

MPagaja Family Musings

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.” **Romans 8:28**

TEENMISSIONS.ORG



Greetings! Did you have a good summer? We hope you enjoyed it!

SUMMER UPDATE

We first want to start by thanking you for your prayers for us as we prepared for our trip to the Dominican Republic and during our time there. We ended up having a team of 18 teens, five adults, plus Jedidiah and Lazarus. Jahswel was with the team day and night during the Boot Camp intensive training, which was about 10 days here in Florida, and I was home with the kids. Several of the team members were sick during Boot Camp, adjusting to a new environment; sleeping in a tent, running an Obstacle Course every morning, washing laundry by hand, etc. Jahswel felt sorry seeing the team members sick and struggling, and it was a bit discouraging to the team. One of the girls even went home because she needed more time to heal. As the days went on, the team members got better! Three days before leaving for the DR, the team was finally back at full strength, which was the encouragement that they all needed to finish Boot Camp strong.



Four days before we were to fly, the boys and I were there for lunch to visit Jahswel and the team. I was wearing Lazarus in the carrier on my chest, and I did not see underneath the brush where I was walking. I stepped on a root and completely rolled my ankle and fell to the ground, doing my best not to fall on Lazarus. He bonked his head a little bit but was fine—praise the Lord for that. And, had I not been wearing construction boots (that is required on property during Boot Camp), I would've wrecked my ankle pretty good. Praise the Lord it

wasn't worse than it was! I struggled to accept that this happened (I haven't fallen in YEARS), when I still had so much to do before our trip, while also taking care of my toddler and three-month old. But I was greatly encouraged by my dear friend who was so kind to send me a medical boot that arrived the very next day. This blessed me so much! I managed to get everything done and we joined up with the team at the airport.

We arrived in the DR after a smooth two-hour flight with all our duffel bags. We had about a 40 minute bus ride to the Child Evangelism Fellowship campground where we stayed for

the duration of the trip. We faced with a couple of challenges upon arrival, one being that no one there spoke English! But thankfully, one of our leaders spoke Spanish, so she was quite busy keeping up communication between us and the host missionaries. Jahswel was also able to use his phone to translate and communicate. We had a slow start getting our project underway. But the team ended up completing the three projects we were given: painting the tires around the playground area, repainting the basketball court, and building screens for windows and doors in several of the buildings around the property. The team members were proud, and our host missionaries were very grateful for the work they accomplished!



We were also given ample opportunity to present the Gospel! The team ended up doing a total of 11 presentations in different churches! That was a highlight for the team members as they enjoyed ministering to children and adults using dramas, puppets, sharing personal testimonies, and singing songs. We believe many seeds were planted in the hearts of the Dominican people that we met.

We were also blessed to enjoy Dominican food at every meal, as the ladies in the camp kitchen cooked for us all! It was an adjustment for all our stomachs, to say the least, but the food was DELICIOUS! It was such a cool opportunity to experience the culture.

I personally struggled at first to find the balance of taking care of the kids while also spending time with the team. After the first few days of hauling the double stroller around, trying to nurse the baby in the humidity of the Caribbean, and feeling like I could never really connect with the team members as I missed out on most of the programs having to leave early for nap time and bedtime, the Lord reminded me why I came—to support my husband as he leads and ministers to the team members, and to take care of our boys. That is my ministry, and it looks different than everyone else's. I'm irreplaceable to my family. Any additional opportunities to serve were an added blessing. And as I embraced that, it was like the Lord then started giving me those chances to have good conversations with my fellow lady leaders, and with the girls on the team, sharing my heart with them as a wife, mother and missionary. And the days when I needed it the most, the Lord reminded me that He sees me. He would bring someone to encourage me by



letting me know how thankful they were that I had come on the team. I learned that even when I struggle to feel like I have a purpose, I am still a walking testimony as I simply take care of my family day to day and embrace the role God has given me. And the Dominican ladies adored Jedidiah and Lazarus, which was a great blessing to me!

TESTIMONY FROM JAHSWEL

Through the time in the DR, I saw God doing great work in the lives of some of the team members. They shared their testimonies with me, and God used me to encourage them, counsel them, and point them to the Word of God and how God wants them to live their lives as Christians. One of the team members struggled with anger; he used to get revenge when someone disappointed him, hitting back with words or even physically. He didn't know how to control his emotions in the moment. But I can testify that I saw him change before my eyes. One day at the end of the trip, he was disappointed and angry with some fellow team members. But instead of saying something bad back to them, he humbled himself and stepped away, which was a great change in his behavior, because it was so hard for him to do that before. In that moment, I was truly a witness to the fruit of the work God did in his heart.

Before the trip I was nervous to take the team from American culture of which I'm still learning, to a completely new culture. But I saw God giving me peace, and He directed me. He gave me words to communicate between my team and the nationals in the DR. And I had such a great time beyond what I expected. All in all, I learned so much as the head leader of this team. I also believe that it's because of all your prayers that were answered abundantly in the time we had in the DR with my team. And we appreciate you all for that. People in the DR were open and happy to receive the Gospel from our presentations. That was encouraging to all our team members to see the joy on their faces during our presentations. We felt so united in Christ regardless of speaking different languages. Your support for us is doing great in the Kingdom of God. May God bless you.

IT WAS SO GOOD TO SEE YOU!

We were able to stay with my family up in York, Pennsylvania, for two weeks in August. It was a wonderful time with a full schedule! Our hearts were full being able to meet with many of you in person to catch up, and to share what God did over the summer. We love you all dearly and are so grateful knowing that you are holding the rope for us!

JAHSWEL IS TEACHING

In the U.S. mail to:
Teen Missions Int'l, Inc.
885 East Hall Road
Merritt Island, FL 32953
E-mail: info@teenmissions.org
321-453-0350

In Canada mail to:
Great Commission Foundation
PO Box 14006
Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 0B4
CANADA

I would like to have a part in the ministry of **Jahswel and Cheyenne Mpagaja**

- \$_____ monthly pledge \$_____ one-time gift
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Now you can donate online at www.teenmissions.org/give

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Prov. _____ Zip/Postal Code _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____



Note: In order for your contribution to be tax deductible, checks must be made payable to Teen Missions (the missionary's name should not appear on the check). Please enclose this coupon with your contribution to assure proper designation.

The summer program is over, and the school year is starting! Jahswel has been asked to teach the Poetical Books class here at Teen Missions' Sojourner School of Ministry (formerly called BMW--Bible, Missionary and Work Training Center) for this fall term. Teaching is something Jahswel is passionate about. It was a great joy to him at the Bible schools in Malawi, and now it is his first time teaching American students! He is nervous and excited all at the same time. He is excited to connect with the students as they learn the word of God together. He is already learning so much as he is studying the poetical books--Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and Lamentations. Please pray for him as he studies and teaches the word of God!



AT HOME WITH THE BOYS

Jedidiah and Lazarus continue to grow and change and learn new things on a daily basis! Jeddy will be three-years old in December, and Lazarus is a big boy weighing in at 19 lbs at five months old! Jeddy is right by my side in the kitchen wanting to help make food every day, and most of the time you will find Lazarus in the carrier on my back, his favorite place to be (and allows me to be hands-free)! I love our babies so very much!



WOULD YOU PARTNER WITH US?

We are grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and support as we continue this journey serving the Lord with Teen Missions. We wanted to share that we are currently at 62% of our monthly financial support goal. Our goal is to have \$3,500 of monthly support from those who choose to partner with us, and right now we are at \$2,200. As we press forward in the work God has called us to, we ask that you prayerfully consider partnering with us financially. If you have ever wanted to be a missionary or serve in ministry but are unable to do so at this time, partnering with us is a powerful way to expand the Kingdom of God. Your partnership is vital in helping us reach the people and fulfill the mission before us, allowing Jahswel to teach at the Sojourner School of Ministry, lead summer teams, and invest in the lives of teens God has placed in our path, not to mention putting food on our table and gas in our car! Every gift, no matter the size, makes a significant impact. Thank you for standing with us!

God bless you as you continue to serve Him!

Love, The Mpagajas

PARTNER WITH TMI IN MINISTRY

We are looking for **GODLY** male and female **LEADERS** **FOR SUMMER 2025!**

Register **NOW** for our required training seminar from **October 31 - November 3, 2024.** Leaders are **VITAL** to TMI's Mission to "inspire and equip the next generation to proclaim salvation in Christ alone!"



Become part of the **TMI FAMILY!** See what opportunities are available and register for **'FIRST STEP' November 3-8, 2024.**



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2025 TEAMS!

Use your summer for **JESUS!** Where will **YOU** go?

Share Jesus in Bolivia, Colombia, Germany, Madagascar, Rwanda, Thailand, Romania, Mexico, Hungary, Peru, South Africa, Cambodia, Australia, or Uganda.



INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Volunteers hold a special place in our hearts. We have plenty of projects year round for men, women, youth groups, and churches.

We'd love to have you join our volunteer team!



Go to **TEENMISSIONS.ORG** to learn more about these opportunities or call the TMI office at 321.453.0350.

INSIDE: News from your missionary!
Fall 2024

MPagaja Family MUSINGS

885 East Hall Road
Merritt Island, FL 32953



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Teen Missions International

Fall 2024

Ministry Update

Zambia Hunger Crisis: A Call for Action

What can **YOU** do for the cost of one fast-food meal?

Zambia is facing a devastating famine. The government has declared a national disaster and emergency as a severe drought has ravaged the land, leaving thousands without crops and facing the threat of starvation. Even before the drought, **48% of Zambians** were already struggling with hunger. Now, children are especially at risk, suffering from malnutrition and disease. At Teen Missions, we are deeply committed to helping these vulnerable children. Through our **19 Rescue Units** in Zambia, we are currently providing care for **6,359 registered orphans**. Sadly, some children have grown too weak to walk to school or even reach our Units. Our 200+ dedicated staff are working tirelessly to meet these urgent needs, but **we cannot do it alone. We need your help.**

As our Zambia Country Coordinator, Oscar Chama, has shared: **"We can feed a child for a day with just \$1.00."**

Imagine what your support can do. By donating the equivalent of a typical fast-food meal in the U.S.—**\$13.00**—you can provide for children and adults in desperate need. That's 13 lives fed, 13 lives touched, and 13 futures made brighter. Your donation goes beyond filling empty stomachs; it offers hope, strength, and the chance for them to grow and thrive.

Our goal is clear: **to raise \$100,000 by December 1, 2024.** Every dollar of your generosity will go directly to the **Zambia Hunger Crisis Fund**, helping us provide essential nutrition to those who need it most. Together, we can make a life-changing impact. Every meal counts, and every dollar matters.



Bring hope to Zambia's children and adults. Scan the QR code or visit the Zambia Hunger Crisis page to give now.

**Please donate today.
Together, we can help
Zambia overcome this crisis.**



An Exciting Partnership

Teen Missions is excited to partner with **Barnabas Foundation** to offer our supporters **complimentary planning services and assistance with complex gifts.** Since 1976, Barnabas Foundation has empowered thousands of individuals and families to enhance the impact of their generosity through tax-efficient charitable giving. Their expert team will work with you to create a charitable plan that honors God, supports your family, and benefits the ministries you hold dear.

Visit our **Planned Giving** page or email shonnfoy@teenmissions.net to learn more.

The **2024 US Lord's Boot Camp** trained 200+ team members and leaders to **GO** share Jesus around the world! **HE IS WORTHY!** This is an awesome testimony from a team member: "It has been so great to **get closer to God** at Boot Camp. The tough training is **fulfilling the goal to help us grow.** We have **struggled** on the Obstacle Course as a team and have been disqualified for various reasons, but **we keep growing** and celebrate that today we didn't DQ. I am grateful for what **God is working in all of us** and it is sweet to see in the **worship time** at Rally and in **our team time at night as we pray for one another's growth** and struggles."
-Mayah E.



Interested in reading the 2024 summer team reports?

Go to **TEENMISSIONS.ORG/trip-reports**

