

# HANDS ON DECK

ISSUE TWENTY FIVE



**Hands at Work**  
AFRICA



Forge Base Team (above) + Forge Church Team (below)



## FORGE CHURCH VISITS SOUTH AFRICA + ZAMBIA

FORGE BASE TEAM + FORGE CHURCH TEAM (UK)

The Forge Church in the UK recently sent two teams to Africa – one to South Africa and one to Zambia to visit communities, build a playground in the community in Maposa, run a children's camp, but more importantly to simply be.

The team in South Africa was a group of youth from a drop-in centre run by the Forge Church. Dave, as the team leader, says, "This kind of trip should

be a part of any youth group strategy to see the youth step out and become who they were designed to be. Africa gives the youth a new lens to view the world through, and at sixteen, it sets them up for a lifetime of looking through this lens. The youth are able to see how true religion is caring for the widows and the poor. This experience, along with who the youth are wired up to be, has the potential to be something huge."

Hettie, one of the youth on the team, wanted to have a first-hand opinion of what life is like in South Africa, and she found out exactly what it was. Similarly, Jess wanted to find out for herself the reality of life in

South Africa in the most vulnerable communities, and is searching to find out what coming to Africa means for her life back in England.

The Forge Team in Zambia came as a group of eight, with plans to build a playground in Maposa and run a camp the following week. Becky, the team leader, says "We came and I thought we were going to build a playground. We didn't; the community did. Three communities – our team, the construction crew from Hands, and the children and Care Workers from Maposa came together and make the playground together, which was a real encouragement to see."

Helen says, "I made myself look at all of the children; there wasn't a child who wasn't 100% focused and attentive, and I was amazed. When we were doing the playground, the younger children were watching, engaged in what was going on. Their attentiveness really spoke to me – they have so little, my life is so busy and full – is it too full and busy to be attentive to God?"

Daniel says, "I see a hopeless situation of desperation driving there, but when you get to community and get to know people, I see joy on kid's faces. What people don't see is how much joy comes through in these communities."

## + CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

Forge Base Team  
Forge Church Team  
Ma Agnes  
Pragcidence Mwenda  
George Snyman  
Mel Warren  
Woodlands Church Team



## RECONNECTING MA AGNES, SOUTH AFRICA HOSPITALITY TEAM

Agnes' journey with Hands at Work is something she is amazed by, and never would have thought possible. God has done amazing work in her life since becoming a part of the Hands family in 2004. A few weeks ago, Agnes was asked by Busie to cook for a camp being held next door to the Hub, at Africa School of Missions.

While at the camp, Agnes listened to Tyler share the gospel with the children there, and was touched by what she heard. During the session, she noticed two girls – and realised they were her uncle's grandchildren whom she hadn't seen in two years since the passing of her uncle. After Tyler shared, she found the two girls in their rooms and had the opportunity to speak with them.

Once the camp finished, Agnes was offered the chance to go visit the girls in their home, which she agreed to take up. Agnes says, "The situation I found them in did not make me happy. It was better when they used to stay with their uncle. Even the girls admitted to me that they're not happy with where they're staying, but there's nothing they can do. But now they know where I live and so they can come and visit me often." Agnes is hopeful these girls will visit her often, and she believes being a part of this camp was a gift from God.

## PRAYER FOR AFRICA

GEORGE SNYMAN +  
MEL WARREN, INTL  
VOLUNTEER (AUS), PROJECT  
SUPPORT LEADER

There is much travel happening, and many activities going on throughout Hands over the next few weeks and months. As a family, unity in prayer is important as people need wisdom and guidance for follow-up work, as well as preparing for 2016.

A few weeks ago, Mngwere, Malawi, held their first Maranatha workshop for children and Primary Caregivers where forty children gave their lives over to Christ. They also held church mobilisation the week after lead by Boyd. Please Pray for wisdom for follow-ups in both events. Pray also for pastors and leaders in Mngwere to step up and follow the Biblical mandate to care for those in their community. Church mobilisation was also held in Nissi and Chisamba a few weeks ago. Pray for pastors here to also step up, both from the local church and the church on the hill.

Pray for Nigeria, as plans for aggressive expansion and growth are being made. Hands has made a commitment to send a senior person in Hands to live there. Churches are busy becoming part of Hands, and much prayer is needed for guidance to move forward. Pray for Nigeria. Hands at Work is busy forming new partnerships with churches and other NGO's in Nigeria to support the work there. We will send two more teams to work in Nigeria in this year. Please pray for their trips.

Leadership meetings were held

in South Africa from September 3rd – September 12th. Leaders from across Africa came together to reflect, regroup, and seek the way forward. Pray for continued guidance and for each leader to continue to look to Christ for wisdom.

A gathering is being planned for the last week of October with Service Centres and leaders from across Africa, which will also be an opportunity for people to reflect on the past year, as well as look forward to the coming year. Please pray that all the plans will go smoothly, and the people speaking will be filled with the Holy Spirit. Pray for unity among Service Centres and leaders, and a sense of community among the family.

Please also pray and thank God for the Maintenance + Construction Teams, the Hospitality Teams, and the 'Teams' Team, as team season is coming to an end. Each of these groups have done a brilliant job serving behind the scenes over the past months, and taken on huge responsibilities. Pray they will not become weary in their work, but rather continue to serve wholeheartedly as they have been.

As George says, **"It's easy to break the ground and sow the seed – the tough work is to work the ground and be faithful to the field until the harvest comes."** Pray for God's work to be done in the lives of the team members who have visited.

## MARANATHA WORKSHOP IN SOUTH AFRICA

PRAGCIDENCE MWENDA,  
ZAMBIAN VOLUNTEER, KIDS  
CAMPS COORDINATOR

While in South Africa, Prag understood the meaning of Maranatha – ‘Come Lord.’ God came to children, Primary Caregivers, Care Workers, and also to Prag and the team leading the workshop. Prag’s highlight was when all the grandparents came together. God dealt with her own heart that day, and when Audrey (Hazyview Service Centre Coordinator) shared about the ‘Jesus we know,’ God had plans to break hearts and meet people as they were. Prag had the expected program in her mind – caregivers were supposed to stand in the front and share; rather, the entire place was filled with the Holy Spirit as people wept together and as God came down and touched broken people. Prag knew this was a time where God needed to deal with her own heart as well, and she allowed God to touch her.

Prag was amazed by God’s dealings in the lives of caregivers, and as the week came to a close, the team spent the last day in celebration. Grandparents, parents, and children came together to share their testimonies with each other. Dancing and singing took place, and the place was filled with the Holy Spirit as people shared their stories and really knew Jesus.



## WOODLANDS CHURCH IN SWAZILAND

WOODLANDS CHURCH TEAM  
MEMBERS (UK)

Woodlands Church Team from the UK visited South Africa a few weeks ago and had the privilege of staying in the community of Bhandeni, Swaziland. A few of the team members shared on their time at the most recent Hands on Deck event in South Africa.

Caroline says, “This trip has challenged me on every level, more than I thought it would. I’ve travelled overseas before but nothing like this, where I was experiencing something new and being challenged every single day.” Caroline came with her fourteen-year-old son, Michael, who was the one who encouraged her to come in the first place. While

travelling to Bhandeni, Michael realised this was exactly where he was supposed to be.

Fellow team member Craig was impressed by the teenage boys who came out to join the team and play with the children, yet are at such a crucial age where they could easily become lost in a broken culture. He was also encouraged by being given the opportunity to bless the local church.

Jo says, “It’s time for Bhandeni to be a light on the hill.” The children, like rough diamonds, have had true words spoken over them and are ready to shine. “This trip has really encouraged us to pray and to go home and tell others of these stories.”



Care Workers in  
Pfunani during  
Maranatha Workshops