

GPA Overseas: Witnessing In Zambia Another Day In The Scorching Hot Sun

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It is another day in the scorching hot sun of Zambia, and GPA is already adapting quick to its spontaneous changes such as loss of water to power outages. Similarly we've assimilated into the environment of water filled streets, muddy roads, and extreme jaywalking. Each and every day we can only express gratitude for what we have at home.

In the words of Eun-Young H., a first year participant, she exclaims:

"It feels like we've been here for a week already - everything feels so normal now!"



We started off our second full day with some good old Hoon Dok Hae to fill our spirits with the word of God.

And while waiting for our bus to come take us to a local school, we spontaneously visited the children from the school only steps away from the CheonBo Center in which we are staying at. The school was actually founded by Reverend Farber, the first missionary of Zambia, and many of our 2nd generation

attend there.

I feel that this random event was set up by God. It honestly was one of my favorite experiences so far and it wasn't even planned. The spirit of the children was just so innocent and free, completely different from kids in America. Something as simple as taking a photo gave them an incredible amount of joy. Having 35 children of all different grades run and swarm to you for a photo, the moment you take your phone out, was something I've never experienced before.

Eritin L., a second year captain of GPA states:

"The moments of playing with the children was one of the most joyful moments I've had in a while. Just seeing their joy in doing anything they did, always brought the biggest smile to my face. Whenever we decided to play a game they would all try and be involved and be apart of what we were doing. There were times where they'd see some other kids playing a different game and everyone would sprint over to join them. Or if 3-5 kids were taking a picture, one would scream, 'PICTURE!' and every single kid would struggle to be apart of it. Everything that we did, they made sure to have a good time in it. It showed me how easy it is to have a fun time in whatever you are doing."

All in all, everyone felt they were able to give and receive God's love during that small amount of time.

While some were playing with the children, a couple of our group members invested a lot of their time into making notebooks and bracelets for elementary and middle school students that we planned on visiting later that day. We were decorating and writing God's words on 40 different notebooks, and making 40 different bracelets, with full intent of wanting to positively impact children in which we were anticipating to see.



When our scheduled bus arrived 2 hours late, a common occurrence here in Zambia, we finally set off to Morning Pride Academy! To our surprise, the children, grades 1-7, had planned so many songs and dances for us to watch and listen to. It brought smiles to everyone's faces knowing how much they invested for us to receive their offering. Especially knowing the hours we spent on our own songs and dances, we could truly appreciate all the work leading up to their gift.

We were also glad to have finally performed our songs and dances in which we have been preparing for the past two months! It was so fulfilling seeing the smiles on their faces.

We were also happy to have gifted them goodie bags with the notebooks and bracelets our members prepared beforehand. GPA also contributed school supplies to help support their education. Seeing how joyful everyone was, the students, the teachers, and GPA, I'm sure everyone went to bed that day feeling full with the love of God.

Onto the next Zambian adventure!

With love,

Caelan J.