

HANDS ON DECK

ISSUE FIFTY



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LISTENING TO GOD’S VOICE

Farzam Mohajer, International Volunteer (Canada) Regional Support Team

After the October Gathering in Zambia, Farzam travelled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with Angel (African Volunteer, DRC). The primary purpose of his time in the DRC was to support the Service Centre (SC), help with the construction of a Care Point and revisit the country that he had first visited 10 years ago.

“On one of my first few days in community, I went on a Holy Home Visit to a family who were not yet attending the Care Point. I saw the little girl and instantly knew that she was malnourished. The SC arranged for her to go the hospital and one of the Care Workers committed to

fighting on her behalf. We learnt that her mother had passed away three months ago, the grandmother struggled with alcohol abuse and her two older sisters were not attending school. When Erick (Likasi SC Coordinator) returned to the DRC after the Zambia gathering, he ensured that she started attending the Care Point. Along with the rest of the SC and the Care Workers, he is currently advocating for the girls to attend school.

Over my time in the DRC, I learnt more deeply what it means to have a firm foundation in Christ. We often think that a firm foundation means that it feels solid and strong. However, I learnt a big lesson when God showed me that having a firm foundation means listening to his voice, and sometimes that feels as solid as walking on water! However, spiritually, it is the strongest foundation, stepping out with

obedience and trust in our Heavenly Father.

Towards the end of my trip I was spending time in Kisunka, and when it was time to leave, my ride didn’t come. I was sitting out in the sun with the children as it continued to get hotter. The building had a tiny piece of shade that, during the hottest hours of the day, the children would sit under to try to keep cool. I was tired, ready to go and felt like I had nothing to give when I noticed a piece of tarp that we had intended to use as a shade structure. In that moment, I decided to set up the tarp and before we had even finished setting it up, the children were already grabbing their food and bringing it under the shelter in order to escape the blazing sun. I realised that our spiritual health will be determined when we are out in the sun and we feel like we have nothing to give, and we make a choice to use what little we have to make a difference. We have a choice to use the ‘little fish and the loaves’, offering them to Christ and watching Him multiply and turn them into blessings.”

+ CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

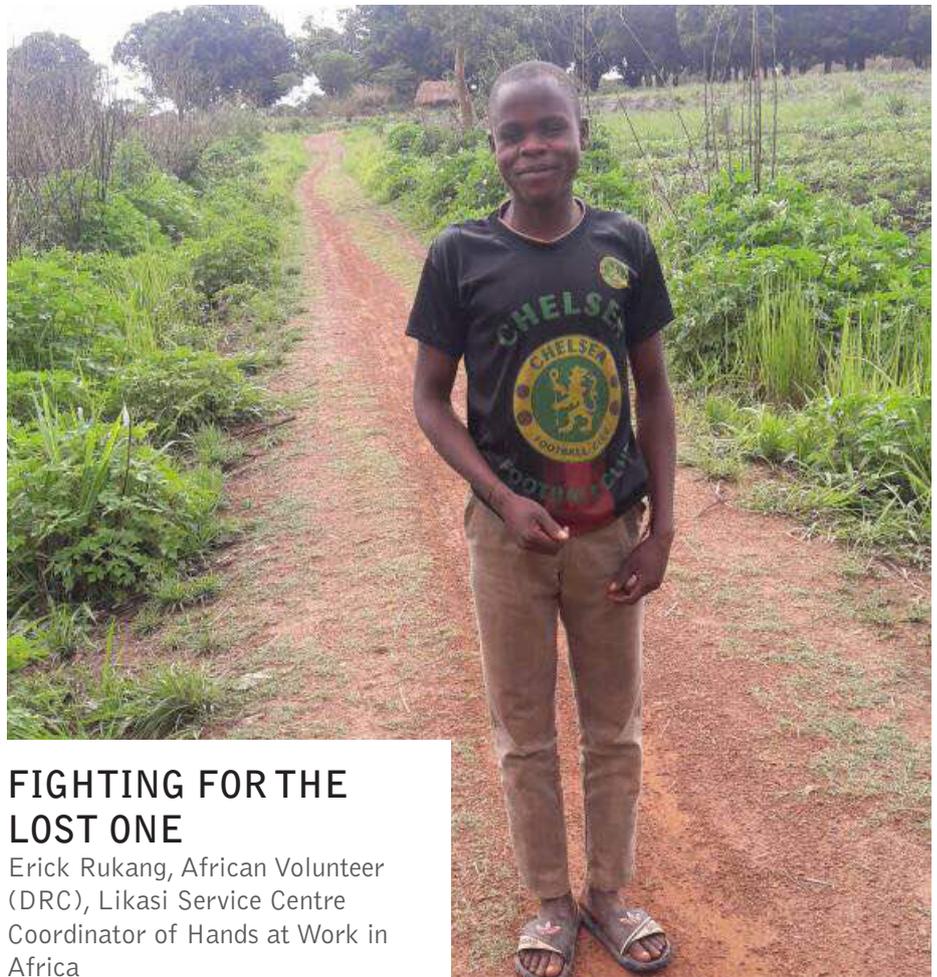
Farzam Mohajer
Sara Waldvogel
Erick Rukang
Daytona Swarbrick
Kristi Swarbrick

BEAUTY IN SHARING OUR STORIES

Sara Waldvogel, International
Volunteer (US), Regional Support
Team

At the beginning of November, Sara joined the Regional Support Team in the role of Malawi Project Support. After the October Gathering in Zambia, she headed to Malawi to spend time building relationships with the Service Centre and learn how she can best support the team from afar.

“While I was in Malawi, I had the opportunity to participate in a Relationship Group in Mcheneke Community. The Care Workers meet every Thursday for a time of fellowship and relationship building. Each of the Care Workers take it in turns to come with a scripture to share. On the day that I was there, one of them shared from Isaiah 42. It was encouraging to hear the Care Workers share how God was speaking to them through the scripture. I found the Care Workers open and honest about the struggles that they were facing and as they shared, others came and surrounded them in prayer. As we go into 2018, the Service Centre wants to focus on Relationship Groups. Please pray that they will continue to remain united in Christ as they use these groups to help bring healing to the broken areas of the lives of our children, Care Workers and Primary Caregivers.”



FIGHTING FOR THE LOST ONE

Erick Rukang, African Volunteer
(DRC), Likasi Service Centre
Coordinator of Hands at Work in
Africa

“In the rural community of Kisunka, there is a 14-year-old boy named Kapia who lives with his uncle and has been attending the Care Point since he was young. In July 2017, his uncle moved Kapia to another village about 8 kilometres from Kisunka. His uncle is a tough man and Kapia was neglected on a regular basis. When I heard the news, I asked myself how we would find Kapia and bring him back to Kisunka?”

During the October Gathering in Zambia, my Service Centre team and I made a commitment to always fight for the lost children and follow up. Back in DRC one Saturday, I started driving; I didn't know where I was going or what I was going to do but I knew that I needed to do something for Kapia. I drove to the village that Kapia's uncle had taken him to and was given the name of his uncle. It was a village of more than 40,000 people so I knew it was going to be a challenge to find him. On Sunday

morning, the Holy Spirit directed me to the far end of the village where I ended up running into Kapia's auntie. She took me to their home where I met with the uncle. I explained to the family why I wanted to bring Kapia back to Kisunka with me and they agreed to release him to come back with me.

When I brought Kapia back to Kisunka, another uncle in the family agreed to take responsibility for him. The Care Workers and my Service Centre team must follow up with this family because we are committed to 'fighting for the lost one'. We know that this journey won't be easy but we are committed to working with this family.

Please pray for Kapia to feel loved and cared for. Pray that my team and the Care Workers will continually be able to build good relationships with the family.”



EXTENDED TIME IN ZAMBIA

Kristi and Daytona Swarbrick spent the last month and half in Zambia at Kachele Village following the October Gathering. They helped the Regional Support Team with 2018 budgets, collected content for the Communications Team, and built into the growing community at Kachele Village.

Daytona Swarbrick, International Volunteer (Canada), Communications Team

“Jimmy Kerr, International Volunteer, Australia, and I went to Chisamba Community, Zambia. We met the young boy and his family who will be the prayer focus for 40 Days of Prayer in 2018. It was clear that the grandmother was initially suspicious of why Jimmy and I had come to visit her. However, as we sat, talked and shared meals with them over the 3 days, her smile grew brighter and she began engaging with what we were doing.”

Kristi Swarbrick, International Volunteer (Canada), Regional Support Team

“We headed into our time in Zambia intentional about immersing

ourselves into the community at Kachele, and helping the Regional Support Team with the creation of their budgets. Over the past three years, I have been so encouraged with the growth, ownership, and vulnerability that I have witnessed in both the Regional Support Team and Service Centres, as well as in the community at Kachele. A strong foundation has been laid, especially in this past year, and we are seeing the fruits of individuals who are committed to serving with a servant’s heart.

I went to Amlew Community for Community Prayer. During our meeting, one of the Primary Caregivers whose children had only been coming to the Care Point for two weeks, asked how she could be involved. We visited her home because we wanted to learn more of her story. It turned out that she was divorced and had been excommunicated from her church because she had a child outside of marriage. She had lost custody of her older children and so was living in Amlew caring for her sister’s children and the one child that she had outside of marriage. Yet it was in her vulnerability and brokenness that she wanted to help and make a difference.”

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God for the Care Workers that are serving the children across our eight countries. Ask God to give them a renewed sense of passion and commitment as they serve in challenging situations.

In the middle of October there was a gathering of leaders from across Africa. Praise God for the way that He ministered and spoke deeply into the hearts of each of those attending.

As several of our volunteers travel to their home countries for Christmas, ask God to give them safe travels. Pray that their time will be restful as they enjoy quality time with their families.

Greetings for Christmas – may our brothers and sisters in Christ experience the joy and peace we have in celebrating the birth of our Saviour.