

Tied Hands

by Tonya Jones
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Restoration Academy staff members Tonya Jones and Molly Stone with students Morgan Steele and Trey Jenkins at Victoria Falls in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

“Your plane was hit by lightning and your flight will be delayed by six hours. We need to make sure that everything is okay with the plane.” This is how our mission trip to Victoria Falls began! However, the Lord took our faith to a new level by even allowing us to participate in this trip. The 20 person team included two staff members and two students from Restoration Academy. As we got this news, our team gathered together to pray. This was the first of many instances when our hands were tied and we had to totally depend on the Lord to make things happen.

Time and time again, we bowed our heads to seek favor from our heavenly Father. I saw our students experience total dependence on God, rather than man. They participated in quiet times of reverence, praise and worship like never before. They met smiling faces to greet and welcome us into a place that we would never consider to live. We visited with schools and feeding centers, where the joy was

evident and infectious. My prayer before leaving on the mission trip was that God would allow us the freedom to experience His love in a new and different way. My heart continued to meditate on these words of a song: "I give myself away, so you can use me."

As I begin this new school year at Restoration Academy, I am challenged from this experience to continually take the finances, students, staff, board and supporters of the school to the altar of God. The mission in Victoria Falls was no different than the mission here at Restoration Academy: there is a need for children to know and experience the love that God has for those who know Him and have a relationship with Him. Without Him, our hands are tied.