

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

- John 15:1-17 (ESV)



NAMIBIA'16

NHF NEWSLETTER

A Time of Sharing from the Namibia '16 Team





As New Hope Fellowship continues to discern the places in which God's Spirit is at work in the world, bringing healing to brokenness and the salvation of Christ to hearts created to know Him, we are thankful for the opportunity to come alongside the missionary community of Windhoek, Namibia. There, four missionary families are currently serving with the Korean-based organization We Love Africa, including our New Hope brother & sister, Steve and Seoyeon Hong. They have formed the ministry of Agape Youth, where they minister the gospel each week to nearly a hundred vulnerable teens from surrounding communities.

So often, the work of ministry in God's kingdom, forward-looking and eternally-focused as it is, is not easy to quantify or tangibly grasp. Yet the week that our N16 team spent in Windhoek this past August was a profound and life-giving glimpse into the promise of that coming Kingdom. Through it, these eight brothers and sisters tasted the joy of God's invitation to participate in His work, as the gospel of Jesus Christ goes forth to changes lives and redeem communities.

Here are some of their stories.

- The NHF Missions & Outreach Committee



Alex Lee

Abiding in Jesus

John 15:4-5

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

So in a nutshell how would we summarize the trip this year? 3 main questions of **Why, What, and How**. That is, **Why** did we go to Namibia? **What** was the purpose of the trip, **How** did we see God at work?

Why? The ministry reaching the impoverished youth in Windhoek, Namibia was started by South Korean missionaries, funded by We Love Africa organization. NHF members, Steve & Seo Yeon Hong partnered with them to reach the growing youth group, comprised of kids 14 & up. Steve is a seminary trained infectious disease physician. These children live in the poorest areas of the city of Windhoek (the capital of Namibia) where their homes are made of thin metal huts, without electricity, running water and toilets. They live on one meal every 1-2 days and one small cup of water a day in a fatherless culture ravaged by HIV, alcoholism, and domestic violence. The average age of death for a Namibian man is 49.

What? What did we do while we were there? The N16 team spent time visiting the homes of many of the youth meeting their parents and guardians, organized and led a NHF-funded Agape Youth Bible Camp, a four-day retreat with 93 (14-21 year old) youths. During the retreat, we led a small group of youth. We delved deeper into John 15, learned about their lives, worshipped & prayed together, counseled them, and shared the love of Christ with them. The kids as well as the Namibia 16 team members learned what it means to "Abide in Jesus and to bear His fruit."

How? How did we see God at work? We saw the Gospel visibly and tangibly making a difference in a child's life. Muni was a 13 year-old girl in my small group. When I first met her she did not smile, and often looked downward, and she would not pray with everyone during times of corporate prayer. By the last night of the camp, Muni had an ear-to-ear smile on her face and my last memory of her was tears streaming down her face as we laid hands on her and prayed over her and her family. The N16 team was humbled and grateful that God used us to display the message of the Gospel and the love of Christ to these kids. It is an indescribably beautiful thing to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ in visible action right in front of your eyes.

Brothers and Sisters of New Hope Fellowship, we are overwhelmingly thankful for the prayers, planning, and support of so many who quietly helped and served making this trip possible. We hope that you are encouraged by what God is doing in the youth of Namibia.

Linda Yoon

My trip to Namibia this year was really special for me because my entire family was able to attend. Last year, it was just Chloe and me. However, God had used His time wisely to prepare Timothy and Peter to go for the following year. As many of you know, Peter had lost his job last year and that impacted our lives in many different ways. But through the hardships and all of the struggles that we went through as a family, I believe that God strengthened our faith in Him and our attendance together as a family on the Namibia 2016 trip is a reflection of that. It was fantastic to see how all the children have grown in their faith and what had changed in them throughout the year. God definitely demonstrated His love for us by allowing our hearts to pour back upon these children. It was also really amazing to see my husband and children be active participants on this trip and watch God move their hearts as they worked for His kingdom.



Robert Nechols

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

First, I would like to thank our church for the great care and love that you have given to a very worthwhile ministry in Namibia through your immediate support of the team that went to Windhoek this August.

For me, the trip is filled with memories of the good work that Steve and Seoyeon Hong and the four missionary families from Korea are doing to share the Gospel with children and youth of the Havana district of Windhoek. It has been an incredible blessing to see and have the opportunity to join in the work of this ministry, as we did, especially in the youth camp.

The focus of this ministry on teaching the kids about Jesus and showing them his love stays with you. It leads you to love these kids too. It is a hope-giving experience, inspiring hope for the children and youth despite the many hardships and challenges they face. And for us, as a team from NHF, it inspires us to return with renewed love for our church, for our youth here, knowing that they share this same need to know and live in Him.



Kate Lee

Looking back at my second trip to Namibia, I am amazed at how much God has shown me. When I returned, I felt like a piece of my heart was left there and I couldn't stop thinking about Namibia. The kids there showed faith that you could sense by just talking to them. The passion and love that they bore is just unexplainable.

Prior to visiting Windhoek, I felt a pull on my heart to share my testimony there. I had never shared it before, but my heart tugged me to share it. Typically, I am a little shy around big crowds, so at first I doubted myself. But on the stage, as I started talking, I opened up. A flood of emotions washed over me, and I started to break into a sob. To my surprise, none of the kids were laughing, or even giggling. Instead, some of them were crying. I looked into their eyes, and I saw a deep understanding. I'd never felt so open, and so understood.

Every moment after that was a step up in faith, and being able to talk to these kids, and get to know more about their lives was an amazing opportunity. Looking back on that trip, the one thing I can't stop thinking about is their smiles. They loved Jesus more than anyone I've ever met, and would do anything for him. Lots of testimonies included them getting beaten for coming to church. Even living in an area where alcoholism and sexual immorality is common, these kids remained with pure hearts.

At times, I thought I was of no use because of my age. I believed that I was going on this missions trip just because my parents were. But, going to the camp, and talking to the kids taught me that no matter what condition, God used me somehow. Different people are called to do different things, but they're just as important as the others. The youth in Namibia, as young as thirteen, showed more passion than a strong, rooted Christian adult here in America. They taught me more about Scripture and Jesus in four days, than I could learn in a year.



Kate Lee (continued)

Last year when we went to Africa, I mainly focused on Hope Village Orphanage, and that was the only thing that I looked forward to. We had only visited the orphanage once, but after the camp, I realized that wasn't the main focus of the trip. The youth needed to be fed truth, and to be nurtured and cared for. Although the kids at Hope Village are cute, and fun to play with, they won't take as much out of our visit as the youth.

A few days before leaving, a strong Christian boy named Ruben and I had a short, but meaningful discussion. Ruben told me that he was inspired by my testimony, and that I should keep reading the Bible, and keep growing in my faith. He said to read Psalm 23, and to start reading Proverbs. I had pushed that aside, and hadn't read it until a few weeks after coming back from Namibia. When I finally brought myself to read it, it really spoke to me. The one part that especially stuck out to me in Psalm 23 is verse four, where it says, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil because you are with me." I kept praying on this line, and it built up my trust in God. No matter what happens, he'll always be by my side, and even when I fail him, he'll pick me back up. When in doubt or fear, I say this line to myself, and it immediately comforts me.

I love these kids, and they'll always be part of my heart. They're some of the few people I've ever been able to open up to. I miss them severely, and feel like they're family now. Sometimes I think about how they've returned to their normal lives. It must be so hard living with abusive parents. I always worry how they're managing. I feel like I have to protect them, and don't want anything bad to happen to them. Whenever a selfish or angry thought crosses my mind, I think about what those kids would say about it. That softens my heart, and sometimes helps to control my anger. My trip to Namibia is indescribable, and I can't truly put all of my feelings into words. Just thinking about all of those joyful faces makes me want to smile.



Peter Yoon

I knew a year ago that I was going on this trip to Namibia. Many of you know around this time in 2015, God blessed me by taking my job away and allowing me to spend some quality time with Him and my family. At the same time, Linda and Chloe went on the inaugural Namibia trip to a country a half-world away. If I was stronger in my faith, I would have gone with them, but I rationalized my priorities into not going. So my participation for the N16 trip was my own form of obedience to God's command a year ago.

When I got there, I was blown away by the many stories I heard. The stories were all inspiring and would have been hard for me to believe had I not heard from them and come to know there was no way people can make up stories like this and faith so strong.

One lady in my group is Ndeinelao. Ndeinelao is 19 years old and wants to be an accountant. The first time I met Ndeinelao was when we were picking up kids from Havana. She ran up to a full bus with a group of other boys & girls and an infant on her back. She was late and she was not on the registration list, never mind with a child. After a few frantic calls with SeoYeon and Pastor Park, they agreed to let her onto the bus with her baby.

When I got to the camp, I was surprised to find that Ndeinelao was assigned to my small group. I admit, I was more than a little uncomfortable with the situation. However, over the course of the next forty hours in three days I came to learn her life story. In her early teens, Ndeinelao came to know Christ. In doing so, she was kicked out of her mother's home because of her faith. She had nothing and left what little she had rather than turn her back on Jesus. She knew that was all she needed. She left her home and comfort to live with an estranged father she did not know rather than deny her faith.



Peter Yoon (continued)

I don't know the exact details, but eventually Ndeinelao's own mother came to know Christ. Her mother's faith grew and she yearned to have Ndeinelao back. During the time of the camp, Ndeinelao's mother was praying & fasting daily to be reunited. Ndeinelao had succeeded in leading her mom to Christ. This struck such a chord with me as members of my own family do not know Jesus. Here is a young lady that endured scorn from her own family rather than turn her back on Jesus. God honored her by blessing her mother.

I admit my own sin in judging her at first sight. It is easy for me to say teenage mothers are undisciplined. However, better labels would have been God-loving, unyielding in her faith and a fellow believer who is yielding fruit. She is abiding in Jesus.

As I look back at the photos of the camp, I see a room full of teenagers with similar stories. They conjure images of David and Goliath. David, the youngest of eight sons who was delegated to messenger and duties, and dismissed at every turn. David, who as a boy, cut down the Philistine champion Goliath with a sling, stone & God. David who was promised by God a kingdom that would last forever. David, whose generational lineage eventually gave us a savior in Jesus.

God honors faith in the face of adversity and personal loss – more of Him and less of us. I see that in the young lives of the teens and missionaries there. An earnest desire to be connected to Jesus. I am blessed to have been a part of it all and to be reminded that we are all part of His Kingdom.



Sharon Lee

Prior to 2015, I really didn't know much about Namibia. In fact, I had not heard of the country until Hongs shared that they were serving there. Here's a little information about a country about the size of Texas. It's located at the southern tip of Africa. Population is around 2 million (30 million in Texas!). It is one of the least populated countries due to vast Namib deserts. It is a democracy, which declared independence from S. Africa in 1990. 85% profess Christianity, but fatherlessness, HIV epidemic, alcoholism are rampant and widespread. According to Steve Hong, their faith is "a mile wide and an inch deep." Prosperity gospel is preached widely and held by majority of "believers". HIV prevalence in pregnant is among the highest (22% dropped to 18%). More than 1 out of 10 people are HIV-positive. It's a nation where only 4,000 kids make it to college among 70,000 entering 8th graders. Jobs are scarce for those without education. Fathers and father-figures are absent and females do bulk of societal work. Putting these situations along with the rampant presence of prosperity gospel, one can see why so many fall victim to alcoholism, single-motherhood, and abuse of all kinds. Without major overhaul of cultural and spiritual belief, the situation and the future seem hopeless.



As I reflect back on the two trips to Namibia, I feel that there is this overwhelming sense of despair at these hopeless situations and yet feel absolutely hopeful at the same time. Sometimes it was difficult to reconcile the two sentiments. What is certain is that against the backdrop of the dark state of things, Agape Youth (AY) shines brightly like a nightlight in a dark room.

Philpus is a great example of this binary feeling. He is a 19-year-old boy who lives only with his abusive alcoholic mother. He lives in utter poverty. His mother drinks away even the

little they have and sometimes he would go days without food. She beats him severely when drunk—evidenced by the scars on his face and elsewhere. Although he is diligent, he struggles with learning and has fallen back academically barely able to pass his tests. He has trouble reading, so peers need to help him read through Bible passages etc. And yet, he is a faithful attender of AY and was the first to recite from memory John 15:1-17, bringing Steve & Seoyeon to tears. He is now on the worship team. There's a marked difference from 2015; he is not reclusive and withdrawn as he once were. This year, he seemed like a different person; his countenance has changed. He has deeper understanding of who God is despite the challenges of his life. He is starting to understand the love poured upon him by the missionaries. Does he know that this is the love of Christ for him? I hope so. I really do.



Another example of hope is a boy named Patmos. I met him during our first trip in 2015. He was in my group and right away he proved to be a troublemaker leaving the premises after specifically told not to go outside of the camp. He had to be searched and searched during group activities. He was always somewhere else with other troublemaker friends doing something in secrecy. And yet, I felt that he possessed gift of leadership and intelligence. I don't know why but I did. I felt that all he was seeking was approval, which he rarely received (not from adults anyway). Yet, he couldn't be good so he decided to be approved by peers by being bad. During our last night of the camp 2015, Steve asked us to go into a corporate prayer and pray for our group of kids. It was then I prayed for him with tears affirming him and praying that God would use the gifts of intelligence, influence & leadership that he has given Patmos for God's glory. I still remember the way Patmos looked up at me in tears (while he was suppose to close his eyes) and stared at me as if he had never heard such a thing. Beyond the aloof & tough exterior was a bright kid who hungered for acceptance & love.

This year, I couldn't wait to see how much he had grown physically & spiritually. While we hugged like long-lost family members, Patmos sheepishly said, "It's been too long, miss." He had said that he missed me and has kept on reading the verses I gave him. It was hard to take in how expressive he was. A year ago, I could hardly get him to look me in the eye let alone get him to express one sentiment. We spent some alone time catching up one day. He shared that life was uncertain because his father left him with no financial support, and his mother who is unemployed had recently remarried and left Patmos in the care of his uncle. There was a good possibility that his mother would move him out of the area to be close to her, which meant he would not be able to attend Agape Youth. This was devastating possibility. His prayer request was that he would pass all his subjects and (he said he failed history last year) and that he would stay at Windhoek. We prayed together and asked God to always draw Patmos to Him regardless of situations at hand. His tears brought me to tears. I was thankful to see that Patmos' heart was moved by the Spirit. I was also thankful that despite his unstable situations, he found joy in being in Agape Youth and at the camp. Sure, he still showed his troublemaker side, but he had definitely grown in wisdom. I felt hopeful that Patmos was headed in the right direction. During our last day together, he asked me to find a space to record him with my phone him reciting John 15:1-17. I thought he was asking to preserve his accomplishment so didn't think much of it and forgot to do so. It was during our campfire time where we were going to have the braai (barbeque), he found me again and asked me to go inside one of the rooms to record him reciting. He messed up several times so I asked him why he wanted to do this. He then said something I will never forget, "Miss when you go back to your country and when you miss me, you can hear my voice." I never felt so loved and considered. His parting gift to me was God's Word on abiding in Jesus!

Patmos' desire for continued relationship despite lacking so many tangible things humbled me greatly. Do I seek out relationship like this with others? With God? Would I readily forgo worldly joy for the sake of joy in Christ? Do I really take to heart this verse, Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst (John 6:35). Through the ministry of AY, I learned that there is hunger beyond the physical, which all people strive to satisfy. It is the kind that can be given freely in Christ and begotten only through Christ. Thank you New Hope, friends & family for faithfully supporting and praying for us. Along with you, we pray that God would receive all the glory from the big & small victories won for His namesake.

Jen Chon

In the many years I have been a Christian and the mission trips I have taken, I think this trip to Namibia will be the most significant and life changing one for me. I have always known that God has called me to the mission field. He had put in my heart at a young age that I need to go. I hoped and prayed that God would open doors, connections, or something to confirm for me that this is what He wanted me to do. Even though God continually stirred my heart for mission and the urgency for the gospel to the nations with every missions trips, God did not open the door and confirmed for me to go until now.

Although I was not able to go with the team last year, this was not my first trip to Namibia, I went to Namibia seven years ago and worked with Steve and Seoyeon at the orphanage Hope Village. This was before Steve met the Korean missionaries. I was able to volunteer and work at the local hospital treating patients and the kids from Hope Village at the dental clinic. Since then, more relationships were made and our church has invested time and efforts to partner with the ongoing ministry Steve, Seoyeon, and the Korean missionaries of We Love Africa Foundation. Along with these developments, God have been so gracious in giving me numerous confirmations in my heart and the hearts of my family that this is the ministry He has selected for me to join and work together for the work of the Gospel.

For me, this mission trip to Namibia was an amazing experience, in addition, a confirmation trip. Many months of prayer began early this year when Steve and Seoyeon came to visit, since then God has given me a heart of peace and joy in my decision to leave my church and my family for full-term mission work in Namibia. Several weeks prior to our trip, Steve had informed me that Namibia University will be starting their very first Dental School in the country early next year and would I be interested in a possible teaching position. Steve knew the dean of the University and I submitted my letter of interest and CV. During the missions trip I had the opportunity to speak to the New Director and Dean of the Dental Program. It is still at very early stages of the program with pending approval of the curriculum and budget by the University. This is a long process with much bureaucracy in Africa, but God has opened an amazing opportunity for me. Please continue to pray for this position in the program.

In the meantime, God willing, I will be joining the Korean missionaries and the We Love Africa Foundation, obtaining a visa as a full-time missionary. The plan is to depart for Africa early next year. Please join me in continue prayer for this mission, I hope I will have a chance to share more with you in the near future.



Min Kim



of Windhoek.

Last year, I had no idea how God was working in these youth group children's lives. We were only there for two weeks and I wasn't sure if I would be able to witness God's working hand over their hearts. Yet amazingly, God revealed Himself to me through a young girl named Lailli. She had approached me after the bonfire on the last night of camp the previous year. She had revealed to me her unstable relationship with her stepmother and step-siblings and how they made it difficult to see her father and asked me to pray over and her and her family.

This year, not only has Lailli gotten taller but she also has grown in her faith. She shared with me her continuous family saga - how her family was accusing her of witchcraft because she went to church, calling the Bible a book of sorcery. Lailli also told me the heavy darkness she feels in the city of Windhoek, especially Havana. She told me her desires to leave the country yet felt obligated to remain to be with her mother. Once again, she asked me to pray for her and together, her and I prayed for her family and for the city of Windhoek and Namibia. Seeing her bright smile and her love for praising and worship brought me to tears. God was indeed working in these children's lives by allowing them to understand what His love is all about.

I pray that as time goes by, many of these children will be able to share their testimonies about Christ and that they will be able to shape and that God will indeed raise up His chosen generation.

Chloe Yoon

I've come to realize that Africa is my place of happiness, joy, and peace. The reason why is not because of the people I'm with, or the beauty of the country, or even the things we did there (although those are all amazing aspects of this missions trip.) The sole reason that my trip to Africa is my favorite thing in the world, is because of God's presence. In my personal experience, Africa was,



and will always be pure happiness to me because I am 100% his. There are no distractions tugging me this way or another, it is rich, natural, and pure God- which made the experience magical. I believe those are the moments in life that I have to treasure because

throughout the year, I don't get that experience. However, the memories of when I did are fresh and give me a small glimpse of what I am living for.

Although I grew as a follower in Christ, I saw growth in many others as well. My small group, during the retreat, felt like my second family. My beautiful sisters in Christ, whom I all love immensely, opened up and cried to the Lord constantly throughout the retreat. Each girl had a different story, in which most of them are ones that originate from dark places. One night in particular, I was able to listen and hear all their stories in which four other girls and I cried and embraced each other just being able to know that we aren't in this alone. A girl named Angeline struggled with the adult figures in her life, as do most. Those who were supposed to act as examples in their life, were in jail and abusive towards her. As we prayed together, holding hands and crying out to the Lord, I felt safe in knowing that she is in God's hands now. Although she's in, what seems like, another world, I feel okay knowing that God is watching over her. There are many others who are beaten by family members, told lies by others, tempted into stealing, and yet they were praising the Lord side by side with me, intensively taking notes on sermons, and crying their hearts out during prayer.

Thank you to New Hope church for providing such an eye-opening experience. Thank you for the prayers, the hard work behind the scenes, and fundraising. But in the end- all glory to God, who has strengthened us all to create such a beautiful mission trip for all.

Chris Yoon

Before I left for Africa I wasn't sure what to expect. I was told it would be an amazing experience for me to see God working. I felt a little hesitant at first but I decided to go.

During our preparation to go to Africa, we learned about Namibia and its people. Although I learned about the wide spread poverty and HIV in Namibia, it was hard to fathom the extent of the affliction. At first it was hard to accept the conditions in which some of the kids were living in. I grew up so accustomed to my life in New York that seeing the youths in aluminum houses and no running water was hard to wrap my head around. "Break my heart for what breaks yours." I heard this lyric in a song so many times but I don't think I understood the depth of those words. It broke my heart.

While I am aware that these things shouldn't be what defines these youths and that what I have is not the basis which other people should be living, I could not stop myself from thinking how misfortunate these kids were. However, during the camp God started opening my eyes to what He sees in these children. I had the privilege of getting to know a group of youths, one particular girl named Floriana. Floriana was a very strong willed and straightforward girl. From the beginning, she took charge by getting kids together for bible memorization and initiating conversations in our small group. As I got to know her, I found that she also had her share of problems. She had fights in school, stole money in order to buy food, and also had a tough relationship with her mother. All of these things I found were not very uncommon in other youths in the camp as well. It wasn't until the end of the first night that I really got to see these children. At the end of the evening sermon, Floriana who was usually in control of herself, started to burst into tears. She wanted God not only to forgive her of the things she had done but to help her mend the tear between her and her mother. I started to see her as one of God's precious children. It was then that I realized that even though these children may have less materialistic possessions, their hearts and minds were focused purely on God's love as a Father.



Timothy Yoon

When I found out I was going on a mission trip to Africa, I'll be honest, I wasn't the happiest. I thought that summer was supposed to be about fun and excitement, and this trip didn't really sound the most fun and exciting. I saw how passionate my sister was about this trip, that she even opened up a club in our school specifically for an orphanage in Africa, but I just didn't get why she was so passionate. Every person I met who knew I was going on this trip said to me "Oh, good for you!" or "That's amazing", but in my heart I was feeling quite the opposite. I never knew how life changing this trip would be.



I mistakenly thought of this as another vacation, except it'll have more prayers, sermons, and church stuff. My first eye opening experience is when I saw the conditions a lot of these kids were living in; houses made out of aluminum and the size of a room, water that they had to fetch every day from a watering hole, and there

was no sense of privacy. Many people know of the harsh conditions that people in Africa live in, but don't really take it into consideration until they see it with their own eyes. I'm one of those people. On the first day of the camp, after the sermon, the pastor asked all the kids to, instead of praying inside, to pray out loud. And that's what all the kids did. You could here many kids crying out to the Lord, it was something I've never experienced before. And I just couldn't comprehend how these kids could have such strong faith in such harsh conditions that they were in. And here I was, not even wanting to be there at that moment. And that wasn't all that God has planned for me.

Throughout the camp, I heard sermons and testimonies and prayers that made me question my faith and grow closer to God. Don't get me wrong, it's not like this trip had no fun it. These kids were one of the most fun kids I've ever seen; no video games, or TV, or phones to entertain themselves. But there was this one specific moment I remembered during the camp. One of the Korean missionaries asked all the kids to make one big circle and hold hands and just pray for each other. I can confidently say that this was one of the most inspiring and beautiful things I've ever seen in my life. Everyone, brothers and sisters in Christ, coming together and praying to the Lord. Later that day during the night, some of the kids were brave enough to share their testimony. They talked about how they were beaten, abused, and harassed and how God was there throughout their hardest times. This may not have a vacation at a beach, or hotel, or an amusement park, but that doesn't matter because God was with me throughout that whole vacation and I grew closer to him than I ever have before. And when someone asks me "Would you go on the trip again" I say a confident "Yes!"

