

25th PROJECT
TRANSFORMED

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING GOD'S WORK



Since the first day of this ministry, we have been and remain unchanged in our vision for the kids God graciously allows us to serve with you. Our vision is for the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children around the world to be transformed by a relationship with Christ.

Nowhere else do we see such radical life-change than through the Gospel. As it says in 2 Corinthians 5, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." This past year, we have seen this scripture come to life as children from South Asia, South Africa, the Dominican Republic, Sierra Leone, and even here in the U.S. have awakened to a new reality, the daily experience of having a transformative personal relationship with Jesus.

He has changed them. He has made them a new creation.

This year and every year, we are in awe of how God has invited the 25 Project into His work, and we hope that the stories of transformed people inside produce in you the same—and perhaps even the desire to become more actively involved in God's even greater story, whether that is across the street in your neighbor's heart or in the life of an orphan in a distant country who has yet to hear the name of Jesus. As you go through this, my prayer is also that the words will stir within you a sense of gratefulness to our Lord for the way He is able to produce change even in the most difficult places and the most challenging of circumstances.

These pages demonstrate, in both tangible and intangible ways, just how God has used you. Don't miss that truth: This is a celebration of God's work, made possible by your generosity and obedience. On behalf of every child, staff member, board member, and volunteer, thank you for saying yes to Him.

Now, sit back and read. Celebrate with us His faithfulness in doing exactly what we knew He would do, transform lives.



Kent
Kent Jones Davis
Executive Director

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WHERE WE WORK

NORTH TEXAS

TEXAS

Beyond helping children around the world, 25P also serves children in need locally in partnership with the Melissa Community Outreach (MCO). By providing structure and support, we seek to strengthen and expand the organization's discipleship opportunities to reach lower-income children and families.

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In the Dominican Republic, the hope of Jesus is alive even amidst extreme poverty. Our two ministry locations, Villa Laura and Batey Lechería, serve as places where orphaned and vulnerable children hear of this hope and begin to see it transform their lives. Through sponsorships, they not only receive meals, snacks, and medical care, but they get the chance to "be kids" and participate in Biblical and educational lessons throughout the week.

SIERRA LEONE

SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone has endured chaos—an epidemic, civil war, and multiple natural disasters just within the last two decades. The people long for peace, and through sponsorships, children and families are introduced to Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Through 25P, we send children to school and provide a safe space for Bible study, mentorship, tutoring, community, and fun.

SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's struggles are deeply rooted and complex, but Christ is still very much at-work within them. 25P partners with Intlantsi Christian School to provide Biblical education, regular nutrition, quality health care, and ongoing discipleship to orphaned and vulnerable children in the area. Through our sponsors, kids discover who they are in Christ and how this newfound identity can change everything—even the world around them.

SOUTH ASIA*

SOUTH ASIA

In South Asia, where a person's status is determined even before birth, Christ's power is being made known. 25P works with Mercy Homes, a ministry including residential homes for orphaned and vulnerable children, to show kids their infinite value as sons and daughters of the Most High. Sponsored children attend school, are housed or dormed (if college students), as well as fed, clothed, and led spiritually so they can become leaders in their communities.

**Location is generalized for security purposes.*

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



ANA THE FREE GIFT OF LOVE

Nataly, Nayeli, Edwitna, and Kimberly (ages 13, 10, 15, 14) were skeptical of Christianity from the start. Growing up under the strict religion of their community in the Dominican Republic, they weren't convinced by what Ana, one of our local staff members, had to say about God's grace and love. Earlier this year, after an afternoon of dance lessons at the ministry center, the girls struck up a conversation.

"Ana, you said before that we can't do anything to make God love us? What did you mean?"

"I meant that His love is a free gift to you," Ana said. "He loves you because He made you. He thinks you're amazing and wants you to know Him more."

"But what if I don't read my Bible all the time?" one asked.

"He still loves you just as much." Ana responded.

"And if I don't help with the laundry?" another spoke up.

"Then He thinks your clothes are going to smell bad, but He doesn't love you any less." Ana joked, and the girls chuckled. "It's true that God is disappointed when we sin," she continued, "and He

asks us to repent because that shows that we love Him enough to try to be more like Him, but Jesus died to forgive us because we can't ever make up for all our mistakes."

The girls went quiet, and then one asked, "What does Jesus want from us then?"

Ana thought carefully before answering. "He wants your heart—for you to admit that you need His constant love and believe that you don't have to try so hard because that love is enough. He wants you to trust and follow Him."

One of the girls broke out into a smile, relieved. "Really? That's it?"

"That's it," Ana insisted.

The girls then asked Ana to pray for them because they wanted to love Jesus but didn't know how. She prayed for God to reveal Himself to each one of them and to give them assurance of His love so that they might feel it in return. When she finished, they all told her they wanted to accept Christ and follow Him forever. "I don't think anybody loves me like Jesus does," one said at the end.

JOELITO FROM FEAR TO FAITH

Joelito turned 18 this year. 25P's director in the Dominican Republic, Elizabeth, considers him one of the boldest, most dedicated young men in the ministry. But just four years ago, Joelito was anything but confident. He struggled to trust both the truth of Christianity and our staff. Having grown up in a home where access to food, shelter, and emotional support was inconsistent, he learned to question kindness at a young age and to depend on no one but himself.

"Joelito was so shy," Elizabeth remembers. "He never smiled or talked, and he refused to participate in activities, even the fun ones! It was as if he wanted us to pretend he wasn't there—to not see him. It took time for me to realize that nobody had ever taken the time to see him before. You know, truly see him."

So, Elizabeth and others in the ministry were steadfast. When Joelito pulled back out of self-preservation, they let him, gently reminding him that their presence in his life was not contingent on what he had to offer but on their love for Jesus—and Jesus's love for him.

And slowly, Joelito opened up. Little aspects of his personality like his wittiness, determination, and natural leadership started to show through. Then, one day, he came to Elizabeth in tears. He confessed he had been afraid she wasn't who she said she was, and he asked for forgiveness. "I know you are a true believer now," he said, "because I have seen your constant commitment and love for me and each one of us."



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Now, Joelito is the first to get to know and pursue new kids in the ministry. Because he feels seen and loved by God, he assures others they are too and speaks freely about his faith. "He is a different person," says Elizabeth. "No longer in fear, he has full faith in God."



SIERRA LEONE

YEAMA TRANSFORMATION: FROM STUDENT TO LEADER

Today, Yeama is a college graduate and member of our staff in Sierra Leone, but just over 10 years ago, her future looked anything but bright. During the Sierra Leonean Civil War, Yeama and her family were forced to flee their home. Her father was separated from them in the process, leaving her mother with no choice but to take the children to safety without him. Soon, Yeama's mother remarried in hopes of providing stability for the family, only to discover that her new husband was undependable and abusive later. Once she found the strength to leave, she could no longer support Yeama and placed her in a children's home—the same one that 25P would partner with in 2012.

Through 25P sponsors, Yeama was given the chance to go to school, where she worked hard to meet the requirements for university and, in 2021, graduated with a degree in Business Management. The same year, Yeama was asked by our ministry directors if she would be interested in joining the staff. Yeama was thrilled, but their first offer (running the 80-child girls' ministry) overwhelmed her at the time. So, she accepted a more comfortable spot in administration.

Over the next few months, Yeama focused on checking that the children in our ministry were doing well in every aspect of life through home and school visits. She began to build genuine relationships with all of them and an especially close bond with the girls. Shara took note and, after a while,

felt led to ask Yeama to lead again. This time, Yeama's face said she was ready. "I couldn't think of a better way to give glory to God than by showing these girls, who remind me so much of myself, just how good God is and how much He has done for me through the cross and His people at 25P," Yeama shares. "A decade ago, in her wildest dreams, my mother could not have imagined a future like this for me. Neither could I. This is an unexpected gift to me."

Since transitioning into her role, Yeama's connections with the girls have only deepened. Prior to the grand opening of the Waterloo Ministry Center in June, she spent every afternoon helping them practice and make pseudo-grass skirts for the performance! She is a bright light for Jesus in their lives. And, for everyone involved with 25P, she is proof that when God starts a good work in us, His faithfulness to complete it often means transforming more than just us.

"A DECADE AGO, IN HER WILDEST DREAMS, MY MOTHER COULD NOT HAVE IMAGINED A FUTURE LIKE THIS FOR ME. NEITHER COULD I. THIS IS AN UNEXPECTED GIFT TO ME."



TOMBO A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR 20 GIRLS IN SIERRA LEONE

**"GOD IS ALREADY USING THIS
NEW MINISTRY TO BRING HOPE
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OF GIRLS' LIVES. HE IS GIVING
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WE ARE JUST GETTING STARTED."**

"We began working in Tombo, Sierra Leone, a fishing village made up of almost 100 percent practicing Muslims, in 2017. Our focus was initially on reaching orphaned and vulnerable boys. But we always knew God had plans to start a girls' ministry here as well. In Tombo, the high rate of teen pregnancy means that girls are even more susceptible to poverty and hopelessness than boys. But it's amazing what an education can do: For every year that a Tombo girl is able to be in school, her likelihood of becoming a teen mom drops drastically.

As of September 2022, we identified more than 20 girls for immediate inclusion in our ministry, each of whom is in great need of the Gospel-centered care we provide. All of the girls have similar experiences that bind them: the tragic death of one or both parents, limited (if any) access to schooling, and life under the care of a single guardian—usually an aunt, grandmother, or even step-mother who barely makes enough to feed themselves. We are blessed to get to step in to fill the gap for these families, making school an option by covering the cost of school fees and materials as well as providing regular meals and access to vocational school or university. Our hope is that, in time, every girl will be sponsored and be able to attend.

More than circumstances though, these girls share friendship, and it's one of the things that makes leading and loving them so special. They know and support each other in ways we never expected, encouraging one another to attend Bible study and arrive promptly to school every day and do what's right. (It's always helpful when a few are willing to tell us who got in trouble at home or school! There's always one who likes to dish out the gossip in the group—haha!) God is already using this new ministry to bring Hope and change the trajectory of girls' lives. He is giving them a seat at the table, and we are just getting started. There's no telling what He will do in 2023!"

-Shara, 25P's Director in Sierra Leone



“WHEN I REALIZED THE TRUTH OF GOD’S LOVE FOR ME, EVERYTHING CHANGED. THAT’S WHY I’M HERE TODAY.”

ABASS THE TRUTH OF HIS PROMISES

“We knew long before returning to Sierra Leone this year that we wanted to teach the kids how to distinguish God’s truth from Satan’s lies. The idea began when one of our boys in Sierra Leone, asked the year prior, ‘Does my life really matter, and does anyone love me?’

That same boy was in my group this summer. He listened as we discussed the definition of Truth, where to find it, and how to tell the difference between truths and lies. Abass, our ministry intern, translated. On the third day, I asked Abass to share his story. After all, he had been in the ministry for some time—ever since we found him on the streets years ago.

‘What lies did Satan tell you when you were homeless?’ I asked.

Abass began telling and acting out for the boys what life was like: how he had to hide any money he earned, how he hid his shoes at night so no one would steal them, and how he had no place to sleep but the dirt.

It is not common for kids in our ministry to cry; they have witnessed and experienced so much. But when Abass shared that Satan had made him believe he would never amount to anything—that his life wasn’t worth living and that he was ‘a nobody with nobody,’ tears rolled down his cheeks. He had to pause several times just to compose himself. All the while, the boys watched with wide eyes.

That wasn’t the end for Abass though, not by any means. God had big plans for his life. ‘One day,’ Abass explained, ‘a man approached me about joining a ministry for boys living on the streets. I was afraid he was there to hurt me.’ He held his hands up and shook them side-to-side as if to say, ‘No, no. Leave me be.’

But in 2013, when 25P invited Abass to go to camp, he finally agreed. ‘I remember getting on the poda poda (taxi bus) for the first time. All I could hear were voices telling me to flee. They said my life was over, that I would be sold into slavery. When the gates to the camp closed, in my mind, it seemed like a loud Boom!—as if the enemy was saying that it was too late to escape.’

I asked my next question, ‘Abass, what are some of the truths you now know through coming to faith in Jesus and walking with Him?’

‘I learned that my life DID matter,’ he answered, ‘that I DID have people who cared about me, and that my true hope was in Jesus, not myself.’ He proceeded to write the verse Jeremiah 29:11 on the board: For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. He underlined the word YOU to emphasize that God had a plan for each one of them.

In the end, I asked Abass one last question: what his life might have been like if he had believed Satan’s lies. He thought hard for a minute or so, then said, ‘Honestly, Auntie Sarah, I’d be in prison or dead. When I realized the truth of God’s love for me, everything changed. That is why I’m here today.’

Abass’s audience that day was clearly moved, and the boy from the year before was no exception. What a beautiful reminder it was to him and all of us that God’s promises are true. Every day He is at work in these kids’ lives. In Him, they find the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

-Sarah Teasdale



Abass in 2013.

| SOUTH AFRICA



LUMKO CALLED BY GOD

In May, our South Africa partner, Teresita, gave students at Intlantsi Christian School the opportunity to serve at a local church's Vacation Bible School (VBS) during the first half of their winter break. She smirked as she announced the need for volunteers, not expecting even her most dutiful students to give up their free time and fun in exchange for a week of teaching little kids.

Much to her surprise, not only did a handful of students volunteer, but Lumko, one of the quietest teenage boys in the class, was one of them. "I would like to be a part of the church event," he told her after school in her office the same day. That's when Teresita told him that he would be sharing a message publicly.

"Okay!" Lumko said enthusiastically. "What do you want me to talk about?"

The theme for that week was "Incredible Me". Each day, a speaker would focus on one of five truths: I am Created, I am Cherished, I am Chosen, I am Christ's, or I am Called. Teresita reviewed the list and chose randomly. She told Lumko to teach the children what it means to be called by God.

When winter break rolled around, Lumko was a hit at VBS. He was a natural with the kids, taking it upon himself to show them the motions for each of the worship songs and even coming alive in his reenactment of Bible stories. But it was Lumko's sermon that left a big impression—on Teresita and the kids.

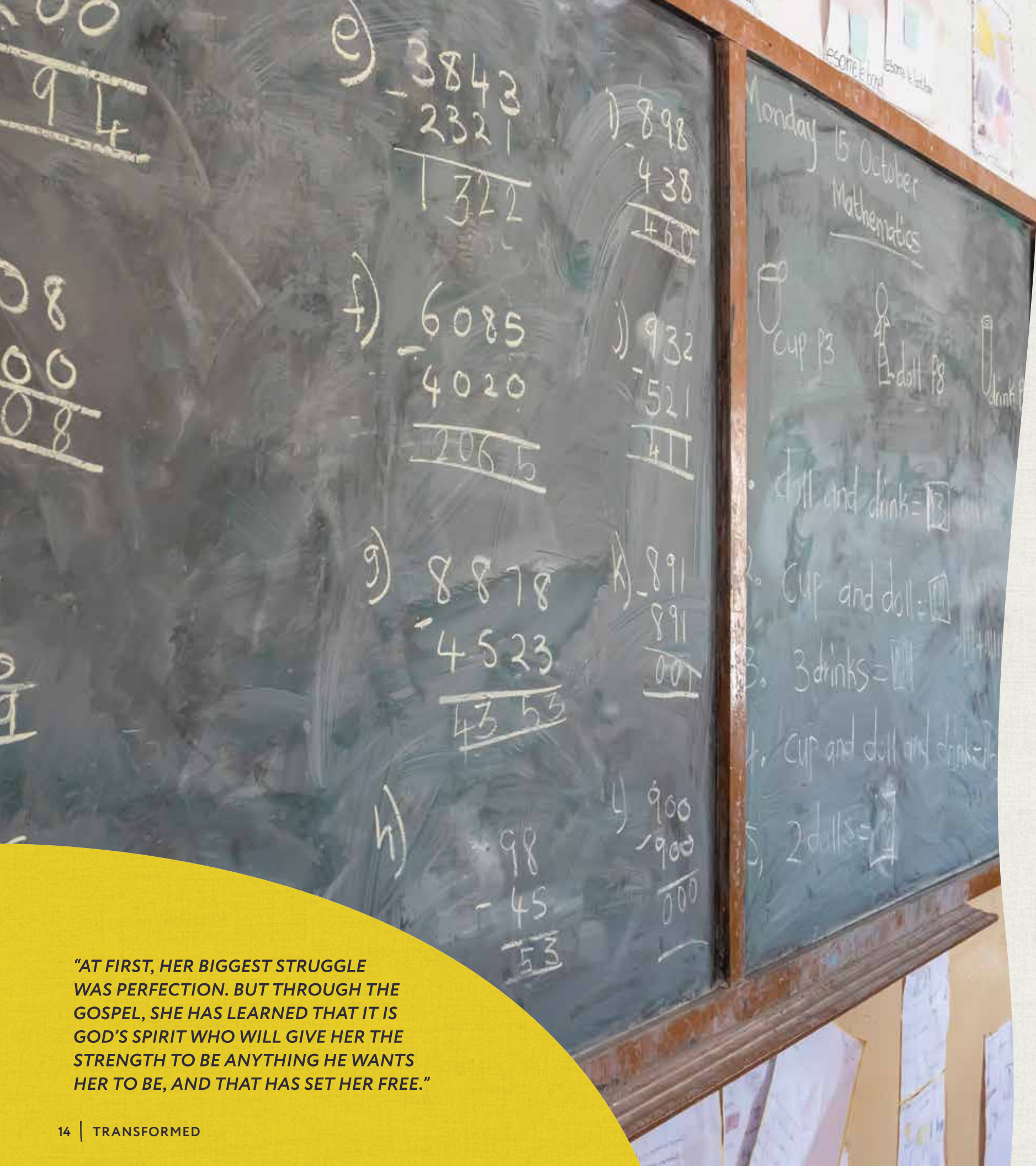
"I DON'T HAVE TO BEHAVE OR FEEL A CERTAIN WAY TO BE CALLED BY GOD. HE CALLS ALL OF US TO FOLLOW HIM. HE ACCEPTS US JUST AS WE ARE, AND THEN, WHEN WE SAY YES TO HIM, HE BEGINS TO MAKE US MORE LIKE HIM."

Lumko was the last speaker in the line-up on the last day. He started by telling about his childhood, how he grew up believing that he was destined to live a lonely life because he wasn't outgoing like most of the kids in his village. "I always thought I had to change who I was so that other people would love me. So, when I first heard about Jesus, I thought He wanted the same from me. I would pretend that I didn't make mistakes, that I always had a good day, that I was never hungry, or hurt, or angry—because I thought that God was only able to love and use the version of me that I thought was best..."

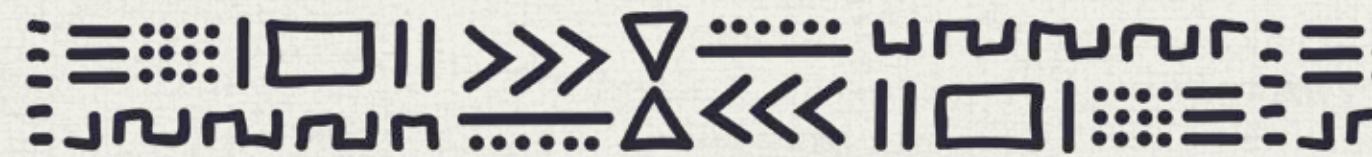
Lumko went on, "but, I don't have to behave or feel a certain way to be called by God. He calls all of us to follow Him. He accepts us just as we are, and then, when we say yes to Him, He begins to make us more like Him. And I know this to be true because I don't like to speak in front of people!" The kids laughed, and Lumko continued, "but when Christ calls you, He will do great things within you."

Lumko didn't know it then, but his bravery had just begun. Upon returning to the school after break, Teresita asked if he would lead chapel for the whole school. He agreed, sharing the story of how God had transformed His life to every one of his peers.





"AT FIRST, HER BIGGEST STRUGGLE WAS PERFECTION. BUT THROUGH THE GOSPEL, SHE HAS LEARNED THAT IT IS GOD'S SPIRIT WHO WILL GIVE HER THE STRENGTH TO BE ANYTHING HE WANTS HER TO BE, AND THAT HAS SET HER FREE."



SIBABALWE REFINED FOR HIS GLORY: THE DILIGENT MATHEMATICIAN

Diligent, conscientious, hardworking, and cheerful—that's how Teresita, our ministry partner, describes Sibabalwe, a 12-year-old girl who attends our weekday boarding school in South Africa. Since Sibabalwe was sponsored this year, she has become one of Teresita's favorite topics of conversation—and for good reason.

Teresita goes on a home visit for every child before considering them for acceptance. Years ago, when she went to Sibabalwe's home for the first time, she expected to see what she had so many times before—a shack with mud floors, cramped space, holed roofs, meager portions of food, no running water, and all the other signs of severe poverty one would typically find in the villages surrounding the school. And she did. With Sibabalwe and four young boys to care for, the family's living conditions were less than ideal. But Teresita also saw something else that made her believe in Sibabalwe from the start: large, handwritten numbers through the broken walls.

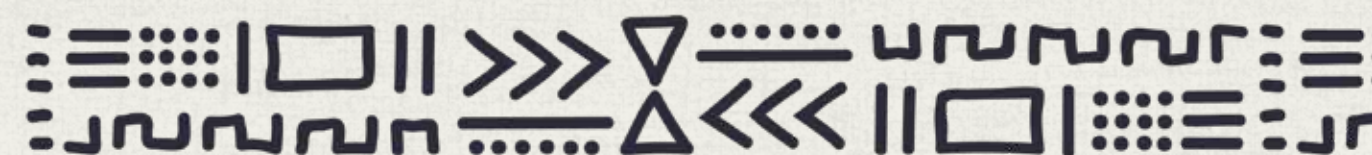
Sibabalwe explained politely that it was the chalkboard her father, a carpenter, had made. "I am one of the worst in my class at math, but I think I could get better if I work really hard," she told Teresita with bright, hopeful eyes.

As Teresita approached the wall, she could make out "7 + 4" in child's handwriting. Next to the equals sign was written the number 12. So close.

"Yes, that thing," Sibabalwe's mother laughed. "I told my husband not to make it, but Sibabalwe promised she would use it. And she writes on that thing until her hands are covered in chalk dust every night, sometimes until dark. I have to remind her that she can't be learning much if she is squinting her eyes to see!" Then her mother turned to look in Teresita's eyes. "My daughter is a hard worker. I just can't give her the help she needs."

Teresita decided then and there that Sibabalwe would attend Intlantsi Christian School in the year to follow and for as long as there were sponsors for her. And Sibabalwe has. Today, she is one of the top students in her class—second in math alone.

At first, Sibabalwe's biggest struggle was her high standards and the perfection that can often accompany them. But through the Gospel, she has learned that it is God's Spirit who will give her the strength to be anything He wants her to be, and that has set her free. Watching God use her to inspire and serve her brothers and peers has been a blessing to her entire community—and it has been an example to us of how powerful this ministry is. When we give children a chance, we can trust God to transform and refine their gifts for His glory.



SOUTH ASIA



JOYS THE LOVE OF THE FATHER

"Joys was six years old when she came to us at Mercy Homes. Her mom had died of tuberculosis a few years before, and although Joys couldn't recall her mother's passing, there was a loneliness and heartbrokenness about the child that we couldn't ignore. She had grown accustomed to living alone with her father, a cook who worked long days but never could care for her the way he had hoped. Unfamiliar to the idea of nurturing, she craved comfort yet struggled to form attachments with the people who could give it to her.

It took a while for Joys to come into herself, and the only one we have to thank for that is our Lord. Week after week after school in Bible study, she learned more about Jesus, a poor man who had come not only to comfort her but to save her from a broken world she already knew well. Each time a new lesson was introduced, Joys's usually stoic, reserved face would reveal enthusiasm, joy, and even relief. (She had been anticipating the encounter all week long!) It was through those lessons and discussions that Joys began to talk, interact, and make friends with the other children—and ultimately become part of our greater family at the home.

Joys fell in love with Jesus early on. Her love for Him was as natural as a child's to their parent. But it wasn't until this last year or so that she was able to recognize and verbalize her deep need for Him. I think maybe God knew that she first would have to realize her need for love and others before she could realize her greater need for the love of Christ.

This summer, Joys made the decision to be baptized. When we asked her how she knew she was ready, she said:

'I can trust God with every day and every part of my life because of how He has already changed my circumstances. He knew He was giving me a new life by bringing me here and giving me a sponsor, and I am accepting that and all He has for me. He has loved me, stayed by me, taken care of me, and forgiven me. I know I am His child, and He is mine.'

Joys is now in class 7 and has dreams of becoming a doctor. We thank everyone who has shaped her into who she is today."

-Jyoti, 25P's South Asia Director

"HE (GOD) KNEW HE WAS GIVING ME A NEW LIFE BY BRINGING ME HERE AND GIVING ME A SPONSOR, AND I AM ACCEPTING THAT AND ALL HE HAS FOR ME. HE HAS LOVED ME, STAYED BY ME, TAKEN CARE OF ME, AND FORGIVEN ME. I KNOW I AM HIS CHILD, AND HE IS MINE."



Joys on her baptism day.

25P TEAM STORIES

“TO LOOK AT THESE CHILDREN WHO ARE HAPPY AND KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THE BIBLE IS UNCOMMON IN OUR COUNTRY. FOR THAT, I PRAISE GOD.”

JOSÉ THOUGHTS ON 25P TEAMS

“I have lived in the Dominican Republic my whole life. In that time, I have seen many organizations come to this community speaking of Christianity. Some arrive year after year, but nothing changes. It is easy to notice why: They forget the purpose of what they do. They forget the passion. Being with the children becomes one of many jobs to them. It’s this place and then on to the next. They sing the same songs, do the same dances, and teach the same stories again and again—and it shows in the children. They are older on the outside but the same on the inside.

Since 25P started working in these villages, the children actually learn. They behave differently. They think and talk about better things. They know about God—about His words, His instructions, His attributes, His promises, and His word about Jesus. Yes, they know Him very well! And it is amazing to me that they can even explain their personal salvation. To look at these children who are happy and know so much about the Bible is uncommon in our country. For that, I praise God. Thank God that He gave you the responsibility and talents to share Jesus like this. It is my greatest privilege to work with this ministry, and I pray the best for it, and all the people involved, in the name of the Lord.”

-José, 25P’s Translator in the Dominican Republic





TRACY

A MOTHER TO THE MOTHERLESS

Becoming a child sponsor through 25P has, in many ways, fulfilled my heart's desires. In 2019, I traveled with a team to Sierra Leone. I had been once before, but this time was different—as each one is. We were teaching boys, ages 11 to 13, at a camp in Waterloo, and their English was so good, we could have personal conversations with them. Of the six in our group, one, Emmanuel, stood out to me. He was bright, always willing to read Scripture and answer questions. And when it came time to act out the story of the Red Sea, he took the lead as Moses and told the other boys what to do. Later, he shared that he wanted to become a pastor and a doctor.

Once I got home, I printed a photo of the group for my prayer journal. I'd look at the photo and pray for each child. Without fail, my eyes would spot Emmanuel, with his big smile and sparkling eyes. From time to time, I would check 25P's website to see if the children in my group were fully sponsored. (I don't have children, and I couldn't help but feel a connection to the ones I taught.) One day, I noticed Emmanuel was half-sponsored. Tears filled my eyes, and I ran downstairs to ask my husband if we could please sponsor him. Keith responded, "What do I say to her when she has tears in her eyes?" I was thrilled! From that day on, I had a separate picture of Emmanuel in my journal as a reminder to pray for him every Monday.

In 2021, I went back to Sierra Leone—only this time, Keith joined me. I was so taken back that the children from 2019 remembered me! "My" children were especially delighted to see me, and I them. I asked 25P's director on the field, Shara, if we would get to see Emmanuel. She assured me that even though he wouldn't be a part of camp, he would walk by on his way to and from school.

This is taken from my journal: Emmanuel walked through the door. Talk about elation; my day was made! He said hello and told us he would be back that afternoon. I explained to my group, in tears, that I had taught him two years prior. I said his photo was in my prayer journal and that he'd touched my heart, just like all of them had touched my heart...Emmanuel returned, and I raced down to hug him. I found Keith to introduce them. Emmanuel said he was leading Bible studies and wanted to start a church which explained his new nickname, Pastor. We gave him a care package, and he asked about our family. I told him it was just Keith and me. Emmanuel smiled and said, "Well, I don't have a mother or father, so now, you are my mom, and you are my dad!"

Since then, my heart has never been the same. On Mother's Day 2021, I thought of Emmanuel and our other sponsored children and wasn't sad. I can't wait to see them again.

-Tracy Self, Child Sponsor



KYLE

CALLED AND TRANSFORMED: A FAMILY TRIP TO THE DR

"My wife Elizabeth and I developed a passion and conviction to see the Gospel reach all nations years ago. We spent a lot of time active in missions in the early years of our marriage. But when our family started growing, we knew it would take it a great deal of intentionality to continue prioritizing our time and finances in the same way. It didn't take long for the idea of frequently traveling overseas to seem less and less realistic. That's why we were so excited to find 25P! Their child sponsorship model, dedication to long-term discipleship, focus on Gospel-driven community development, and commitment to helping families serve impressed us from the start and has ever since.

In recent years, we've traveled on various 25P teams to the Dominican Republic, but this was the first time that the entire family was able to go at once. And what an incredible time it was watching God work, especially through each of our kids!

It was the third trip for our oldest son, Caleb, who was able to strengthen and build on relationships as well as step up as a leader among his friends. Then there was Abigail, who went for the second time. From the moment she walked into the village, she was holding hands with local kids, learning dances, and taking advantage of her time with them. Stephen, our youngest, had never been, but that didn't stop him from playing a special role: encouraging the team and the people, and even singing Spanish worship songs with all his heart.

As parents, we work hard to teach our kids that missions is a way of life, but it's totally different to show them and join them in it. We can honestly say that partnering with 25P has brought our family so much joy, perspective, and an even greater love for God and His people. It continues to renew and refine our sense of vision—to live out our calling together and be transformed into the image of Christ in the process."

-Kyle Caperton, 2022 Team Member

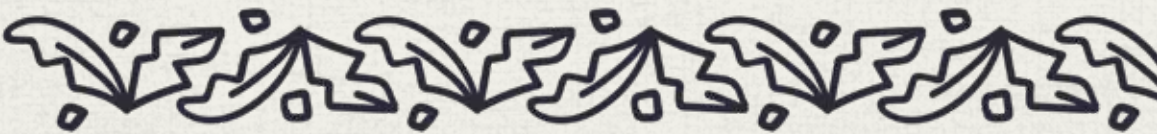


CALEB

FOREVER CHANGED: STUDENTS ON MISSION

"This year, I had the pleasure of taking my youth group to volunteer at a summer camp in the Dominican Republic. Normally on trips, I feel my attention is divided, but 25P allowed me to focus on discipling my students with complete faith that all the administrative work and logistics were handled. But more than making my job easier, the 25P staff was incredible with my students; they made them feel so comfortable and equipped to share the Gospel through their training and the easy-to-understand curriculum. As a student minister, there are few joys as great as seeing your students go out into the world and confidently proclaim the Gospel to the nations. And, the ability to sponsor children made the trip even more unique than others. When we returned, there was a clear change in my students, a fire inside them to love others more like Jesus. Close to half talked to their parents and ended up sponsoring a kid they had connected with on the trip. Now, they get to be in contact with that child all year—the very one they taught the Gospel! What a gift. I am forever grateful for 25P and the work they do to help people of all ages live on mission."

-Caleb Mucklow, Student Minister, City Church Melissa



JOSEPH

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

"On the van ride to the mission on the first day, they tried to warn us. They warned us about the noise, the mass of kids, the screaming, and the tugging that would take place. But nothing could really prepare us for...the PURE JOY that you see and feel when you step off that van for the first time. I still remember the loudness and excitement of the crowd. It will forever be stuck in my memory as a beautiful moment that kicked off one of the most impactful weeks of my life. Just as memorable as our arrival, was the day I shared my personal testimony. Afterwards, one of the boys, whom I had never met before, invited me to sit by him, at which time he told me that he was growing up with just a mom and brothers like I did. He then reached over and held my hand. It was as if he was trying to tell me I wasn't alone, and, in doing so, was telling himself that he wasn't either. My heart melted."

It's been a couple of months since I returned from the DR, but each day I can still see how the experience is shaping my life. I have a refreshed perspective on my work and on my conviction to share the Gospel more boldly. I am thrilled to maintain my relationships with the kids I sponsored and watch them grow and change. I can't wait to go back and share my experience with others so that they too can experience the pure joy that comes from being Christ's hands and feet—because it transforms you. It really does."

-Joseph Bales, 2022 Team Member



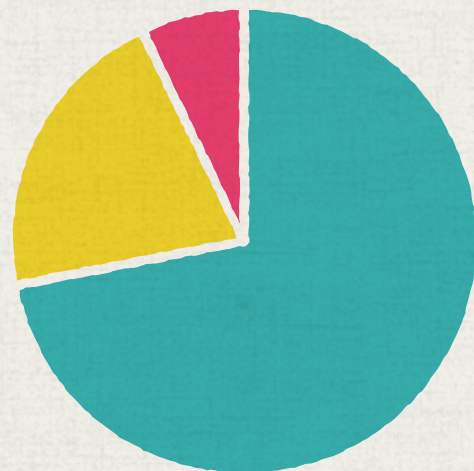
| 2022 NUMBERS

The 25 Project is supported by the gifts of partners like you, who share our passion for meeting the physical and spiritual needs of orphaned and vulnerable children worldwide. We truly see this ministry as a conduit of your love and generosity to help children and communities grow and flourish with the Gospel of Christ.

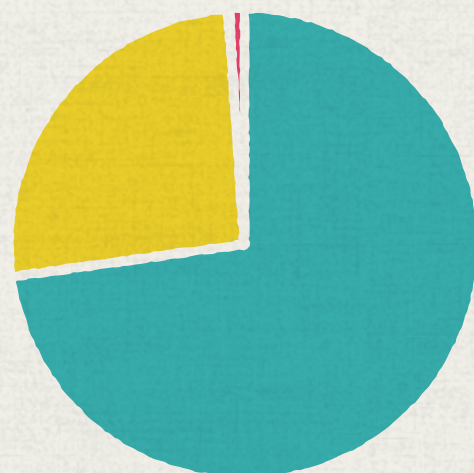
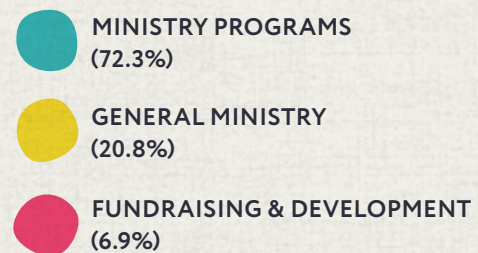
TOTAL MATCHED
GIVING IN 2022:
\$40,359

Did you know your gifts to the ministry of the 25 Project could be doubled or even tripled with the help of your employer? Many companies offer matching programs for their employees who donate to nonprofits. Check with your HR department to see if you might be able to make your gifts go further in impacting the lives of vulnerable children!

GIVING IN 2022: **\$1,337,039**



WHERE IT WAS USED



MINISTRY PROGRAMS



66,000 MEALS
PROVIDED TO PEOPLE IN NEED

455 CARE PACKAGES
SENT AROUND THE WORLD

60 NEW STUDENTS
ATTENDED SCHOOL FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME

24 STUDENTS
ENROLLED IN COLLEGE OR TRADE SCHOOL

12 GRADUATES
2 FROM HIGH SCHOOL + 10 FROM COLLEGE



25PROJECT.ORG



**LOVE IN ACTION FOR
THE WORLDS MOST
VULNERABLE.**



Accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability