CampsAbroad
A Mission Arm of The Wilds

Spring 2026

NEWSLETTER

In Association with the Wilds



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

IN THIS ISSUE:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NIGERIA, SOUTH AFRICA, AND THAILAND!

CAMPSABROAD.ORG

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

THEN AND NOW







A small missions ministry began out of The Wilds right after Y2K and before TSA. Ahead of YouTube, the iPhone, or the proliferation of pickleball, God planted the seed of an idea in the hearts of Matt and Kelly Collier.

Churches and pastors around the world saw the value of a well-run camp ministry, but many didn't know where to start. The Collier's vision took shape and crossed oceans landing into airports in India, Papua New Guinea, and Venezuela. Then it bumped down roads in Uruguay, Zambia, and Australia. The seed sprouted into CampsAbroad.

Campers returned year after year. Some became counselors, then directors, pastors, and missionaries. Today many send their own children to camps that didn't exist 25 years ago. Our teams now serve alongside nearly as many ministries in a single year as they did in the first five years combined. Along the way, we've packed—and unpacked—nearly 700 big balls in places ranging from urban Asia to African mountains and Patagonian coasts. The seed has grown and is bearing eternal fruit.

Over the past 25 years, CampsAbroad has touched nearly 70 countries. Local partners now serve more than 1,000 churches and 15,000 campers each year. The ripples spread around the globe, across generations, and into eternity.



No individuals "did" this. Many have sacrificed, prayed, gone, and rejoiced as God opened doors and changed hearts through the Good News of Jesus Christ. Teens and their leaders tell us regularly about the frustration, suffering, and bondage of life in this broken world, and it is a privilege to carry the treasure of the gospel to young hearts.

In recent months, our teams have had in-depth ministry in Brazil, Kenya, Peru, Zambia, and more that you'll read about in this issue. Thank you for being our friends and partners for the sake of the gospel—for the sake of the next generation and the advance of God's glorious kingdom.





SOUTH AFRICA

Mark Coffey, director of Camp Rhino, invited us back to train his new team in CampsAbroad philosophy and counselor training. Most of the counselors, including Amine, were former campers. Amine surrendered to preach on our first trip and now serves as both a counselor and assistant pastor. A pastor commented this year that the counselors seemed particularly purposeful and spiritually focused. Several campers made professions of faith, mostly through their conversations with their counselors.





THAILAND

This unique camp focused on campers from Myanmar while being held in the more open country of Thailand. Thankfully, young people regularly cross the northern Thai border for education and employment opportunities, providing an open door to reach into a country that has long been closed to outside gospel efforts. Approximately 40 young people came to this first camp, many from Buddhist backgrounds. Next up—partnering with local churches in Myanmar for further gospel impact!





NIGERIA



Yams, fish, jollof rice, and the Mainland Camp Cow—may it rest in pieces—were staple fare for the trip. Yes, the camp coordinators purchased a live cow (and then another) to feed the approximately 250 campers gathered near Oyo Town, Nigeria.

The camp start was a bit rough—as first-year camps often are. But by day two, things were running smoothly. The Nigerian team was thrilled with how the structure and counselor training opened doors for gospel conversations with the campers in a country where the population is pretty evenly split between Muslim and Christian (in the broadest sense). Sadly, the charismatic and prosperity movements have left countless blind leaders guiding millions of blind followers.

Amid enthusiastic competition and great food, there were messages from 2 Timothy exhorting the young people to know God and live for Him. Toward the end of camp, the lead pastor approached us with a concern, “Next year, we’re going to have a problem. I am serious. They are going to tell their friends, ‘You missed it!’ How do you keep camper numbers down?” That was a major point of discussion as we look toward returning later this year.

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PO Box 509
Taylors, SC 29687
P: (864) 268-4760

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