



YOUNG LIFE AFRICA



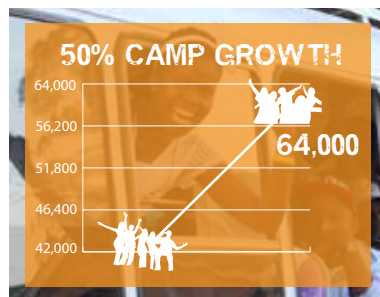
Young Life was made for AFRICA



Double Triple

When Young Life launched the Reaching a World of Kids initiative in 2009, the worldwide mission of Young Life was reaching a million kids. Young Life set the somewhat audacious goal of doubling that number in seven years, to two million kids. When the African Senior Leadership Team met to discuss this, they decided to leapfrog this goal with “double, double” and set out to double and then double again. And, since this is Africa, there was soon a “Double, Double” song and a dance to commemorate the goal. As years passed, and it became apparent Africa was doubling every two years (increasing at 50 percent per year), the African leaders revised the goal to “double, triple.”

As we entered Fiscal 2015 (which started on Oct. 1, 2014), the Ebola crisis had taken root in West Africa; Young Life clubs, camps and Campaigners had to be closed, along with schools and virtually every other public institution. West Africa leaders, led by James Davis, switched gears and began to pitch in to distribute aid. They also creatively continued to reach lost kids, but without the traditional Young Life approaches of outreach clubs, camp and discipleship groups. Instead leaders contacted kids one-on-one over the phone or in home visits, spreading the love of Jesus at an incredibly dark time. The cessation of normal Young Life activities in West Africa impacted growth for the entire continent, bringing down most of our continent-wide growth metrics from 50 percent per year to 20 percent ... except for camp, which continued to grow at over 50 percent.



2015

Young Life is a little more than halfway through Fiscal 2015, but new metrics were just published for the period of September 2014 through April 2015. Those metrics are shown on the sidebar. As West Africa emerges from the Ebola crisis, we are already seeing kids rush back to Young Life clubs, and both Liberia and Sierra Leone have hosted “Survivor Camps” for kids who have survived the disease, but have lost family and been stigmatized by their communities. While our growth has remained strong, the most striking impact of 2015 has been the depth and richness of ministry. We are now seeing a generation of new leaders emerging from Ebola survivor camps, kids who have been given a new life, both spiritually and physically, after the disease. In addition, we are witnessing a new maturity of leadership, brought about in large part from experiences along the Freedom Walk. And as God pours out His answers to our new faith prayers, new faces and places are added almost daily to this chapter of the Book of Life in Young Life Africa.

AFRICA 2015

By the Numbers

423,282
Kids Reached

68,873
Average # of Kids at Weekly Clubs

64,000
Kids and Leaders to Camp (estimate)

20,823
Average # of Kids at Campaigners

3,851
Volunteer Leaders

\$2,592,000
Operating Budget for fiscal 2015

\$3,200,000
Camp Budget for fiscal 2015
(\$2,560,000 raised in the U.S.;
\$640,000 raised in Africa)

\$6.20
Operating Cost per Kid Reached



FREEDOM WALK

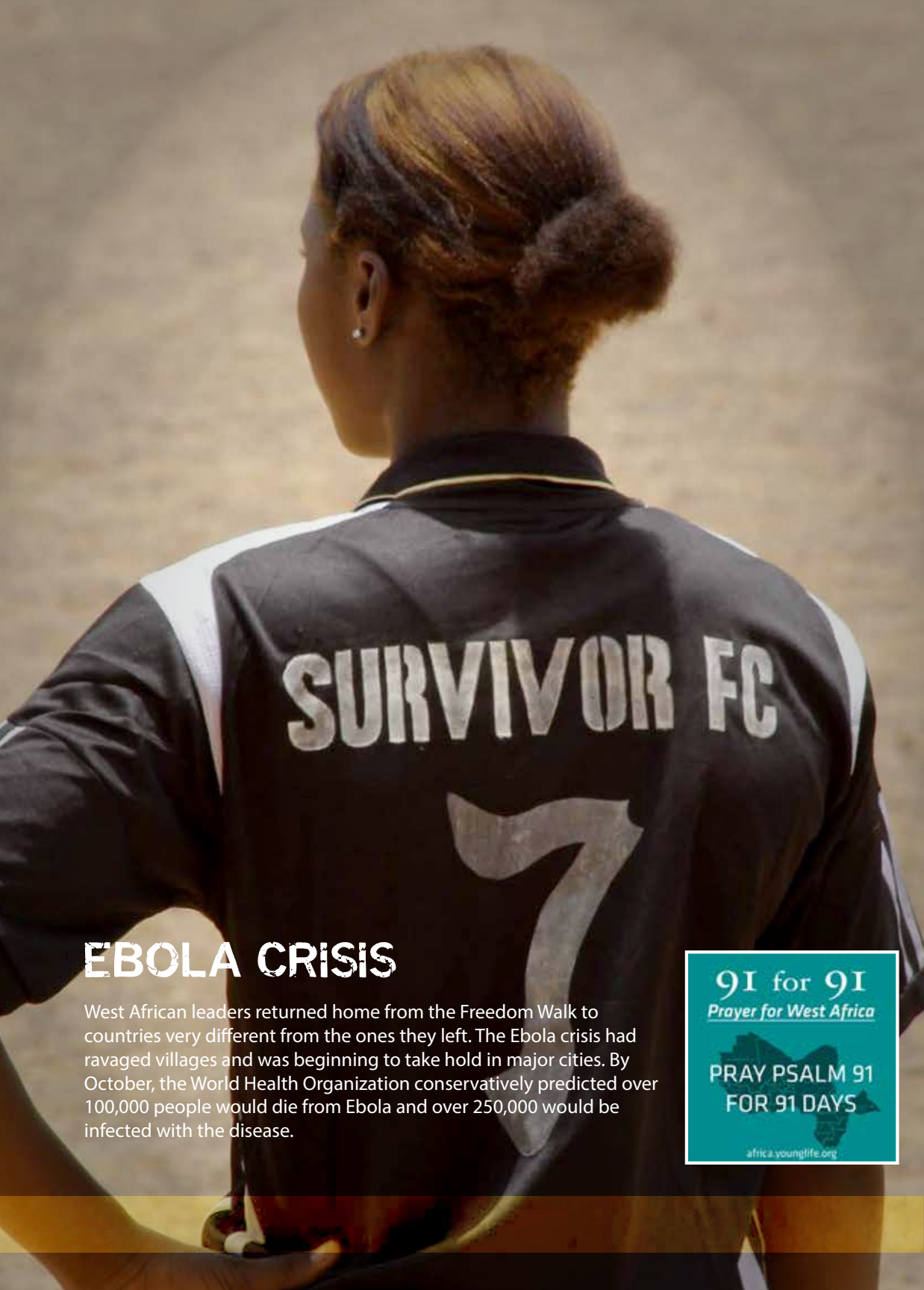
2015 began in the shadow of the Freedom Walk. In July 2014, hundreds of Africans and Americans walked nearly 1,400 kilometers across Tanzania, praying for God to break chains, release His presence and power, raise up leaders and open doors for ministry. People were healed or delivered of demons, hundreds decided to follow Jesus and thousands were prayed with or heard the Gospel proclaimed. In the wake of the Walk, Young Life has begun to spring up along the trail, and many more clubs are expected from seeds sown. Two of those places are Mpwapwa and Morogoro.

MPWAPWA: The Freedom Walk team camped on the front lawn of an old Anglican cathedral in Mpwapwa led by Pastor Anderson. He was fascinated by Young Life and would bring young people to the cathedral each night. We ran clubs for them and our team led a number of boys to Christ. When we were breaking camp, Pastor Anderson said, “You have answered my prayers for a way to reach young people. May I join you?” Pastor Anderson finished the Walk with us, then he — a priest for 26 years — came to our new staff training and spent three weeks with us learning Young Life. He went back, recruited leaders, and began Young Life under the supervision of Regional Director Alexis Kwamy. Pastor Anderson has since brought the Archbishop of the entire Church of Tanzania to a Young Life camp and the Archbishop has asked us to train their youth leaders and to partner with them to reach kids.

MOROGORO: Our Freedom Walk teams did clubs and prayed in many local schools in Morogoro, which was one of our base camps for the Walk. A number of teachers we met said they wanted to be leaders and begin Young Life in Morogoro. This January, we trained 15 of those new leaders and they have begun contact work and have started several clubs in Morogoro this spring.

The full impact of the Freedom Walk may not be known for years and may ultimately be revealed in heaven.





EBOLA CRISIS

West African leaders returned home from the Freedom Walk to countries very different from the ones they left. The Ebola crisis had ravaged villages and was beginning to take hold in major cities. By October, the World Health Organization conservatively predicted over 100,000 people would die from Ebola and over 250,000 would be infected with the disease.



During this incredibly dark time, several of our West African leaders began to pray Psalm 91 and Steve Larmey began to pray Psalm 91 along with them. Steve felt compelled to ask others to pray Psalm 91... pray it together... for 91 days. Hundreds of people signed up, people from all over the world, and beginning on Oct. 26, we began to pray Psalm 91. We prayed for the Lord to end the Ebola crisis, prayed that our Young Life leaders and staff would be protected and prayed hope would be restored to places overrun by fear. We prayed for 91 days.

The first week we prayed, the numbers miraculously began to decline. Fewer new cases were reported in the weekly totals and then the reversal began to pick up steam. On Feb. 1, 2015, the New York Times reported: "Experts are trying to understand how the disease, which has defied the ominous predictions of the world's top infectious disease researchers, appears to be extinguishing itself with surprising swiftness."

At that date, Ebola deaths were 8,960; total infected: 21,797. One of the people praying did the math and noted 91 percent of the people who were supposed to be dead were saved and 91 percent of the people who were supposed to be infected were healthy — 91 and 91!

Only God could do that.

Despite being infected, none of our Young Life leaders or staff died from Ebola. And over the last few months, hope is being restored. Schools, which were closed in September, have begun to reopen; Young Life clubs, which had to be abandoned in the fall, welcomed the first kids back in February. In December, 117 Ebola survivors had the best days of their lives at the first-ever Ebola Survivor Camp. A second camp with 165 Ebola survivors and their leaders took place in February. Incredible stories poured out of those camps ... stories of healing, joy, and forgiveness; stories of restoration and hope. And in March, Ebola survivors returned to camp as leaders — Ebola survivors welcoming other Ebola survivors ... the love of Jesus and the miracle of Jesus on full display. A fourth survivors camp was held in Liberia in April, and in May, Liberian Young Life leaders flew to Sierra Leone on the United Nations Global Ebola Response plane and helped their fellow leaders welcome 144 Ebola survivors to camp where 114 decided to follow Jesus.



Young Life was made for AFRICA



HARD PLACES

Twelve years ago we looked at the map and asked God to help us begin ministry in the hardest places in Africa. We began praying for ministry in the most unlikely places, knowing only God could lead us there. Among those places were Timbuktu, Djibouti, Mogadishu, and Fez. These are all ancient and current Islamic strongholds — all 99 percent Muslim and some of the most dangerous places in Africa. We now have National leaders reaching kids in every one of those places. Our leader in Djibouti is the hereditary sheikh (pronounced “shake” in Arabic) of his clan of Somali people. He is addressed on the street as Sheikh — Sheikh Djibouti. He and his other Somali believers literally are shaking Djibouti. We had our first-ever camp of kids from Djibouti — 81 kids, all Muslims, all Somalis — in December. They “heard” about Jesus by the love and joy of their leaders. Pray that they will hear the words of the Gospel one-on-one with a leader as their friendship and trust grows.

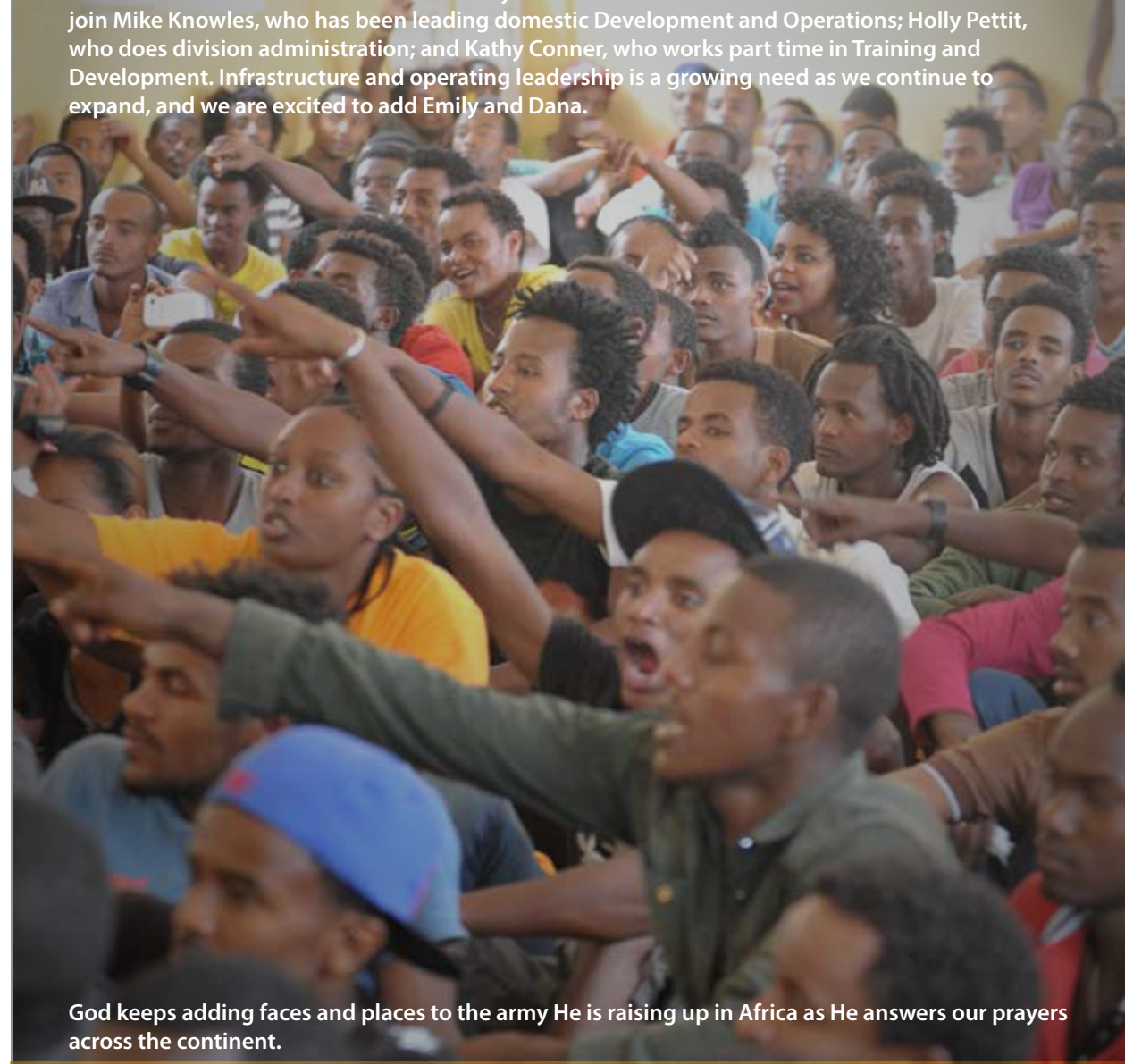
COWS UNLEASHED

After much planning and prayer, our first African Camp On Wheels was rolled out for two camps in Zimbabwe in December. The response was electric. Leaders all across Africa are asking for a COW. A second COW is being rolled out in Tanzania with an expected delivery date in June 2015.

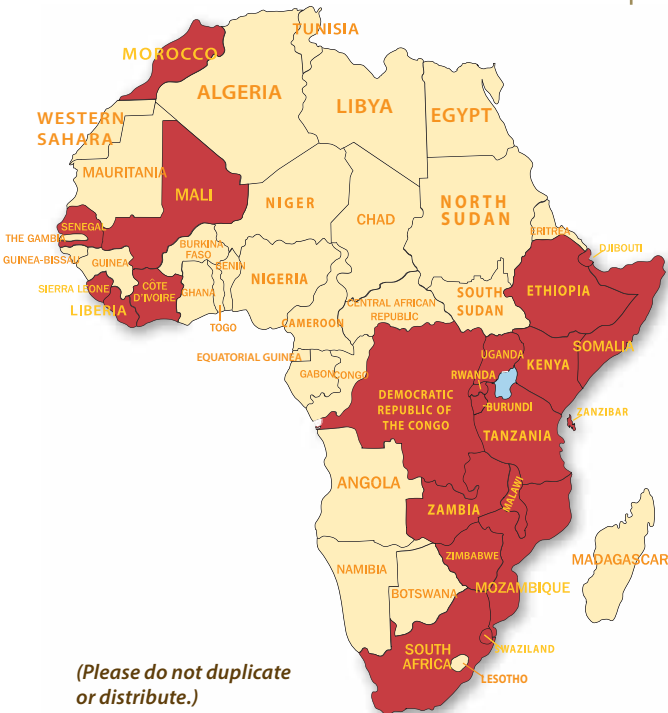


OPERATIONS

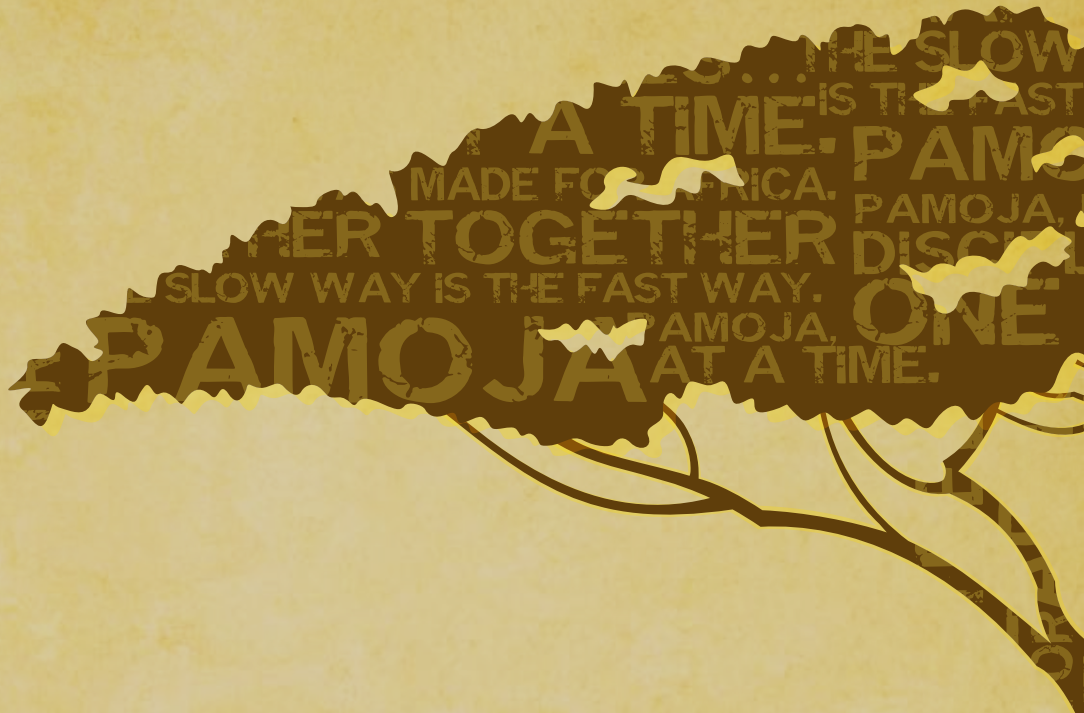
We continue to build our operations, communications and development team to support the explosive growth in Africa. We are excited to welcome Emily Blaess (pictured on the right with her three kids, Martha, Jack and Marilyn) who will be moving to Tanzania in June with Marilyn to oversee Operations in Africa (Finance, H.R., Legal). Dana Knowles joined Young Life Africa on a part-time basis beginning in March 2015 to coordinate and lead our communications efforts. Emily and Dana join Mike Knowles, who has been leading domestic Development and Operations; Holly Pettit, who does division administration; and Kathy Conner, who works part time in Training and Development. Infrastructure and operating leadership is a growing need as we continue to expand, and we are excited to add Emily and Dana.



God keeps adding faces and places to the army He is raising up in Africa as He answers our prayers across the continent.



(Please do not duplicate or distribute.)



SALT FEBRUARY 2015

The Senior Africa Leadership Team meets every six months, generally in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to pray, plan and worship. Pictured above is SALT with guests in March 2015.