

YOUNG LIFE
AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST



Young Life was made for AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST



Moving Forward

As Young Life celebrates its 75th year, Young Life Africa/Middle East enters its 14th year as a region and now a division. We started in one country, in one city with five clubs. Today we touch 24 African countries and two in the Middle East. We are in over 600 communities and have over 900 ministries. In January, we brought 30 staff from 20 countries as ambassadors and witnesses to what God is doing in Young Life across the division. Our staff fanned out across the U.S., visiting friends, staff and our partners to say thank you and to testify to what the Lord is doing. During the month, Africa/Middle East staff flew over 225 flights, visited 62 communities and met with over 6,000 people. We ended our time in the U.S. by attending the Young Life Africa Annual Retreat in Atlanta, with over 200 guests attending. It was a great launching pad for our next surge forward!

MIRACULOUS GROWTH AND NEW INITIATIVES

We are committed to closing out Young Life's Reaching a World of Kids objective strong. When this began seven years ago, Young Life, as a mission, had a goal of doubling its reach from one million to two million kids Young Life worldwide. At that time Young Life was reaching 60,000 kids on the continent of Africa. During the Reaching a World of Kids initiative, Young Life in Africa doubled, and then doubled again and then doubled a third time ... and then added an additional 130,000 kids! Miraculous! Other milestones include the launch of YoungLives (ministry to teen moms) in both Kenya and Liberia as test sites for the division. In November, 48 teen moms and 48 babies came to our first-ever YoungLives camp in Liberia. Teams have been trained and are reaching young women in two neighborhoods in Nairobi, Kenya, as well. We also launched an innovative campaign inviting people to sponsor an entire camp in Africa/Middle East for only \$7,500 — which includes a matching fund. Our goal is to find sponsors for over 100 camps this year. We anticipate over 82,000 campers across the division. Our first clubs have started in both Nigeria (Lagos) and Ghana (Accra). As we scale, we are building quality teams to ensure sustainability.



DEEPER AND WIDER

Future goals include implementing a new operations plan across the continent of Africa. This plan includes what we call our "Three-Legged Stool" (field operations, bookkeeping/finance and logistics), which is currently being rolled out in every African country. We will also double the size of our Young Life Africa/Middle East committee from 75 people (45 families) to over 150 (90-plus families). We will be expanding YoungLives across Africa as local leadership is raised up. 2016 is the "Year of the Word" with a commitment to deepening discipleship through training and equipping leaders to lead Bible studies. In every aspect of Young Life in Africa and the Middle East, we want to go deeper and wider.



2016 AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST

By the Numbers

615,368
Kids Reached **45% INCREASE OVER 2015**

92,179
Average # of Kids at Weekly Clubs **33% INCREASE OVER 2015**

82,000
Kids and Leaders to Camp **27% INCREASE OVER 2015**

31,475
Average # of Kids at Campaigners **51% INCREASE OVER 2015**

4,848
Volunteer Leaders **25% INCREASE OVER 2015**

\$3,198,000
Operating Budget for Fiscal 2016

\$4,195,000
Camp Budget for Fiscal 2016 (\$3,370,000 raised in the U.S.; \$825,000 raised in Africa/Middle East)

\$5.20
Operating Cost per Kid Reached **A 16% DECREASE FROM 2015**



YOUNG LIFE IN THE MIDDLE EAST ... FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS.

Looking back ... six years ago we held our first-ever Young Life camp on the shores of the Dead Sea, in the heart of the Middle East. Fifty Palestinian teenagers heard the good news of Jesus' love for them, in their native Arabic, in the middle of the Jordan Valley.

Looking forward ... this summer more than 700 teenagers, from all three major religious and cultural backgrounds in our part of the world (Jewish, Christian and Muslim) and spread out over nine camps in both Israel and the Palestinian Territories, will hear the Gospel in Arabic, Hebrew and English.

In a part of the world where the percentage of Christians is less than 2 percent, this is a reality that we on the Young Life Middle East staff team are profoundly excited about! Numerically, this represents more than 1,000 percent growth over the short history of Young Life in the Middle East, and while we are celebrating such growth, what we are most excited about are the lives behind those numbers. Palestinian teens, Israeli teens, Muslim kids, Jewish kids, youth and young adults with special needs, college students, even families, will have the opportunity to experience the life-changing transformation that so often takes place at

Young Life camp over the course of a summer.

These lives also represent the ongoing, year-round relational ministry taking place in 10 cities where Young Life maintains a presence throughout Israel and Palestine. In these communities, our seven indigenous Young Life staff members, along with more than 35 Israeli and Palestinian volunteer leaders, spend countless hours hanging out with teenagers, many of them caught in a vicious cycle of political and religious extremism. At weekly clubs, in "Campaigners" small groups and through the power of one-on-one relationships, these leaders are mentoring and discipling hundreds of youth and helping them encounter an authentic and relevant Jesus.

As literal walls are being erected between and around us, with wars and conflict devastating neighboring Syria, and millions of refugees flooding into Lebanon and Jordan to the north and ISIS less than a few hours from our borders, we believe there is no greater time to tell kids about Jesus than today. No message is more needed and immediate.

"For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us."

— Ephesians 2:14





Hands on Training (HOT)

In October 2015, leaders from across Africa gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, for a special intensive training led by senior African staff. Leaders from 11 different countries — Morocco, Senegal, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Malawi, Tanzania and even Haiti and the U.S. — attended the training. This intensive training is called HOT, or “Hands-On-Training” and also took place in Liberia for West African leaders in March 2016. HOT is unique because senior African leaders take trainees through real-life ministry experiences, giving them a front row seat. They are going to schools and doing contact work together, walking through the streets of Nairobi and venturing into neighborhoods, into soccer pitches, into homes. They are opening the doors of their houses and offices, showing them everything from how they handle fundraising to how they manage their time and how they take great care of their families. It’s a combination of leadership lectures, immersion into ministry and fellowship with one another. Participants are shown what ministry looks like and are given a chance to respond, reflect and be challenged by what they’ve seen as they attempt to imagine implementing what they have learned into their home towns, home nations and cultures.



THEY ALL SAID "YES!"

In April, Young Life Africa held its first-ever camp in Zambia. Area Director Banji Simasiku and her team welcomed 100 kids who experienced the best time of their lives and heard the life-changing story of Jesus Christ. Associate Regional Director Nkosi Sampindi bussed up to camp with a team from Zimbabwe to do program, speaking and work crew. Martin Wamalwa, Kenya regional director, helped Banji train and organize the camp. This was an all-Africa effort and is the culmination of four years of God’s work. The result ... ALL 100 kids said “yes” to Jesus!

These kids will now return home with their leaders and begin discipleship training with these kids ... beginning their Christian walk.



REDEMPTION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Outreach camp in Côte d'Ivoire had been scheduled for mid-March and leaders had spent time praying, planning and building relationships with kids in schools and neighborhoods in Grand Bassam and Bounua cities. But five days before camp, terrorists attacked a local resort in Grand Bassam, killing several people and wounding many others. The country was in mourning and people were fearful. Parents of teens signed up for camp were afraid to let their kids go, but Area Director Pascal Boidy and the other local leaders went out and started encouraging and assuring parents, one by one. When James Davis and Ethel Dixon came from Liberia to serve on the assignment team, they arrived in a city that was abnormally quiet with soldiers patrolling the streets. Then James and Ethel got the news: none of the kids who had signed up for camp could come. Their parents were afraid of another attack. But despite the opposition, Young Life leaders gathered to pray, worship and make final preparations for camp. The next day, the leaders went out again from morning until night, going door to door, talking to parents about the precautions they would take to keep their kids safe at camp. A mother of two kids who go to Young Life club in Grand Bassam told them, "I have not seen this before; your visit at our home during this difficult time shows how deeply you stand with us, and your love for our kids is unquestionable. My kids can go; I trust they are in good hands." The faith and hard work of the Young Life leaders and the work of the Holy Spirit created a heavenly environment for redemption and transformation in the midst of tragedy and evil. In all, 117 kids and 35 leaders and work crew went to camp. At the conclusion of camp, 63 of kids said "yes" to Jesus, beginning their Christian journey; 15 kids, including seven Muslim kids, were delivered from demons. There is a song that our West African leaders sing that includes the words, "I am on the Lord's side. I will never give up. I'm an overcomer. And the Lord God is on my side." Joy, hope and freedom; we are overcomers; we are on the Lord's side.



YOUNGLIVES

For the first time in Young Life Africa's history, an all-female assignment team put together a life-changing weekend for 48 teen moms and their 48 children, aged 1 week to 3 years. Each cabin leader had been a teen mom as well, which laid a deep foundation of acceptance and understanding. These young women gathered for Young Life camp in Monrovia, Liberia, in November 2015. The volunteers and staff were dedicated to giving these young women "the best time of their lives." The message of God's acceptance and love was woven into everything that happened over the three days at camp, and many responded. This newborn ministry is now growing in Liberia and Kenya with the hope of expanding it to other countries.

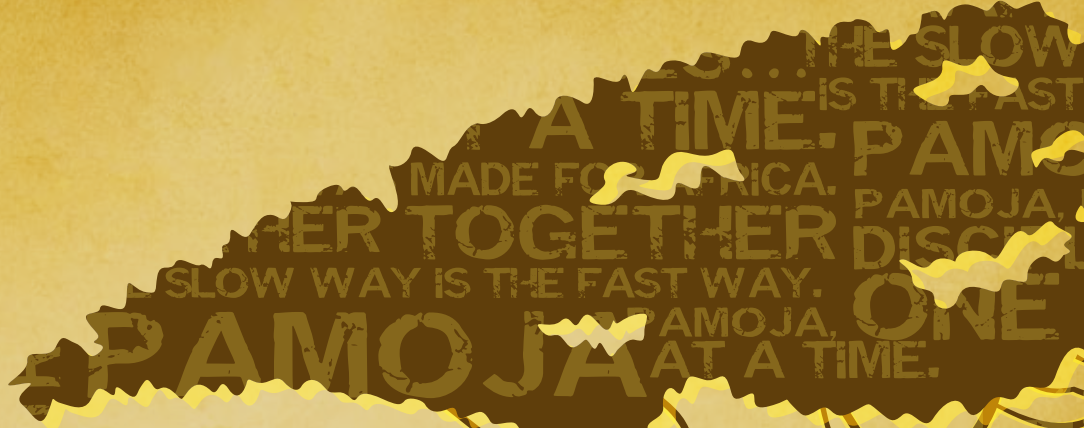


WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Despite the fact that it is countercultural in many of the places we do Young Life for women to lead in teaching God's Word, Young Life Africa/Middle East is committed to women's leadership and has deployed a Women's Leadership network across the division to develop women leaders and help them gain confidence in their roles in club, Campaigners and camp. The leaders are making a concerted effort to bring more girls to camp. In 2011, 16 percent of the kids who attended Young Life camp in Africa were girls. That number has steadily increased each year. In 2015, 42 percent of the kids attending Young Life camp in Africa were girls ... and we will not stop working until that number is 50 percent or more.

Sometimes, bringing a girl to club or to camp takes persistence and innovation. Parents are afraid to send their daughters to an overnight camp. Girls have responsibilities at home and can't break away. Young Life Ethiopia recently developed a new camping concept just for girls. They held a Day Camp on two consecutive days from early morning to late afternoon; they did two clubs per day plus had the usual fun camp activities. Parents were comfortable with this plan and let their daughters attend. Young Life Ethiopia had an all-women program team and work crew at camp, and the girls had a great time experiencing freedom, joy and the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.





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