

Dear friends,

Five years ago, we started a journey.

In 2015 we invited **twenty-four** learners from **four** local high schools to come along. Earlier this year we celebrated as **four** of those learners completed the **four**-year journey. They are now writing Matric exams and preparing for the rest of their lives. I invite you to read a little about their ILA journeys below, it's worth reading....

Now, the **countdown** has begun.

In **seven** days, we kick off our **fifth** annual International Leadership Academy camp.

Every year we invite a new group of **twenty-four** learners to start this same journey.

At present we have

Twenty-four learners entering the **first** year

Fourteen learners entering the **second** year

Four learners entering the **third** year

Four learners entering the **fourth** year

Thank you to all those who walk this journey with us. To those who give us their time or help fund what we do.

And especially, thank you to those who pray with and for us. Please pray this week for

- Final camp preparations
 - The physical site and organization of stuff
 - The speakers as they prepare for their sessions
 - The students that their hearts are ready to receive
- Positive responses on donation requests that have been made
- That we fill the last few volunteer spots (we need a few more gals to be small group leaders)

When **forty-six** learners, **twelve** mentors, **eight** speakers, **six** activity team members, **five** kitchen staff, **three** session coordinators, **one** photographer, and handful of others are busy working, learning and playing...we hope you'll be praying for us. And to help you do that, we'll send out a reminder each day of how you can pray.

And while the **countdown** is on, we are also starting a new count.

Because the **journey really lasts a lifetime**, we are now **counting-up**.

Meet our first **FOUR** ILA graduates.

Lihle

We were selected in Grade 8 and went to Fort White for the first year. When we arrived, we thought, “argh! Is this where we off to?” But as time went, we were having a lot of fun and we were learning too. [The first year] I learned that having the same purpose is much easier than working with someone with a different goal...[The second year] I gained a lot of strength and faced challenges too. I remember the change I made in [others]...Then I did my [third-year] project, but I didn’t finish it on time, and I am not proud of it. I presented my project and I told the exact truth about my project, and my project wasn’t accepted by the judges., I was given another chance to do my project. I’ve realized God may seem as if He’s not watching but he is present through all. Putting my trust in the Lord has made me who I am today.



Thimna

I started being part of ILA in 2015. Back then I never liked the idea of going to a camp because I had to leave my family. The most hectic thing was that I had to speak English almost every time, I never thought I would survive. When I arrived here at ILA I got nervous because I was with different and new people. What I noticed about ILA is that it was about God and the Bible and I loved it...ILA gave me courage to say that I’m a great leader and what I do people also do it, not because I’m perfect but simply because they see an example of what’s good for them. I want to thank ILA for building this person that I am today for making me find my path of my future. Now I see myself making difference in every people’s lives and leave my mark everywhere I go and make a great leader.



Riri

2016 ILA camp (second year) was the year that I learnt how to be a leader. I noticed that being a leader is not just about leading people only but also about leading yourself. I was shy and never talk to anyone. I always sit alone because I was afraid of what others will react towards me. But ILA came and build me to be the person I am today...ILA made me to come out of my comfort zone. They show me love, support, and kindness.

I remember a [story] from Daniel 3...The king had rules and principles for people to follow. It says all the people [had to] bow down for the king’s rules on worship. But three men had their God who they trusted and believed in. They never back down but stand by their God. Even when they were threatened by being burned by fire. That lifted my spirit and give me grace ahead of me. Being part of ILA revealed the true me, the side I never knew about. ILA



taught me to be a principled person. It gave me hope that in life there is nothing that is impossible if you have God in your life.

Lutho

Today as I am standing in front of you, I am a leader. I am really proud to say that, because when I started to be a member of ILA I did not know anything about leadership. When the time went on, I learnt different things about leadership. I saw how it is to be a leader and when I started to be a leader, things changed. I started to care about people, I started to have sympathy for people, and I put others first...Sometimes there will be challenges that you will face. There will be people who will influence you to do some bad things. But I have told myself that I will be strong, and I will always believe in God...I am here today standing in front of you because of Him. He has been with me in all the challenges that I have been facing. There is nothing that will defeat me because I am the child of God and God is always beside me.

