



# YOUNG LIFE

## AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST



SPRING 2017 CAMP STORIES





## **DRC Soccer Camp April 12-14, 2017**

It's amazing how God can use a simple game of soccer to transform lives and draw kids to Himself. Three hundred and forty kids attended this soccer camp in Goma, DRC and 331 commitments were made to Christ! Here are three of these incredible stories of transformation.

**He understood that  
God created him and  
loved him – his body  
included – because  
God's creation is good.**

Tina was one of 20 orphans at this camp. Both of her parents died when she was a young girl, and she was left caring for her little brothers and sisters. In order to provide for their basic needs, Tina was forced to sell her body. This is a common occupation for women in the DRC who live in communities desensitized to the most heinous forms of violence and abuse from over 25 years of war. It is one of the hardest, most brutal places to be a woman. One night at camp, Tina stayed up long after the rest of the camp had fallen asleep and reflected on the sin in her life. After hearing the messages at camp, Tina found hope in Jesus Christ. She gave her life to Him, leaving her former lifestyle behind, and committed herself to serving him.

Arthur is one of three kids with disabilities who bravely attended this soccer camp. When Arthur was born, the doctor delivering him made a mistake that led to a rupture in his arm, creating permanent damage and an inability for the arm



to develop normally. For a long time, Arthur resented his doctor and his own body. But at camp, Arthur was struck by the message of creation. He understood that God created him and loved him – his body included – because God's creation is good. Arthur forgave the doctor and devoted his life to Christ, finding hope in His perfect love.

Before camp, Loic had never heard anything like the gospel before. He comes from a family that practices sorcery, and knew absolutely nothing about Jesus. This made the gospel message of sin a very compelling one for Loic to consider. After reflecting on sin in his own life, Loic turned away from the practice of sorcery, as well as his idolization of soccer and sexual promiscuity in order to pursue the true life found in Jesus Christ.



## Kenya WyldLife Camp April 24-27, 2017

What's crazier than a bunch of middle-schoolers? Probably just a bunch of middle-schoolers at Young Life camp in Kenya! Late this April, over 300 kids attended the Nairobi WyldLife Camp – including 39 orphans and 20 Muslim kids. Here, they experienced the love of Christ through selfless service from their 30 leaders and 38 “work crew” volunteers. They saw the joy of Christ through funny skits and songs, and tired themselves out playing crazy Young Life games (pictured right and below). Samuel Gitau, a leader who attended the camp, described the four days saying, “It was awesome! (We saw) the beauty of God in little kids having fun and (doing) crazy stuff with their leaders.” A total of 264 middle-schoolers committed their lives to Christ at this camp, including 13 Muslim kids. We are praising God for all He did in these crazy kids’ lives, and ask for your prayers as they continue to live their lives with Jesus.



**“It was awesome!”**

— Samuel Gitau,  
Country Logistics Coordinator







## **Liberia Outreach Camp March 31-April 2, 2017**

This weekend camp in northwest Liberia hosted 75 kids. All of these kids are considered by Liberian society to be “bobos,” as all of the kids are deaf. Liberian society views these kids as people with no value, which caused many of them to feel abandoned and angry. While at camp, 61 of the 75 kids committed their lives to Christ. For the first time, many of the kids began to recognize their individual worth and value as seen by Jesus.

Toimu was one of the kids who had struggled with feeling angry and abandoned due to the box he felt his deafness put him in. He later said, “While I was at camp my story changed because I found Christ.” He felt as though Young Life camp gave him the opportunity to be heard and understood. Praise the Lord for the ways all kids are being introduced to Jesus in Liberia through Young Life.

**“While I was at camp,  
my story changed  
because I found Christ.”**

*— Toimu, camper*



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## Liberia Outreach Camp

May 26-28, 2017

Over 300 kids attended this overnight camp in Gbarnga, Liberia. Campers arrived later than usual to camp because they had just finished their “government examination” test for senior high school (the American equivalent to the SAT). Despite their late arrival, kids were very excited for camp and had huge smiles on their faces as they were welcomed to camp by 19 friendly leaders. Of these 304 campers, 33 were Muslim. Mulbah is one of these Muslim

**“Through Christ, my  
life is complete.”**

– *Mulbah, camper*

students who accepted Jesus at camp. He believes that “through Christ, his life is complete.” Ariana was one of 114 girls at camp, and had never heard the message of Christ like the gospel was presented at camp. During quiet time, she accepted Jesus after experiencing a vivid picture of His sacrifice on the cross and love for her. Eleanor also gave her life to

Christ, and saw the cross as a “symbol of forgiveness for her sins.” Dorley’s parents do not know Jesus, and he had never experienced Jesus before coming to camp. During quiet time, he decided to follow Christ. An amazing total of 185 campers accepted Christ and made commitments to follow Him, including 17 Muslim campers. Join us in praying for these new believers, that they continue to know the Lord to the fullest!



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## Malawi Leader Camp February 2017

This February, local leaders in Malawi gathered together for fellowship, encouragement and lessons in leadership. They focused on servant leadership, and looked at the Bible to see how Christ served. Following Christ's example, they prayed for one another in pairs and then washed each other's feet as a symbol of servant leadership. Just as Christ humbled Himself to serve His disciples and even humbled himself to the point of death, we as Young Life leaders in Malawi are committed to following Christ's example. We will continue to lay our lives down for each other and for the kids we serve.

**"We as Young Life leaders in Malawi are committed to following Christ's example."**



Pricilla, a leader from Nkhoma in Lilongwe was raised by a single mom, and seeks to help girls grow, like her mom did for her. When she joined Young Life, she was excited about walking with girls, teaching them and caring for them. But as she continued in leadership, she felt discouraged and overwhelmed. Coming to the leaders camp confirmed her decision and passion to see young women in her area transform, especially after hearing Mphatso share about leadership opportunities in Young Life.

The camp was held in Chilema, Zomba, a predominately Muslim city. While there, the women decided to do a prayer walk for the area, and went out in pairs to pray for the community and that God would open doors for Young Life to be present there. As they were walking back, some local women asked if they'd want to play "netball." The Young Life leaders agreed, and got to spend time sharing with them the reason they lead Young Life and the mission of Jesus Christ! We are so thankful for this time of fellowship with our women leaders, and so excited to see what the Lord will do through them.

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## Mali Soccer Camp April 10-11, 2017

Over 200 kids attended this soccer camp in Mali. This included over 150 Muslim students – that’s over three quarters of the entire group! Of the 15 Muslim girls who attended, Fatima experienced a life-changing moment at camp when she realized the gravity of our sin and the incredible redemption offered in Christ. She describes her moment as this: “It is He who has snatched us from our sufferings and our sins ... thanks to Him we are saved.” Fatima asks for prayers because her parents are Muslim and will not approve of her decision to follow Christ, but she says she is “determined” to keep following Him. Awa, another girl at camp, came to show off her soccer skills, and her team ended up winning the tournament! But when Awa heard the gospel message, she realized that life was about more than just winning soccer games. Instead, she says, “I realized that Jesus gave Himself to death for us, to save us ... because He loves us too much. That’s why I love Him too and I gave myself to Him.” Modibo was one of the 154 Muslim boys to come to this camp, and was very glad he did so. He describes his camp experience like this: “The camp helped me to understand that Jesus is the Son of God; that is why Jesus can do everything, and He can save us. That’s why I decided to follow Him.” Modibo also asks for prayer, since his Muslim father does not approve of his decision to follow Christ.

**“It is He who has  
snatched us from our  
sufferings and our sins  
... thanks to Him we  
are saved. ”**

**– Fatima, camper**



An amazing total of 56 kids committed their lives to Christ at this camp, including 41 from Muslim families. Pray for all of these new believers as they may experience persecution because of their newfound faith.





## Mali Soccer Camp April 24-25, 2017

Over one hundred high school students from the Bamako area attended this soccer camp in Mali. The camp hosted 89 Muslim students – that’s almost the entire camp! There were 42 Muslim



young women at camp, including Mariam. Mariam is 14 years old and is in ninth grade; she was introduced to Young Life through Jokebet, a leader who visited her school and developed a friendship with her. At club, Mariam said, “We had a lot of fun ... I forgot my worries and these connections allowed me to know Jesus better and also know why He really came.” She experienced problems in her family life, and shared them with Jokebet. They prayed together, and Mariam said she saw changes happen in her family!

Since giving her life to Christ, she has continued to attend club, Bible study and this soccer camp – all of which allow her to grow in her faith. She is not safe to disclose her newfound faith in Jesus Christ to her family, so Young Life became her new community. At the end of camp, Mariam said, “I thank Jesus for this new life that He has given me, knowing that He has come to die on the cross for me.” We are so thankful for Mariam’s faith, as well as the 15 new believers who committed their lives to Christ at this camp! Pray for all these new believers, especially the nine who come from Muslim families where it may not be safe to share their faith in Jesus.



**“I thank Jesus for  
this new life that He  
has given me,  
knowing that He has  
come to die on the  
cross for me.”**  
— Mariam, camper





## Zimbabwe Campaigners Camp April 29, 2017

Campaigners day camp provides a special place for students who have already committed their lives to Christ to grow in their faith. These students attend weekly Bible studies with their local leaders and are mentored and developed as they learn how to follow Him. Late this April, 258 students and 27 leaders from the Chitungwiza area of Zimbabwe attended this special day camp for Campaigners kids. Angeline, one of these volunteer leaders, attended this camp and recounts her experience below.



*"I'm very excited to be a part of Young Life – it's such a big, happy family. It means a lot to me to be a part of passionate leaders, working together to transform kids' lives and help them know more about Christ. It's my prayer to impact teenagers in my area so that they can influence their peers and share the gospel with courage. Our Campaigner's day camp was so exciting because everyone could feel the love of God. I was astonished by the way Campaigners students attentively listened to the sharing of the gospel, cooperated and participated during cabin time and showed a deep understanding of God's word. At the end of the day, they couldn't wait to go home and share their experience with friends and family."*

We are so thankful for leaders like Angeline and kids who eagerly pursue Christ and encourage others to do the same!

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