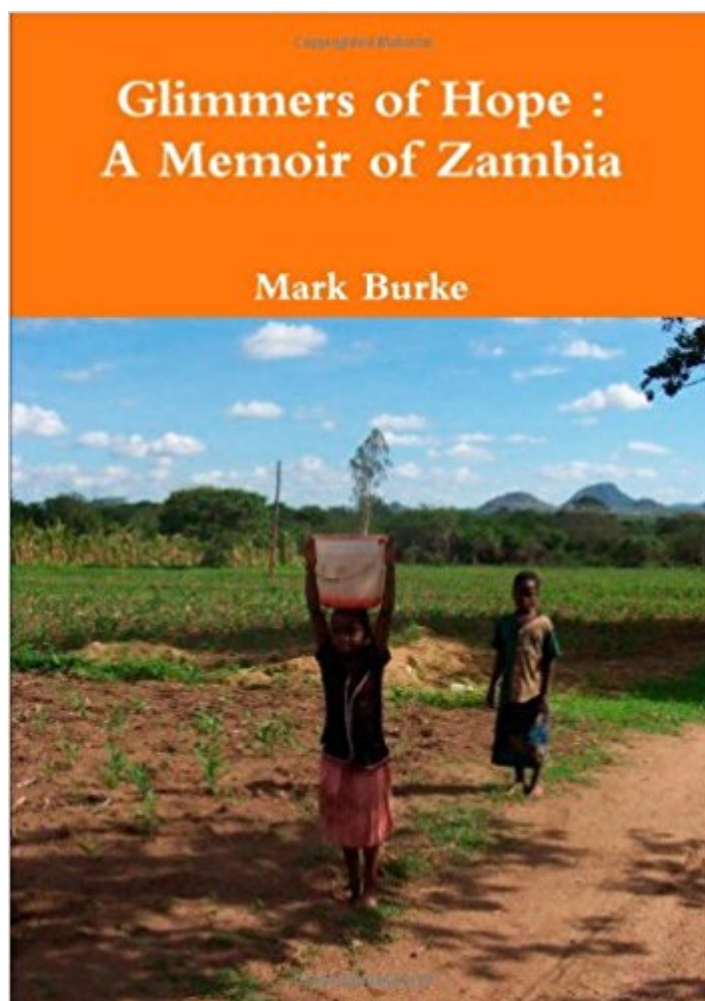


The book was found

Glimmers Of Hope : A Memoir Of Zambia



Synopsis

The true story of a London schoolteacher, who, tired of the rat race and brooding over a failed relationship, uproots and volunteers to teach in rural Africa for two years. Sent to the Republic of Zambia with a remit to teach maths, HIV and Gender awareness, he finds eager pupils struggling in a challenging environment. In between battling snakes, stomach-bugs and death-defying bus journeys, he finds both hope in unusual places, and corruption where he least expects. This memoir is both a recollection of his more vivid memories of eastern province, and his reflections on problems in Zambia and their possible causes. It is also a useful study of the physical and psychological challenges that a volunteer may face in Africa.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.1 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,829,159 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Books > Travel > Africa > Zambia #2189 in Books > Travel > Africa > General

Customer Reviews

The author is a schoolteacher. --This text refers to the Kindle Edition edition.

incoherent, no continuity, did not provide any useful information or insights into Zambia volunteer work. Culture and people of the country were secondary to author's own personal concerns.

All in all I enjoyed this book. It did have some very exciting stuff yet was also slow at points.

100% AUTHENTIC AND A GREAT READ. Mark tells it like it is. I have been the CEO of I AM ONE IN A MILLION NGO in Livingstone, Zambia since 2007. The sad news is: This book could have been written in 2017. Nothing has changed. If you want an honest, accurate history lesson quickly this is the perfect book. It's also entertaining. The good news is: everything's true. The bad news is:

everything's true - still. Great job, Mark. Wendy Stebbins

Mark Burke entered the Volunteer Service Organization (England's version of the US Peace Corps) after a tumultuous breakup with a girlfriend left him feeling skeptical and depressed. "Glimmers of Hope: Memoir of a Volunteer in Zambia" is about Mark's experiences in Zambia from October 2004 through December 2006. Mark starts off with the training he received with the VSO before he went to his assigned school to teach. Mark states he received about 3 days of training whereas his counterparts received about a week. He laments in his memoir that he wished he had learned the local language. He feels he would have better understood the people of Zambia. In contrast, US Peace Corps Volunteers receive three months of language and cultural training before reporting to their assignments. Mark's memoir is an excellent account of his time in Zambia including his frustrations with the culture of corruption and hypocrisy. He details teaching in Zambia, his interactions with the Zambian teachers and other Zambians, the harrowing trips into town for supplies, the encounters with large snakes, along with the experience of being in an African country during an election. Mark does tend to be pessimistic about life in general in his book, but a lot of volunteers do end their service with this attitude. I really enjoyed reading this book and highly recommend it for people who are considering any type of volunteer or missionary work in Africa. Reading this book will give the reader a realistic idea of just what their service in Africa may be like. My only criticism of this book is the lack of formatting. Mark has self-published this book so there are formatting issues. Some of these have been addressed in the second edition, however.

The author candidly pours his heart out to the reader from the turbulence faced in fast-paced London to the everyday struggles of being a teacher/development worker in Africa (Zambia). The description of characters (some more shady than others) is amazing, while his real-life depiction of his daily struggles are at times sad (ever-growing struggles of HIV/AIDS and corruption), but gripping. While reading the book, occasionally I felt the author's pain in some of the sad but true problems he faced at his school. Having been a development worker in Tanzania, yet traveled to Zambia I understand the author's struggles and triumphs - most of which I can relate to, thus it's fitting for anyone who has worked or volunteered in Sub-Saharan Africa. Moreover, the internal struggles the author wrestles with are sincere, distressing, and endearing; which makes the book that much more humbling to read. For anyone who enjoys reading about people's adventures, Africa, and life's daily challenges... this is a must read.

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