CampsAbroad
A Mission Arm of The Wilds

Fall 2025

NEWSLETTER

In Association with the Wilds



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM BOTSWANA, GUATEMALA, ZAMBIA, AND OTHER LOCATIONS!

CAMPSABROAD.ORG

ENABLING CHURCHES ON EVERY CONTINENT TO REACH TEENS THROUGH LIFE-ALTERING, CAMPING EXPERIENCES.

GUATEMALA





A pandemonium of green parrots flew overhead as campers sought shade among dense tropical plants for group discussions with their counselors. Light jackets were in order during the unseasonably cool mornings and evenings. Tortillas, hot sauce, and fruit juices appeared at nearly every meal. Ah, Guatemala!

One of the great blessings of serving with CampsAbroad is meeting brothers and sisters who joyfully serve the Lord in far-off places. Volunteers carved out precious hours in the days leading up to the camp to prepare every detail, and the teens benefited. The preaching was clear and engaging. The activities were enthusiastic. The counselors were compassionate as they challenged their campers regarding their relationship with the Lord. We praise God that many campers came to Him during the week, while many others made choices to live for Him in various ways. This group of believers is hungry for opportunities to improve their counseling and program. With tears in their eyes, they expressed gratitude for the opportunity to strengthen and expand their ministry to teens from across Central America.

SOUTH AFRICA (BERGVILLE)

This second camp in Bergville got off to a bumpy start, but quickly settled in as 80 Zulu campers launched a game of Big Ball in the chill of the mountain air. One older teenage girl, who had seemed very hard, said, “This camp wasn’t just good—it was amazing in every way!” A young man who received Christ that week—on his birthday—will now celebrate two birthdays every July 1st! Another camper explained that the camp was special because “the counselors listen and care.” To God be the glory!

BOTSWANA



An American missionary spent years renovating a failed resort to serve the surrounding communities with Word-centered camps. The inaugural camp was short and small, partially because of serious floods that disrupted the school schedule, but still, the campers were enthusiastic. Seeing campers excited about friends coming to Christ moved the camp leadership to tears.

SAIPAN



Despite international tensions that kept camper numbers low on this small Pacific Island, the Lord used this return visit to encourage young people in their walk with Him and change lives for eternity. One camper, a believer from a home hostile to the gospel, soaked up the fellowship. Even a busy counselor admitted at the end of the week, “I used to think youth ministry was not a good use of my time, but I don’t think that way anymore.”

PERU

The Lord sent a cold front during camp that gave relief from the intense heat, and He held off the heavy rains until lights out—ideal for the camp schedule. Leadership estimated that half of the campers had never trusted Christ as Savior. Many of these campers had deep, thoughtful questions, and the local churches will continue to follow up. Several of the believers shared how God used His Word (Philippians in particular) to grow their contentment and joy despite the challenges they face in their villages.

PHILIPPINES



After several years' absence, CampsAbroad returned to the region of Panay in the Philippines to help our local team relaunch "e-camp" (short for evangelistic camp focused on reaching lost young people). To do this, we helped train a new batch of counselors and held a demonstration camp on the nearby island of Guimaras. With an eager pool of young counselors and dozens of small, local churches scattered around the region, we believe that e-camp is poised to make a comeback in a big way.

AFRICA MK CAMP





Having seen the impact of specially focused MK camps in Southeast Asia, South America, and Western Europe, CampsAbroad has been seeking to launch one in Africa. Missionary Kids (MKs) face unique challenges and struggles that a monocultural person may not understand. Some end up struggling emotionally, physically, and spiritually—especially when transitioning back to their passport country as they grow older. Giving MKs an opportunity to come together with other teens in similar circumstances can make a significant difference in their lives, especially when those unique struggles are addressed biblically. This inaugural camp effort was held in George, South Africa, a growing, modern city along the Garden Route. Relative safety from violent crime, stunning coastal views, and easy access from other African countries made it an ideal location. Here are a few testimonies from the inaugural Africa MK Camp: "In all the places we've been as missionaries, I've never felt at home anywhere—until I came to this camp." "This week, God showed me that it is possible for me to be all in wherever I am." "Thank you for doing this camp—it has made a huge difference in my life." By God's grace, we hope this camp will become an annual event. It is certainly needed.

ZAMBIA





Zambia has our attention! In addition to the two ministries we've already assisted this year, CampsAbroad has plans in the next few months to partner with two additional ministries in this rugged, rural country. In April, we traveled to Lusaka to assist missionaries Todd and Kathy Beaman. "We" included a CampsAbroad team member and a Kenyan pastor we met about five years ago and talked through the philosophy of camping. He now has a team that travels throughout Kenya, operating camps. His purpose for joining this trip was to encourage nationals to see how camping can strengthen their churches. Over 160 youth walked each day to attend the 3-day event—perfectly filling the local church. Unseasonal rain fell throughout the week, and we wondered if the roads would be washed out. Praise the Lord, we were never forced to change our outdoor plans.

Although we sensed many campers were battling malaria and wondered if they had the energy for our planned games, we could not have been more wrong when we introduced our final game—Feetball! A favorite at The Wilds! The renewed energy carried into the evening service, where over 50 youth responded to the gospel. The Beamans are thrilled with the prospect of the influence that this year's camp will continue to have on the churches in the villages. From Lusaka, we continued on to Ndola. Since our first visit in 2023, the pastors and campers have eagerly looked forward to this return. We encouraged six local pastors in training, and the youth from their churches, along with others, came a few days after for camp. In addition, Pastor Maron joined us for the training. Maron, who attended a CampsAbroad camp in the early 2000s, is now a pastor and camp director in northern Zambia. His camp and ministry experience was invaluable to the pastors and counselors throughout the training. The theme for the week was the life of Joseph—a timely focus, as the region had recently endured death due to famine, cholera, and malaria. Campers shared testimonies of how, through Christ, they could overcome life's struggles. God is clearly at work, and Zambia's doors for camp ministry are wide open.

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