope, healing, and a new sense of purpose through the ministry's outreach.

It was truly inspiring to hear how God is working in the lives of these youth—bringing healing, hope, and salvation to those who often face great challenges in life. The day was a reminder of the power of God's love and the importance of ministry that reaches out to the most vulnerable in our communities.

As the day came to a close, there was a deep sense of unity and joy among the youth, knowing that they had encountered God in a powerful way and had made new friends who shared their faith. We are so grateful for all who made this day possible and for the hearts of the youth who participated.

We look forward to more opportunities like this to see lives changed and youth empowered to walk boldly in their faith. Thank you for your continued support in this ministry—together, we are making a lasting impact!





② TRANSFORMING LIVES ONE SUNDAY AT A TIME

Since June 2024, Grace and Truth Ministries has embarked on a new outreach initiative that has been nothing short of transformative for both the children involved and the church community itself. Every Sunday morning, the church rents two buses and heads into the heart of Lusaka's Cairo Road area, offering a free ride to street kids and inviting them to join the church service and enjoy a hot meal afterward.

At first, the journey was filled with struggles. The street kids, who are used to being ignored or treated with indifference, were understandably skeptical. Compassion was a foreign concept to them, and many were hesitant to accept the offer of help. But as word spread that free food was being offered, 15-20 kids started showing up each Sunday. The church family welcomed them with open arms, providing as much food as they could and offering love and care that these children had rarely, if ever, received before.

This initiative has required a huge shift in how the church operates. Imagine inviting 20 kids off the streets every week to join your Sunday service—this small church, which can only hold around 100 people,

had to adjust to a whole new way of doing things. But despite the challenges, they welcomed the opportunity to serve these kids with open hearts.

Three months later, the program has grown exponentially. What began with a handful of children now sees 60 kids showing up consistently every week, with the buses packed to overflowing. The church has had to stretch its capacity to accommodate this growing group, and while they are thrilled with the impact, they are also limited by the size of their building.

This growth has been a testimony to the power of God's love in action. During a recent trip to Lusaka in October, Chad had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the profound relationship that has developed between the kids and the church leadership. As Chad and Reverend Chris Muke were driving down Cairo Road, they saw children running up to Pastor Chris, calling him "Papa" and hugging him tightly. It was a moment that brought tears to Chad's eyes, as he saw the deep, genuine love that Pastor Chris has for these kids.

There is something incredibly powerful about the way God is moving through this ministry. These children, who once lived in isolation and neglect, are now finding hope, love, and community in the arms of Grace and Truth Ministries. And this is only the beginning. The church is eager to reach even more children, but they need your prayers and support as they continue to navigate the challenges of growth.

Please join us in praying for the ongoing success of this outreach. Pray for the continued transformation of lives, for the resources to accommodate more children, and for the strength and wisdom of Pastor Chris and the church leadership as they navigate the challenges of this beautiful, life-changing ministry. We thank God for the incredible work He is doing through Grace and Truth Ministries and look forward to seeing how He will continue to bless this outreach in the months and years to come.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in this ministry. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of these children and sharing the love of Christ in ways that will impact them for eternity.

③ AN UPDATE ON LITTLE BLESSING

If you've been following our ministry journey, you may remember Blessing's story. Back in May 2024, Lovemore and Chad met a young girl named Blessing, just 14 years old, living on the streets of Lusaka. Her story was heart-wrenching—facing unimaginable hardships and surrounded by despair, she was just one of many street children who had lost hope. After hearing her story, Lovemore and Chad agreed that Blessing needed prayers more than anyone. Her life on the streets was incredibly tough, and her future seemed uncertain.

But praise God, just look at her now! The transformation is nothing short of miraculous, and we are overjoyed to share her progress with you. The photo below shows Blessing, now wearing new clothes and beaming with a big smile. We are thrilled to report that Blessing is no longer living on the streets. Through the love and support of Grace and Truth Ministries, she has been reunited with her mother—a reunion that, at first, seemed impossible.

You may be wondering how this happened. Blessing's initial decision to leave home was due to her mother's severe struggles with alcohol and other challenges. Life had become unbearable for Blessing, so she sought refuge on the streets. But God had a plan. In a beautiful turn of events, Blessing not only returned to her mother but also brought her mother to church. Together, they have been attending

every Sunday for the past couple of months, and their lives are being transformed. Blessing's courage to restore her family has brought hope not only to her but also to her mom.

In late October, Chad had the opportunity to sit down with Blessing during the youth day camp, where he was able to hear firsthand about her progress. And here's even more good news: Blessing has been registered for school! She is set to begin her studies at the start of the next semester in January, a bright new chapter in her life that will set her on a path toward a brighter future.

This is truly a story only God could write. From a street child with no hope, to a young girl reuniting with her mother, attending church, and preparing to go back to school—it is a testament to God's grace and the power of a community of believers coming together to love and care for the least of these. We are so excited for Blessing's future and deeply grateful for your prayers and support that make stories like hers possible.

Please continue to pray for Blessing, her mother, and all the children in our ministry. Pray for their continued healing, for their growth in faith, and for the opportunities they need to thrive. We are confident that with God's help, Blessing's story will continue to unfold in beautiful ways, and that many more lives will be transformed by His love.



4 STORY: LEADER JOE

Joe's story is nothing short of powerful—a true testimony to the transforming, redeeming power of God. It's a living example that no one is beyond the reach of God's grace, and that no matter how far someone has fallen, God can always turn their life around.

Joe was introduced to God by his parents when he was young. He grew up attending church and, as a teenager, he genuinely loved the Lord. But like many young people, when he reached his twenties, he began to drift away from his faith. The pressures and temptations of the world began to pull him in a different direction, and soon he found himself living on the streets. He became deeply involved in drug dealing and other dangerous activities. He was a leader among the street kids, a figure of respect and influence in that part of the city. Everyone on the streets knew Joe, and many looked up to him, even though his life was spiraling further away from everything good and godly.

But God had a plan for Joe's life, and that plan was about to unfold in a way that no one could have expected.

One Sunday, Joe reluctantly decided to hop on one of the buses that was picking up street kids for a church service at Reverend Chris Muke's church. His initial motivation wasn't spiritual—he just wanted to see where the kids were going every week. He was curious about what was going on and how he could maintain his influence over the street youth. But when Joe stepped into that service, something incredible happened. The Holy Spirit began to work in his heart. The love of God broke through his hardened exterior, and for the first time

in years, Joe truly saw the man he had become. He was overwhelmed with conviction, and right there, in the presence of God, Joe repented for the life he had lived. It was a powerful moment of surrender and transformation.

Since that Sunday, Joe's life has been radically changed. He is no longer the leader of leaders on the streets in the same way; instead, he has become a key leader in the ministry to street youth. His heart for these kids has ignited a deep passion to help them escape the cycle of poverty, drugs, and hopelessness that he himself once lived in. Joe has played a crucial role in supporting the ministry. He actively promotes the church and encourages street kids to come, giving them a sense of hope and belonging they never had before. He helps organize, manage, and lead the youth, bringing structure and leadership to the outreach.

During the recent youth day camp, we had the privilege of spending time with Joe and hearing his heart for the young people he serves. His passion for getting these kids off the streets and into a better life is evident in everything he does. Joe has a mission, and it is clear that God has placed him in a position of influence and leadership to bring change to the lives of those who need it most. Joe is a true testament to the fact that God's power can redeem anyone, no matter their past. He is living proof that the grace of God is greater than any mistake, any addiction, or any brokenness.

We are incredibly blessed to have Joe as a part of this ministry. His heart for these youth, his dedication to seeing them restored, and his commitment to serving the Lord are inspiring. Through Joe, we are seeing lives changed, one step at a time, and we know that God is continuing to do a mighty work in and through him.



JOE'S NEW SHOE BUSINESS - A STEP TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE SUPPORT

One of the challenges that Joe, a key figure in our outreach to street youth in Lusaka, has shared with us is the heavy responsibility he carries for the many young people who rely on him for support. Joe has become a father figure to nearly 200 kids living on the streets, offering help when they are in desperate need—mostly for food. While his heart is pure, and his desire to help these kids is sincere, Joe has been faced with a difficult dilemma: in order to meet their needs, he has, at times, resorted to seeking money through ungodly ways. His most heartfelt prayer is for the means to support these kids in a way that honors God.

In response to this need, the ministry team felt God's leading to bless Joe with seed money to start his own business—one that would allow him to raise money in a way that aligns with his faith and values. After much prayer and discernment, Joe shared his dream of owning a shoe business. He's always had a passion for shoes and saw it as an opportunity not only to provide for himself but also to sustain his ministry to the street kids.

So, in a step of faith, Reverend Chris Muke and Joe went shopping at a few local shoe wholesalers to purchase the initial stock of shoes to kickstart Joe's new business venture. With the new shoes in hand, Joe is now officially the owner of his very own shoe shop!





A FEW MORE TESTIMONIES

GRACE'S STORY

Grace's testimony is a powerful reminder of resilience and the transformative power of faith. She opened up about her harrowing past, a time when she felt utterly "damaged" while living on the streets. The weight of her experiences was compounded by the silence of her young daughter, who didn't speak for three long years. Grace often felt lost and alone, grappling with the despair of their situation.

However, everything began to change when she found a community at her church. With each Sunday service, Grace felt a flicker of hope reignite within her. The support and love she encountered there were unlike anything she had experienced before. Miraculously, her daughter, once trapped in silence, began to find her voice again. Grace describes it as nothing short of a miracle—a testament to the healing power of love, faith, and community.

Now, Grace is not only committed to her spiritual journey but also determined to improve their lives. She actively seeks opportunities to get off the streets and find work that will enable her to provide for herself and her daughter. Her gratitude to God is palpable; she understands that every small step she takes is a move towards a brighter future. Grace's story is one of hope, illustrating that even in the darkest times, the light of faith and love can guide us toward healing and renewal.

ANOTHER BLESSING

Blessing, an 18-year-old young lady, shared her poignant testimony at the day camp, revealing the profound struggles she faces in her life. With unwavering courage, she opened up about her difficult experiences on the streets, a place she reluctantly calls home. Blessing yearns to return to her family, but the harsh reality is that her parents, engulfed in their own battles with addiction, subject her to daily abuse. The pain of her circumstances weighs heavily on her heart,

yet it is her longing for safety and love that drives her to speak out.

Despite the dangers and hardships of street life, Blessing finds herself drawn back into that world, surrounded by friends and peers who share her struggles. They create a sense of belonging that she can't find at home, but deep down, she knows this is not the life she truly wants. Her testimony reflects a desperate need for understanding, support, and shelter—something that she believes local churches can provide.

Blessing's story is a clarion call for compassion. She embodies the reality that countless young people face, caught in a cycle of abuse and neglect. Her hope is that through the kindness of others and the support of the church community, she and many like her can find the refuge they need to heal and rebuild their lives. Blessing's testimony serves as a reminder that everyone deserves a chance at a safe and loving home, and it is in the hands of those who hear her story to help turn that hope into reality.

SARAFINE'S STORY

Sarafine's testimony at the day camp was a powerful testament to the life-changing impact of faith and support. For weeks, she resisted the invitations to join her friends on the church buses, feeling trapped in a cycle of doubt and uncertainty. It was only through the persistent encouragement of her boyfriend that she finally decided to attend. Little did she know, that decision would ignite a profound transformation within her.

As Sarafine stepped into the church for the first time, she felt a mix of apprehension and hope. During the service, she prayed earnestly, asking God to help her navigate the struggles in her life. In that moment of vulnerability, she experienced something remarkable—an immediate change within her heart. She describes it as though a

heavy weight had been lifted, allowing her to see the world through new eyes. With clarity and purpose, she found the strength to let go of past behaviors that had held her back, choosing instead to focus on doing good and living a life that pleases God.

Now, Sarafine is not only transformed but also empowered to be a beacon of hope for others. Inspired by her own journey, she actively encourages her friends and peers to join her in church, eager to share the joy and peace she has discovered. Her passion for uplifting others is infectious, and she is determined to help those around her experience the same love and support that changed her life.

Sarafine's story is a beautiful reminder of the power of faith and community. It illustrates how one person's journey can create a ripple effect, inspiring others to seek change and embrace a path of positivity and purpose. Her testimony is a call to all who are struggling, showing that it is never too late to turn towards the light and find a new beginning.

ABOUT US

In Canada, this ministry work is led by Chad Amirault of Halifax, NS and Lovemore Savanhu of Winnipeg, MB. Our hearts have broken for these kids and youth that live in heartbreaking conditions and for many of them, have never known true love. They are no longer junkies, they are loved children of God!

