

Volunteering in Himmelsfels



Close to God, close to people, close to nature

Editorial

I chose this picture that would remind me of how amazing God is. Before I came to Himmelsfels, I had a fight with my spirit over giving my tithe, but that time in my church we called it miracle offertory which happens every year. I was too broke to give financially, but a small voice continuously reminded me to look around my room and give that which I loved most.

Hmm I had a beautiful suit hanging for over a year from Germany. I hadn't worn it yet because it was a bit big on me, however this voice told me to take it to church and I said "hell no"!!! This is my favorite attire and the most expensive of all my clothes.

I decided to look for a buyer, at least auction it, so I can get some money - and surprisingly customers liked it, but I don't know why they wouldn't buy it. I went back to church next Sunday, very guilty yet I was now believing God for a visa to Himmelsfels, I was too ashamed and felt like a thief as I tried to close my eyes and pray.

So the next day, which was a working day, I went to the shop where I was auctioning this suite from and carried it to church.

And yes, I'm in Himmelsfels, that was an answered prayer, but not only did I give away my favorite suit - which didn't fit me - now I can afford a much better suit which totally fits me. This suit reminds me of the suit I gave to church: same color, same everything, but most importantly it reminds me how faithful our God is, how God uses the little you have so he can multiply more for you and for him to accomplish, he needs to be sure if he can entrust you with just a little of what is already his. God will be praised always!

For every volunteer: Welcome to Himmelsfels home away from home. We thought of just giving you a glance of how amazing your journey will be, we won't promise only fun but surely it will be fun through teamwork, work becomes less hectic. And again welcome and feel at Jesus while in Himmelsfels.



Yours truly

Racheal Adeke

What is volunteering?

Most of the times we are chosen by different organizations or people with a belief that we can represent our nations or even be chosen because of a certain uniqueness one has that is fit to be shared with others. However we do not know why we are trusted enough or chosen up to when you notice that its Gods will, in other words you are free to do that which brings glorify to God as volunteer or that which benefits you - just as they say change can either be positive or negative, depends on the driver.

I wanted to google out what volunteering is, but after completing one year as a volunteer I preferred giving my own personal thought about it.

Volunteering is being open to service, patient at all times, acquiring knowledge as you share yours and having a big smile to everyone. The beauty of it all is volunteering is a two way thing, it's more of another personal journey for anyone who is ready to better themselves in terms of self discovery. This Platform opens you to opportunities, cores and conversational presentation with different people with different cultures. At a certain point, I felt am so boring when seated on a table of really energetic and learnt people and I can not speak that much about myself or certain things, sometimes this experience pushes you to learn more or even

forces you to get out of your comfort zone, for example being too quiet.

Volunteering doesn't really mean that everything is going to move accordingly to how you planned or wished, the work cores might be a bit challenging but manageable, thanks to our experienced leaders. Sometimes you might shade a tear but that's part of a story of every successful person. Not to forget the most important of them all which is teamwork. Be each others keeper and never get tired of cheerleading the other because this is your new family.

Great to have you all in the journey of volunteering. God be with you.



The embassys in Himmelsfels representing different nations.

HIMMELS FELS

Close to God, close to people, close to nature

The very first time someone interpreted the word Himmelsfels to me in English kept me wondering how many big and small Stones are in this place. Is it really a mountain and heaven at the same time, as they say. Making it worse, it's a place covered or full of trees. As an African such a setting gives me an impression that obviously we have snakes, dangerous caterpillars, birds everywhere, and now here I am being told that snakes on this mountain are harmless! How do you convince an African that there are non dangerous snakes if all she has seen in her life are the dangerous ones.

Well I physically reached this place called "Himmelsfels", and yes the "Botschaft" commonly known as "embassy", or rather where campers reside from, are so unique given the many different countries they represent. I was also curious to be surprised with one that represented my own continent. Well, I guess I was consoled by the presence of Pan Africa, it gave me a feeling of recognition as part of this mountain. *"This mountain is given to you, do anything for and with it."* These are most of the very first words that every volunteer receives when they first set their feet on this mountain. But I was still wondering as to why it was given the word *Himmelsfels*, a German word to mean *Heavensrock*. Well according to this organization, *heaven's rock* is a mountain of rubble and hope at the same time, a symbol for God's love and a place where people are contented with each other amidst different backgrounds. It is so nice to hear someone explain something you look at as new and have a totally different perception about certain things, but still you are being convinced that it's beautiful and you really can change something and learn much more than you expected.

Racheal Adeke



Anfrisha Chrisyofi, a volunteer from Indonesia.

This mountain is given to me

Intercultural life, integration, love and spirituality are some words that can sum up the experience and the nature of volunteering in Himmelsfels. Some times I am amazed how six different individuals who never knew each other and are from totally different backgrounds can become so caring and loving as a family... I am not saying that we never have arguments, all families have issues but it never made us hate each other.

When work gets too hard and weather gets too cold, when you feel like you want to give up, then they will be there pushing each other up and supporting each another - which is essential in today's life of each individual. The beautiful thing about intercultural life is that how much more you learn about the others; you start to discover who you are and what qualities you have and the uniqueness of your culture. It took me by surprise. The things I thought were so normal are not so normal in other cultures.

Me personally have never had anything to do with people from other countries or in other words internationals. I don't know how to put in to words.... Something like they are also people who feel and make friends and they also get hurt and they can be so kind and also sometimes get angry, this may sound so ordinary to say,

but for some one like me, who thought and looked at foreigners like they were aliens, it is something very different to experience.

What's special about Himmelsfels is that you get the taste of the world on a mountain. Each little stone on that mountain has a true story of very real humans. Each and every corner is being taken into consideration like even the little pieces of every mosaic on the mountain.

Each and every person who comes to the mountain adds beauty and colour to it. And we are proud owners of this wonderful mountain.

Personally it has been a place where I had that so called MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE... The heaven with its arch and the cross is a place of quietness and a place for reflection and prayer while only your feet are on the earth and the rest of you is in heaven.

Himmelsfels has opened me up to a culture that is free from excuses, limitations and gives second chances. But above all, there is good in you and much more. All you have to do is try it out and the best way to try it out is stop giving excuses and unnecessary complaints - just try it out, am not promising that it is easy or fun but it's worth it if you put your mind into grooming **YOU**.

Madawi Nandakumar



Ichha and Madawi established a great friendship in Himmelsfels.

Favorite Verse

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

(Acts 10:34-35)



Valencia Mpofo (right) and Endang Alfrianti (left) at zoll waiting to receive visitor in Himmelsfels.

Every moment is priceless in Himmelsfels

The very first time I came to Himmelsfels was as part of the guests during spirit camp. I came with a friend and somehow deep in my heart I felt connected. It was more like I definitely have to come back, no matter what. And yea, I came back just as a trial to see how really things work here. Those trial days for me gave me a conviction that this is home away from home and that's how I became part of the volunteering team. The tasks in Himmelsfels are more of getting you out of your comfort zone. However I'm used to doing this at home, though not in such a large scale. We had a good teamwork spirit. The funny part is how I got a nickname: "Mama Africa". It is still a privilege being the Mama here, hahaha.

I have actually really matured a lot from Himmelsfels, more especially in my spiritual journey, talking about SAM, BAM, GAFA, that is a touch on an every day basis. Because I would



never do this on my own so it is like a spiritual growth training and a reflection that someone can adhere to prayer time and it has helped me grow and learn from others.

Valencia Mpofo

Favorite Verse

The body of Christ, or the people that are the whole of humanity, are a team. The body is not supportet by one person, but by all of us. We are one, we are strongest working together in unity. Teamwork is the key to living life in harmony, so we can do God's will.

(1 Cor 12:14)

When did it get soooo complicated...

I remember the first time I washed the toilet, a tear dropped out of my eye because of what I hear back home. They say "people in foreign countries



are there to wash toilets and come back home, happy yet they were toilet washers". This kept me thinking, is this really happening to me, too. I mean I am a graduate and now I am in a foreign county, washing toilets and the worst part is, when there are visitors and you feel like a worker or more less.

I am so grateful to Himmelsfels and above all God for giving me this opportunity to feel this way. For there is no greater way you can face the world if you do not start by humbling yourself with the very hardest yet

smallest battles.

And that's opening your heart to service with an "I don't care"-attitude. Doing all this in the mind of the lord.

Facing this silent annoying moment with a melody of praises. Trust me: work starts getting enjoyable and fun. I reached a point that I love cleaning toilets so much. Even though I wasn't cleaning, I would just go and check and make sure they are clean, because I enjoyed hearing people say "wow". Every time

they entered I felt proud of myself, but most importantly because every time we were in Israel for prayers and singing like GAFA, I always enjoyed hearing people continue singing that song even in the toilet until they went back. The thought that the toilet was dirty and someone who was still praising in his heart or loud reaches a dirty toilet and uses words like "scheisse" distracts ones moment of worship.

So I made sure they were thoroughly clean. I still don't understand why we get worried and helpless when it

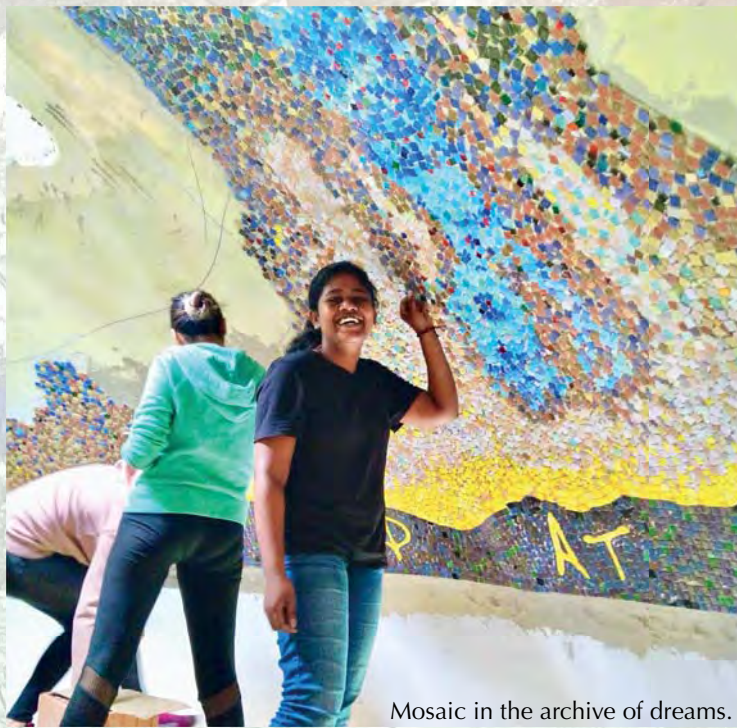
comes to cleaning - I mean every normal person goes there for business without shame. Then why does shame appear when cleaning is involved? Just thinking out loud.

The first time I washed the toilet, I cried. I mean I felt ashamed when people saw me. I really felt inferior because I had already graduated. You know that feeling... But day by day, I noticed doing what I detested, humbled my soul. Actually I put myself in the shoes of those cleaning toilets in the malls.

I always shut down my silent pride and was sure I could do it, and yea I made it, cleaning toilets is as normal as using the toilet. Why would I hate cleaning something that is really important to me at the long run. It took me a lot of time to see it this way. I really love cleaning toilets, hahaha.

Another Anonymous





Mosaic in the archive of dreams.



Mosaic in the shower area.

Broken but beautifully unique: MOSAIC

THE AMAZEMENT I GOT AFTER SEEING THE DUST BINS, WATER DRAINAGE, SHOWERS AND ISRAEL FLOOR WHEN I FIRST STEPPED IN HIMMELSFELS KEPT ME WONDERING. HOW CAN A DUST BIN DESERVE THAT MUCH ATTENTION OF BEAUTY IF IT IS MEANT TO BE A RUBBISH BIN. WHAT WAS THE LOGIC BEHIND THIS UNIQUE APPEARANCE. IN FACT, I DIDN'T PARTICIPATE IN MOSAIC HOBBY GROUP FOR SOME MONTHS UPTO WHEN I HEARD THE WHOLE CONCEPT FROM THE LEADERS, WHICH LEFT ME IMPRESSED. THE THOUGHT THAT DIFFERENT SHAPED TINY TILES CAN BE UNIFIED TO BRING BEAUTY IS REALLY AMAZING. BUT THE BEST PART IS REALLY WHAT THEY REPRESENT: DIFFERENT BROKEN MOSAIC PARTICLES BEING PUT OUT TOGETHER AND WITH DIFFERENT COLORS, BUT STILL BRING OUT BEAUTY. THAT IS THE WORLD WE LOVE TO LIVE IN TODAY, THOUGH BROKEN, UNIQUELY DIFFERENT, BUT WHEN PUT TOGETHER, BEAUTY MANIFESTS. AND THAT IS WHAT HIMMELSFELS REPRESENTS: DIFFERENT NATIONS STAGED IN ONE MOUNTAIN. JUST SEE HOW MUCH BEAUTY IT HAS.

DAVID JOHN GADDAM



David with Endang and Valencia - volunteers.

SAM. BAM. GAFA.

These are like the three core foundations of my description of Himmelsfels. SAM which means “Stille am Morgen” (“silence in the morning”), BAM for “Bibel am Mittag” (“bible at midday”) and GAFA, which stands for “Gospel am Feierabend” (“gospel in the evening”).

These are the foundations of spiritual growth. Maybe we were too occupied to even open our bibles while in our respective countries, but here step by step this norm will guide and groom you to seek God in truth.

I really had the hardest challenge as I was personally struggling with fitting into this silence mode. I started

talking a lot with myself, disagreeing and agreeing, I don’t know. It wasn’t more of me just praying and reading but now I could listen and really felt listened to as well. This was and still is a new way to pray and it’s priceless.

SAM, BAM and GAFA are some of the cool moments there. This part was able to refresh my soul.

Communicate with God and sing solemnly at SAM, share God’s word and gain new strength through BAM, and new energy through music and dance through GAFA.

A very special time and I miss it.

Netova Sibuea



Former volunteers Rizgar and Netova.



Time of contemplation during SAM.

It’s actually so funny how I got trapped into this kind of praying atmosphere, trapped in a positive way, because back home in Indonesia, I really didn’t have such intimacy with God - unless when was asked to play the piano. Then I would always be present, because I love it. But when it comes to bible study, most of the time I escape, because I preferred other stuff like going out with friends. However I loved worship, but I didn’t enjoy it that much as here in Himmels-



fels. My relationship with God has really changed. The devotion in SAM always prepares me for the day and I feel more connected with God than before. In fact I am open to visions that I didn’t think I would have seen myself in that aspect. BAM is so great because I am inspired as to how all my teammates enjoy contributing to Gods word, if it wasn’t for Pastor Steve, I don’t think I would ever say anything during BAM. But I have really learnt a lot and now I find myself trying so hard to read the word of God, something that I don’t think I would ever have done while home. And for GAFA we all love singing and this brings us actually closer to the campers.

Anfrischa Chrisyofi

Favorite Verse

Pray in the spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

(Eph 6:18)



Anfrischa is spinning the wheel of nature.

Kitchen moments: food for the soul



I loved every bit of the kitchen service. It has improved my cooking skills. Being with Pen in the kitchen amidst language barriers yet we perform perfectly. However there are still those moments when am tired and the kitchen door starts playing hard to get. Normally after washing dishes we were supposed to put the containers back to the kitchen. Whenever I take the containers happily to the kitchen, thinking that I can go home and relax... the kitchen door never supported my idea, it always refuses to open... When it remains stubbornly refusing to open, I start explaining to it with tears dripping down, why it should open and also that I have no more energy remaining... this is so funny to admit. But every plate, spoon and cup in there knows a lot of secrets about my life, that no one else does.

Madawi Nandakumar

More favorite Verses

By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." But he answered, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "That would take more than half a year's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?" "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish." Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand. (Mark 6:35-44)



That moment you leave home without ever cooking or using your mum's kitchen, and here you are preparing a meal for over one hundred people; thankfully with the help of the professionals - Ma'am Augusta and Pen. Wow, these are the best cooks I have known well aside from my mother, haha.

I also loved serving in the kitchen. I always like to help and serve people. Sometimes I was alone in the kitchen to prepare food with different decoration on the tray.

For me it really was a pleasure to prepare food for the children. Especially I remember some kids that smiled and said "we are full". For me it was a pleasure, that moment that they were happy after eating food and getting satisfied.

Mahdi Rastegar



The integration coach

With the knowledge I obtained from the integration coach, I would describe this class as an opening to ones life calling or purpose. We come from different nationalities with different perceptions about almost everything. For example culture, religion, women emancipation, work, even just by how one says certain words can define something and mean a lot more than you in your own culture would ever imagine. The integration coach lessons are more of practical which is fun because some of us have to fight with what you might call small or minor battles - like fear to speak out, language barrier, and much more. However in these lessons, it's way fun than any best class that you ever attended while back in your country



Integration coach team 2018/19



because here it's all about YOU, looking deep inside of who you really are. You are free to cheat and pretend about everything but at the end of the day you lied to your own self. In other words: During the integration coach, be free to show your weaknesses so that you are able to fight it, be open to listen and learn from others so you too can spread the good news of self discovery, be free to unlearn the

selfish thoughts and learn to share knowledge.

I think if it was not the integration coach, then I don't know how I would discover what's within me. At first my usual worry would be meeting different people for the very first time and you wouldn't be sure how it would turn out. For me the integration coach opened the very first and hardest door in my walk of self discovery. My strength and weaknesses and it went further to unveil the fact that am actually stronger than what my labeled weakness claims.

AR

Through integration coach I met many people from different backgrounds. It turns out that the difference is so beautiful, and I'm proud of the difference that God has made. Through the groups I learnt many things and even think of new things what I can show others to make my life journey interesting. I practiced and practiced, and even did things that I didn't normally do. And seeing happy faces of guests from different nations, especially when the activity is new to them, I feel a warm touch in my heart. It's priceless.



Former volunteer Netova

Integration coach... yeah, yeah, haha, wow it's fun, it's fun.. for the first time I was confused because am not good at both English and Deutsch so how can I bring myself to the community and have a deeper conversation with them to join and blend. But when we learnt the three dimensions like joy, freedom and peace it made more comfortable because language doesn't matter as long as we have fun together.



Volunteer Anfrischa

One Spirit Camp - international youth camp and gospel day

One of those summer days in every year that the tradition of worshipping and praising God in a wider and bigger way without any borders in Himmelsfels.

All the above camps are celebrated once in every year, so get ready with your dancing shoes and sing as loud as you can so let God be praised. Not all of us can sing or even dance yeah. We understand but at this point you

just have to blend in and let Paulo, the dancer, worry about that.

As volunteers you are open to serving our guests, it might look as hard when the estimated number of guests meant to arrive is announced, but the beauty of team work knows no number of people, it only means we are ready, so help us Lord. We will never forget One Spirit Camp and International Youth Camp 2019, we danced like

crazy, shouted all we wanted, served the guests with our strength and didn't even feel tired up to when the whole thing ended. It was so fun, we bless the lord for those days.

International youth camp was really colorful, I mean having people from different nations coming in one mountain to learn, teach, have fun in the presence of God. How amazing is that!



Steffen Blauth and Nyeri Weth.

For me that was a kind of family that all people came around the world with different cultures and languages. I was very excited to see this situation.

I was wondering and sometimes I asked myself, what is the reason that these people came together. I found my answer: "Love, believe and hope." We ate together, played together, danced together, talked together, prayed together and so on.

This was really a wonderful moment in Himmelsfels for me or in my entire life.

Mahdi Rastegar



Some impressions from the One Spirit Camps.



When I first heard of the spirit camp, I really didn't understand much of it, except for the fact that a lot of people were expected to attend the event. The experience I got from it is priceless.

On the day of the spirit camp me and Icha were given the job of making coffee. We were very happy saying that we got the best job and also were feeling a little bit sorry for the others as well. BUT when we started to do the job, it didn't take us long to realize that it was the other way round... we literally had to refill the coffee containers once they were empty and

they were getting finished so fast that we couldn't catch a brake...

Jokes aside: Spirit Camp was the point where I realized that I really belong to the Himmelsfels family. The team work was amazing. We were supporting and helping each other and also cracking jokes here and there to keep each others' spirits up even though we were all sehr, sehr KAPUTT!

And I was amazed how our leaders were very proud of us and it gave me some confidence about my potentials.

Madawi Nandakumar

What is my purpose? Why am I here?

A wise man once said that “the greatest tragic in life is life without a purpose”, to live and eat and not know how to utilize your energy. We all have grown up in a setting that marks success only in terms of education. Well to most of us Africans it is really a great joy for the child to graduate, but most of us do it for our parents, because that’s their money. Sometimes one is forced to study something that you passed by luck, or because your parent predicted your future already in that kind of fields with just one reason, which is to get a good paying job later on. But what about the satisfaction, joy and peace of mind at that job or field of work?

At one point while at university, I

jobs wasn’t giving the expected response, so what was next for me? Every human being wants to be successful - that’s why we do whatever we do, to get that satisfaction of being successful. Failure is predictable and so is success, the only difference is life is designed to succeed. God is committed in our success more than us. Why? Because I believe that God too wants to protect the image of his name. His image is at stake if a Christian like you and me, believing and praying and walking a Godly path turn out to be failures. We limit God in a way that we forget he owns us, he created us, he understands us more than ourselves. That is why he is there to protect us. Recently I was gifted an Apple iPad,

was, I had a guarantee to take it back in case it didn’t do what it was expected and designed to do and all the expense would be covered by the Apple company. I was thinking “wow, how nice is this, they don’t even know me but are willing to take a mile for me...” But I realized something too, it’s not about me at all, it’s about them, they are willing to take a mile actually not for me but for their Apple company image. The iPad, before being sent to the market, is tested and they are confident that it must work. Therefore one Apple iPad is worth the image they created for themselves as a company.

And so is the manufacturer of humanity, called GOD. God designed every human being with a purpose, that is why he says in his word, he knew you before you were born. God knew how good you are, he knew how far man can go, how man functions before he sent you down on earth. Just like me who limited the use of an iPad and only used it to watch movies. So are all humans or rather most of us, we limit God through limiting ourselves from unavailing how good we really are, how unique a brand we are, how we can do much more, but don’t even know how. Sometimes I struggle to look for the back button on the iPad because this is not what I knew. However, everything is inbuilt how ever small the product looks. God is trying so hard to make us see through our purpose because he too is protecting his image which is his name. Our purpose is inbuilt in us. The earthly law and cultures are pushing us from believing that even just by singing, dancing or bringing joy to others, can ever be a purpose. Culture says, unless you’re in an office then you’re now living up to your purpose. But I believe, unless you enjoy it and it brings joy to you (financially as well) and doesn’t harm your neighbors, then that’s your purpose.



didn’t even know what I wanted; I had no reason as to why I was studying but rather because my parents are paying the school fees (tuition) I had to do it and the company of friends, that independence one gets because of university life, but the best part my parents never asked for my examination results because they never reached this level of education so they didn’t understand the results a bit. But my dad would always say: “The future is in your hands, whatever you do with it is up to you.” If the main purpose I knew was just to go to school and sit in class now what next if am now done with this as well? I badly needed a reason as to why I was waking up in the morning. Applying for

and the naive me badly asked how much it was and I run to exchange rates to my home countries local currency, wow... the naive me starts thinking out loud, am so glad it was a gift and not me who bought it, otherwise this is worth someone’s work wages. I mean I have a very good phone though it’s not Apple and I could access whatever I wanted, just as this Apple iPad. Just as Pastor Steve said, without information you remain stagnant in a certain point in life, and even be taken advantage of. It really took me time to learn and believe that this iPad can do much more. Not only that, it also had a manual for me to learn its safty, too. But the best part

*Teachings of
Pastor Myles Munroe*



Doing mosaic and painting are some capabilities one can have.

What am I really capable of? What can I do?

The Bible says we were all created with a purpose, therefore no human being was created by mistake. Even the most beautiful flower you think is just beautiful was created for a purpose, there are particular flowers that attract a certain insect thus the color of that flower is its purpose.

It's so ironic that I thought the fish in water was the most free living thing but now I came to realize that just by swimming in this water, the fish is working because it was created for that purpose in its kingdom. I also wanted to know what am really capable of in the human kingdom.

I was never given difficult stuff to do, I was looked at as weak and un able. My family made me look at myself as weak, I don't like being given responsibility because I don't know how to face up to any mistakes, this is the fear of encountering new things I always get, so I hide in the shadow of looking irresponsible even when in my heart I strongly feel I can do it.

At this moment as am being truthful to myself I realized, that I can do a lot more than I ever imagine. I am not perfect because there is still fear every time I encounter something new, my

confidence has improved greatly. There are a lot of lessons I learnt from Himmelsfels that have shaped my approach towards different cultural ideologies. You can never confront a situation or person if you are ignorant about information, more especially if you are in a foreign culture and country.

Equip yourself, just as the Bible says, wear the full armor of God. We all need the belt of truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation and the Holy Spirit to guide us to our capabilities. This is beyond doing it on your own. Therefore you need information.

The very smallest things that we ignore actually shape us to our destiny. Many have made it with some of these basics but the joy of having satisfaction in all aspect of life is so amazing, rather than having only a financial satisfaction. Thus if you what to know about your capabilities and gifts, then seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all shall be added unto you. It's as simple as that.

The great news is you are already at Himmelsfels and through SAM, BAM GAFA, where we seek the kingdom of

God on a daily basis and seek our capabilities, too, through the kind of service we do as volunteers.

Tears will be shed, that might be a guarantee, but the joy of self discovery at the end of your volunteering year is priceless. In other words, you can not say you want to be a leader in Himmelsfels, if you don't first seek what Himmelsfels is, how it runs it's programmes, what are the do's and don't's of this organization, how it was founded, who is its leader and why exactly am I being accepted to work here. This also means you have something unique that you can offer, no matter how small it is - they believe in you, its your turn to believe in yourself so that more is unleashed that you never thought could ever come out of you.



Work = Worship

The Hebrew meaning of work is worship. Therefore the key to manhood is to work; not only praying but work. In Himmelsfels, the work we do is more of service we offer to others. At first it might be challenging because it is new to you but later on it gets to be part of you as normal as any other routines. We

would have loved to list down what you will do but we shall just give a glance of it.

I remember the first time I encountered doing what my mind would call mans work, the first thing that run in my mind was "why are they letting the girls do this?" At one point I really thought Steffen, our

coordinator, was not fair. Why were we being made to build a tent? Yes! Building a huge tent that we didn't ever think our little arms would ever manage.

Our morning prayers would fight back in our silent complaints and we had no more excuses again. God was reminding us that he is there, his our

strength and more. The best part is having some of the workmates proving you wrong.

Natova is a fun kind of person, but one greatest thing we learnt from her, is never mix the two. There is time to laugh and time to work, so handle each respectfully .

There are really kinds of work that if we were still in our countries we would never do. Working in Himmelsfels opened up an overflowing believe that we are capable of doing a lot more than what we are limited by gender.

Anfrisha Chrisyofi says, she didn't know about this kind of work at first, since her coordinator said only washing dishes. That was very fine with her knowing that it is an advanced country, she knew there would be a dishwasher. "When I came I was a bit surprised, the work sometimes is hard, but people here make everything easier and fun", she says. As result during the daily work you don't even notice how hard it sometimes is.





The volunteering community provides lot's of joy.

Apartment Moments

The apartment is one of those places we bond from most, it draws us together during moments like cooking together, go shopping, get to know each other's culture, life, plans, laugh out loud and we have that tradition of bible study every Wednesday as volunteers. But the most amazing bit is we celebrate each other during those special moments like birthday parties. Indeed our apartment is home away from home.

I really loved the moments when we were in apartment. We spent the time to love, share and cook together. I tasted international food and made me like international people. Some

missunderstandings might have happend. I liked cleaning the kitchen and making a working schedule for the apartment. I just wanted to make our home really clean and encourage everyone to participate.

Now, after leaving Himmelsfels, I miss the moments when we had bible sharing to strengthen and support each other and share experience. I miss the moments when I had to take pictures of Valencia until my phone's storage was full.

I miss the moments when we had to go to the supermarket and choose the cheapest food. What I miss the most is the moments when we had dinner.

I know it was such a great time we spent together, that I will never forget. I miss you guys! Don't forget to clean our home!

Endang Alfrianti



The Leaders

Pastor Myles Munroe described Management as the effective, efficient, correct and timely use of another persons property, resources for the purpose of which they are delighted with a view to produce the expected added value. Implying that you might not own the materials, however when one takes the materials or resoures, one ought to return them with more value than before. And this and much more is what Himmelsfels has benefited from whoever has been part of the leadership chain.

Himmelsfels is humbled to be led by mighty men of God. Might look perfect in their imperfections but perfectly chosen by God in what ever they represent in this organization.

The very first time I spoke to Pastor Steve on phone while still in my country made me even feel more wanted, more especially when he says "Bless you". We rarely hear a stranger say such simple but mighty words because sometimes you are going through a hard day and after just a phone call of one minute someone you don't know sends blessings to you wow... that is such an amazing

gesture. Even when one arrives and is still in that cold feet, the warm welcome one receives is unforgettable.



Pastors Steve and Johannes.

Perhaps one expects to be introduced to men in suits and ties as an assurance that indeed you have arrived to a different setting that totally requires adjustment. However it is different:

Pastor Johannes Weth, the leading director of Himmelsfels with his fatherly heart, a wide smile and happy face will welcome you to the

new journey of volunteering, calming the storms of fear that one is silently fighting.

And not to forget our very own Steffen Blauth (coordinator) together with his wife Nele Blauth, who works more closely with every volunteer on a daily basis. The journey of volunteering is made easier with understanding and most patient leaders since we all come from different cultures. However one new culture is made to benefit everyone fairly, indeed it all needs wisdom.

My favorite bit about the leaders in Himmelsfels is how they work hand in hand with their partners to give life to the mountain through Gods grace. This testifies to a verse in the Bible: Ephesians 5:22.

"Our leaders are the best. Steffen is more of a professional, and he really pushes us to get out of our comfort zones and guides us to be better people. He's my big brother and Pastor Steve is like my dad, his parental instincts of caring and making sure I work on my passion, which is playing the piano, since sometimes I'm lazy", says Anfrisch.



Steffen and Nele Blauth.



Steve and Augusta Ogedegbe.



Nyeri and Johannes Weth.

Favorite Verse

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

(Hebr 13:7-8)

Challenges and best experiences

The very hardest experience I had in Himmelsfels was to fit into the silence. I was suffocating and my only solution was to take walks or short trips around, more especially since my team mates always said No to joining me and I admired them a lot staying in the apartment for the whole day. Sometimes I would just get in the bus and go to Melsugen, just to sit at the train station watching loud trains passing around and that would make me feel better. Silence was silently driving me crazy.

However I learnt one slogan for myself in Himmelsfels and that's if you don't like it, then love it. I needed a way to get rid of this fear. I always wanted to have my own definition of heaven's rock one day according to my experience in this heavenly place. In my silence I chose to overcome this fear with seeking my existence and purpose. These questions would always run into my head and I wanted to understand this small voice that never gave up on me. Why does God love and care this much? Why did I come? What is my future and purpose? What am I really capable of?

In other words: WHO AM I? Since I didn't like this silence, I had to love it so as to shake it off for my own advantage. Since I joined Himmelsfels I wanted to believe that indeed I can try and answer these questions for myself depending on the different interactions with other Christians, our bible fellowship. The most ironic part is, I love silence more, I talk more to myself and listen to my thoughts even more, looks like I ended up loving what I was struggling from in the beginning.

Time management

Traveling to Europe is when any foreigner will learn the most worth and painful lesson of managing time. This lesson opens you up to another world that sometimes you wish not to be part of but surprisingly when you fit into it, you feel so proud to have adjusted to something new. That moment when I rush out of my bed like someone was screaming for me to run for my life, just because am late... Well at least there are church bells that even help me adjust in case the alarm clock tried its best. The only problem

is the church bell is meant to find me at work rather not waking me up. This one year in Himmelsfels I have run out of my bed like a mad woman, I can't even count the times I sometimes went to work without a bath just because I wasn't on time, the times the train left me behind because I thought being late by at least two minutes is okay. There is a saying that "time is money". This never at one point made meaning to me up to when I came to Himmelsfels. If anyone is rich then they utilized their time so very well and am trying to fight this poverty of poor time management. Huh!

But just as the saying goes, a bad beginning makes a good end. There are those good encounters that I experienced. I love all the days I left the mountain so dirty, sometimes with wet shoes, muddy and tired and lost my sense of fashion and outward beauty in terms of make up. This is my best experience. I don't think I would have done anything like this in my life. I love it - not only was it challenging, but humbled me, too.

AR

The atmosphere for communication

As a volunteer who was privileged to still be part of the Himmelsfels community, all I can say it was such an honor to serve in this wonderful place. I had very many wonderful moments with the camp children. I still remember my very first camp in 2017 - ohh goodness! I automatically became mute. I don't know how it happened, but the words couldn't come out - possibly because they were not the words I was used to. German language was still very new to my ears, however later when I learnt

some German words, I could communicate and became closer to the children. Some of my best experience is when I had a hobby group and I taught the children a song without language, no one could speak English and Deutsch wasn't my friend either, so communication was a bit hard but somehow we managed. I had to open an atmosphere with the children and I made sure I do it best. This brought the children to even love the song and we used smiles and the song itself to communicate. However much I was

worried this was not helping me at all so I had to brighten the moment.

I love so much that my English has improved and that all my team mates guided me to this aspect. Intercultural life - imagine we all are from different countries and yet we love, laugh at almost everything. Our cultures sometimes looks barbaric, sound weird to the other, but then later we adopt to the changes in a more eager way and not a judgemental kind of way. This is weirdly nice.

David Gaddam



Indonesian culture.



Nigerian culture.



Indonesian culture.

Unique, beautiful, amazing and weird

Welcome to the land of multicultural. Himmelsfels is an international arena where people of different nations, cultures and religion come together as one. It's a bit crazy out here in a way that meeting these cultures, hearing their stories and you telling your story, leaving each looking like "seriously this also happens"!

The astonishment in our faces speaks a lot about how difference can be - at the same time - unique, beautiful and amazing, but truthfully also weird. Madawi from Sri Lanka had something to say about her encounter with Africans in her journey of volunteering.

Africans are very colourful and happy people with super dance moves, she

says. She loves the variety of African food and loves the fashion and confidence, specially of African women. Meeting fellow sisters from Africa has been a great experience for her, tearing down all prejudices and opening up to experience - each has given her joy and excitement. As a

result a new item has been added to her bucket list: "Visit Africa". She loves the happening atmosphere they create and the unique way of showing love to each other. She loves the stories they tell about how they had to fight the earth to farm and the way they guard the harvest.

Favorite Verse

To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

(1 Cor 9:20-22)



Ugandan culture.



Sri Lankan and Indonesian Culture.



Ugandan culture.

Some former and current volunteers



Name: **Andrea Chioma**

Nationality: Nigerian

Volunteer: 2017 to 2018



Name: **Anfrischa Chrisyofi**

Nationality: Indonesian

Volunteer: 2019 to 2020



Name: **Conan Kleimann**

Nationality: German

Volunteer: 2019 to 2020



Name: **David John Gaddam**

Nationality: Indian

Volunteer: 2017 to 2019



Name: **Endang Alfrianti**

Nationality: Indonesian

Volunteer: 2019



Name: **Madawi Nandakumar**

Nationality: Sri Lankan

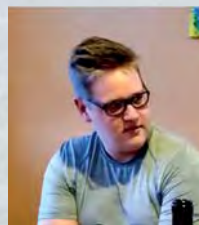
Volunteer: 2019 to 2020



Name: **Mahdi Rastegar**

Nationality: Afghan

Volunteer: 2019



Name: **Manuel Sarembe**

Nationality: German

Volunteer: 2018 to 2019



Name: **Netova Sibuea**

Nationality: Indonesian

Volunteer: 2018 to 2019



Name: **Privilege Kanyangidzi**

Nationality: Zimbabwean

Volunteer: 2019 to 2020



Name: **Racheal Adeke**

Nationality: Ugandan

Volunteer: 2018 to 2019



Name: **Valencia Mpofu**

Nationality: Zimbabwean

Volunteer: 2018 to 2020



Welcome to the Himmelsfels

E - 1 - E - 1 - O

This moutain is given to you

E - 1 - E - 1 - O

*So please don't smoke, don't drink alcohol
Never leave the mountain without permission*

Welcome to the Himmelsfels

E - 1 - E - 1 - O

