

HANDS ON DECK



ISSUE 26

Hands at Work

AFRICA



“Open our eyes so we see things we would otherwise miss.” – Levy Mwenda

OCTOBER AFRICAN LEADERS MEETING

LEVY MWENDA, ZAMBIA REGION - RST LEADER + BUSIE JONES, SOUTH AFRICA REGION - RST LEADER

When the leaders from across Africa met in September for leadership meetings, they were expectant to hear from God the way forward and to dig deeper into the program for the upcoming gathering in Zambia. Meeting together gave opportunity for each country to share what is happening on the ground, and see what worked well and what has been challenging in the past year. Levy was grateful for each person attending the meetings; the ways in which people spoke freely of challenges, confessed, and prayed together. Four key topics were focused on, based on the priorities of the work this year.

Jackie shared on relationship groups, and how God is taking us deeper. She shared on challenges her and her team have faced and what worked well. Going forward, the

team feels the need to create some ways to dig deeper into the lives of Care Workers, Primary Caregivers, and children, to give each person an opportunity to share their lives. Much importance lies in building a platform to share and encourage one another, and giving each person a sense of belonging and care.

Holy Home Visits were discussed in depth, as well as the importance to dig deeper, be more open to each other, and do better overall. Some communities and Care Workers do not yet understand what makes a Holy Home Visit 'Holy'; other communities are too busy with various other meetings. Levy's prayer is for God to "open our eyes so we see things we would otherwise miss," and he, among the rest of the leaders desire to do better. Busie says, "When we know we go not for ourselves, but for others, it changes. We know we are building into this well, taking responsibility as a family."

Plans to develop Care Points into Life Centres are in progress for next year. Busie shares the vision for Life Centres by saying, "We want our kids to know

that if you're hurt or struggling, they have a place to be listened to with care. We want our communities to know this place is where life is – where Christ is the foundation, where kids are known by name and loved." Much planning, prayer, and thought has been put into deciding what the non-negotiables of a Life Centre are, such as access to toilets and clean water. Levy says, "We have to go forward – some communities are ready!"

As pastors in their local areas, Erick, Farai, Blessings, and Royie deeply challenged and encouraged their fellow leaders about the importance of church mobilisation and involving the local church. Exchange visits will take place to keep growing and building into leaders and local churches throughout our African countries. Involving the church is a vision of Hands, and Boyd has been commissioned to take charge of church mobilisation in the Zambia region. Much prayer needs to go into this, as the church is the key to our vision, and we must never lose that. Rather than having church mobilisation as events held every few months, it must be ongoing, keeping in mind that the church is who we are, and we must never lost the vision.

Much more will be shared by various leaders in the upcoming October Gathering which will be held in Zambia at Kachele Village. As Hands Family, we are very excited to reflect on the past year together, and expectant to hear more from God as plans are being made for next year.



CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

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HANDS AUSTRALIA UPDATE

CLINTON WOOD,
INTERNATIONAL OFFICE (AUS)

On his recent visit, Clinton was able to visit many friends from Hands in South Africa, Zambia, and the DRC, including his son Jared, who is serving in the current intake. He also was able to visit Australian-supported communities in those three countries, visiting and encouraging children, caregivers and careworkers. He was thrilled to be able to see hope and life where just two years ago were despair and damage, seeing firsthand God's power at work within the Hands at Work communities.

While in Zambia, Clinton shared about his time and updated the community at Kachele of the work happening with Hands Australia. Having the opportunity to go on Holy Home Visits in Zambia and reconnect with people he had met on previous visits encouraged Clinton.

While sharing about the Australia International Office, Clinton says, "One of the things about feeling so little is that we only have God to look to. He will supply our needs according to his riches"

Most partners, advocates, and team members are from Melbourne and Sydney. Rachel McLaughlin, who is currently living in South Africa with her husband Phil and young son Riley, leads Hands Australia. She runs Hands Australia from South Africa as well as holds a role at the Hub in South Africa. Jenny, Clinton's wife, looks after the day-to-day administration and brings the management teams from Melbourne and Sydney together. A big prayer point and need for Australia is for someone to stand up to take over handling volunteers and teams. A second prayer point is that we might establish advocates in Queensland and a third is that we can strengthen Hands' presence in Western Australia.

Five volunteers from the February 2015 intake are from Australia, which the International Office was greatly encouraged by. Prayer for the coming year is much needed, as 2016 applicants are preparing to be a part of the next intake, and for a volunteer coordinator to guide them in their preparations.



NURSES FOR AFRICA IN ZAMBIA

JEN WASPE, VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR (SOUTH
AFRICA)

While visiting Zambia and catching up with volunteers, Jen hosted a Nurses for Africa (NFA) team from the US. Upon picking the team up at the airport on a Friday, Jen and the nurses discovered nine bags were missing, thankfully all of which turned up the following day. Saturday was spent relaxing and bonding as a team, since they had only met a few days prior. Sunday, after church, the NFA nurses had the opportunity to meet the local Zambian nurses, talk through the week, go over medications and communities they'd be visiting, and get to know each other. This afternoon proved to be a great time to begin building relationships between the groups of nurses as they would be working alongside each other in the coming days. Time was spent on the weekend packing pills and preparing for clinic days.

This NFA team was based in Chibote primarily, where days were spent going on Holy Home Visits, holding mobile clinic days, teaching feminine hygiene classes, and hosting Kid's and Care

Worker Days. Giving the nurses the opportunity to visit children and families in Chibote was eye opening for the nurses; they were invited into homes and simply sat with some of the most vulnerable people in the community.

The NFA team held two mobile clinic days in Chibote, where everyone from the community was invited, and they saw 575 patients over the course of both days. The NFA nurses assessed each patient, who then went to the Zambian nurses to receive their prescriptions, then on to the pharmacy to receive the medications. The clinics were well organized and the nurses all worked well together.

Gail (the NFA team leader) was thoroughly impressed with Kid's Day, as she realised the importance of spending time and building relationships with the children, rather than giving things to them, which was a highlight of Jen's time with the team. Care Worker Day also went well; the nurses gave the Care Workers foot washing and massages, and played Bingo with them. The day was filled with joy, as the team and Care Workers celebrated together.

BRING + SHARE

LEVY MWENDA, ZAMBIA
REGION RST LEADER

Each Thursday at Kachele in Zambia, the Hands family holds a 'Bring + Share' dinner, where everyone brings a dish to share, and is eaten together as a family. Dedza Service Centre in Malawi has begun to do the same by sharing lunch together once a week. The purpose of 'Bring + Share' however, is not about the food; rather a time to fellowship, discuss how each other are doing, and pray with one another. It is an opportunity to connect with each other, and simply spend time together as a community.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for the upcoming October Gathering – pray for safe travels, for unity among the Service Centres and leaders, for a blessed time of reflection and celebration, and for the Holy Spirit to be present in every meeting.

Pray for our leaders – as the leadership meetings were held in South Africa, pray for continued guidance and discernment going forward. Praise God for the amazing meetings which were held!

Pray for a renewed zeal and energy for each Hands volunteer as the year is coming to a close, yet much work still needs to be done.

PSALM 20:7-9

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright. O Lord, save the king! May he answer us when we call."

Congratulations Mateyo + Belitah!



With much joy and thanksgiving, the Hands family gathered together in Zambia to celebrate the wedding of Mateyo and Belitah on 29 August 2015.

