



# AZOLA VETEZO

EAST MOUNTAIN RESIDENT 2019

## HOME TOWN

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I grew up in various sections of the Khayelitsha township in Cape Town, most recently Mandela Park.

## INTERESTS AND PASSIONS

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I enjoy playing sports with my friends, especially soccer, and listening to music.

## MY STORY

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I grew up in a large family with a lot of cousins and aunts but had to move around a lot within the township. In my community we have a lack of positive role models and a lot of negative influences around us.

I played soccer with my friends every day and a man named Dumisani began coaching us and meeting up with us. He eventually invited me to his church and as I listened to the sermon, I started to feel something happening inside myself and began to cry as the words made an impact on me. Dumi invited me to his Bible study after that and my life began to change as I began to read the Bible and try to walk the journey like Christ. As I look back, I can see Christ has been there since I was a kid. I would like to impact my community by working with young children, giving them the direction, encouragement, and motivation that I never had growing up.

I became interested in East Mountain, because one of my friends from soccer had been a resident and even beyond anything he described I knew East Mountain was doing good work because I could see his transformation and growth. At East Mountain I see people that are willing to give love, support and motivation. I see the family that I never had. I see people who are all different being united, honest and loyal. It's what I hope my community to be. I have already learned a lot so far, even from morning devotions, and I've been exposed to things I've never heard of. I'm excited to continue dealing with my past and becoming more bold and positive so I can go out after this year to help my community.





# JACQUES JOUBERT

EAST MOUNTAIN RESIDENT 2019

## H O M E T O W N

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I am originally from Hanover Park, a small, overpopulated community in South Africa notorious for gang violence and drug abuse

## I N T E R E S T S A N D P A S S I O N S

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I am passionate about music, investing in teenage boys, learning new things, and making people smile.

## M Y S T O R Y

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I have been pushed around to different relatives and families my whole life because my dad died when I was 2 and my mom has been absent from my life since I was 3. I also faced the responsibility of being the eldest of 8 and needing to set a good example.

As a teenager, I became very troubled as I learned more about who my parents were and what happened to them. I reluctantly attended a Christian camp in high school and, to my surprise, when I heard the speaker ask, "Who wants to be God's hands and feet in their community?" I found myself at the front of the room sobbing and committing my life to Christ. After that I became very inquisitive about the Bible and sought out people and resources to learn more about God.

One heart breaking thing about my community is fathers not fulfilling their roles, which leaves kids vulnerable to gangsterism, drug and alcohol abuse and sexual immorality. I started leading mentoring programs at local schools with teenage boys in response to this issue and have seen that through my experience of not having a dad in my life I am able to encourage these boys. I would like to be able to guide young men to become better than what statistics and the community claim they will become.

I've learned a lot from the East Mountain community: People from all walks of life have a common goal of serving. No matter what our perspective is on all the topics we cover, we respect each other's voices.





# JORDAN BENSON

EAST MOUNTAIN RESIDENT 2019

## HOME TOWN

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I am from Athlone, Cape Town.

## INTERESTS AND PASSIONS

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I enjoy singing, playing music, learning new instruments, and doing arts and crafts. It's how I let off steam and express myself. I also enjoy being in nature, especially with people I love.

## MY STORY

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I grew up with my grandparents in a community where God and faith are not topics to speak about or dwell on unless the subjects are being debated. Despite a general understanding of Christianity in my town, a personal relationship with God is not common. Other more hectic issues like violence, drugs, crime and broken families stem from this issue. This is something I would love to be involved in changing.

I grew up going to church like much of my community, because I was forced to go and I was interested in Biblical knowledge for merit. Acknowledgement and appreciation are a big deal to me. For most of my youth I was trying to find these things from other people. I tried to fill a hole that only God can fill. He called me out of my wandering state and into a personal relationship with Him. Though I still wander, now I know I'm wandering in His hand.

A few years ago, I attended a Christian camp and my leader turned out to be a previous resident of East Mountain. I wanted to be a leader like her and I figured a good first step would be to find out more about this place. I used to want to leave South Africa, and at first I thought East Mountain would point me to better places, but I was surprised to learn way more about myself and my own culture at East Mountain than anywhere else. It made me more proud to be a South African and helped me to see the beauty in what is around me and the capability within me. East Mountain has showed me what true community looks like, walking with you through all seasons. It fills my heart with a drive to show other people what a godly community can look like.





# MATT STEMMETT

EAST MOUNTAIN RESIDENT 2019

## HOME TOWN

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I was born in George, South Africa and spent my childhood in Zambia before moving back to South Africa as a young adult.

## INTERESTS AND PASSIONS

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I like spending most of my time outdoors, connecting with God in nature, and going camping and hiking.

## MY STORY

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Growing up in a missionary family, I went to church all the time and assumed I was a Christian, but after high school I began to have a personal relationship with Christ. A lot of things happened in my life at that time that shook me. God was trying to get my attention. It took me a while to hear his voice, but eventually I called out to him. It hasn't been the easiest of journeys but He's definitely been working in my life.

I'm passionate about youth ministry. In boarding schools growing up I saw a lot of kids confused about their values, so I have a passion to communicate good morals to students so they can take those to heart and implement them the rest of their lives. There are a lot of kids these days without good parents or someone to look up to, so I want to be able to step in and be a role model. I especially would love to use outdoor activities to spur kids' hearts for God.

I got connected with East Mountain by meeting some staff members and a former resident at a camp I was working at. Since being here I have liked the community and the way we emphasise relationships, which I've come to see as absolutely key in missions. I've been able to spark new friendships already. Even though we're around people from different cultures and races we can connect with each other on a spiritual level. I'm hoping to be able to use East Mountain as a stepping stone for whatever I do next in my life, going into the world more equipped, more knowledgeable, and more able to connect with people, even around the world.





# TAMSON JACOBS

EAST MOUNTAIN RESIDENT 2019

## HOME TOWN

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I am from Cape Town's northern suburb called Kraaifontein

## INTERESTS AND PASSIONS

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I am passionate about working with teens and children as well as spiritual dancing. I'm a very family-oriented person that loves family time and being around friends. I also love swimming and being adventurous.

## MY STORY

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I grew up in a somewhat stable home, but just for some context, my mother is a pastor and my father had a serious drinking problem, so growing up was hard. I'm thankful that I found Christ at a young age after having the privilege of seeing two options in front of me for how to live. God has truly kept me and has had his hand of protection on me. Through all of life's ups and downs he has carried me through.

My community is known for violence, drug abuse, unemployment, prostitution, and negative teen influences resulting in teen pregnancies, sexual immorality and gangs. I hope someday to start a school that reaches out to the little ones- ages 18 months to 13 years to "make a big impact on little minds." Proverbs 22:6 sums up my desire well: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." That's what I hope to do in my community.

I first met some of the East Mountain staff through my position at Scripture Union camps. Since getting involved, East Mountain has helped me grow in many ways. It has helped me begin to process and deal with a lot of unresolved issues from my past. I like the way East Mountain raises and equips young leaders to effectively work in their own communities.

Through the course of my time at East Mountain, I hope to learn how to be an influential leader and create a positive change. I also want to set this year apart to be filled with the knowledge and love of God, so that even when life gets the best of me, I'll still overflow with God's abundant love.

