

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

MISWA COMMUNITY

ZAMBIA | CHISAMBA REGION

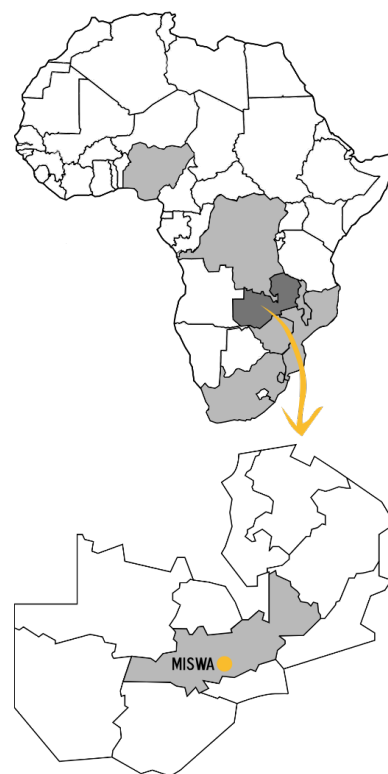
Miswa is a rural community, isolated from secondary schools, hospitals, shops and other amenities, where traditions run deep and cultural beliefs are tightly held onto. Witchcraft, prostitution and the abuse of alcohol are clearly evident in Miswa, deeply impacting the most vulnerable children and their families. Additional challenges in Miswa are a lack of clean water, food shortages and unemployment.

In 2000, local Pastor Peter Mulenga was attending a Bible School in Luanshya that was connected to Africa School of Missions (ASM) in South Africa, where George and Carolyn Snyman had been students. Peter heard the vision of Hands at Work when George and Carolyn came to visit and shared the Biblical mandate to care for the vulnerable. At this time, George Snyman, co-founder of Hands at Work, began mentoring him in what it means to be a Care Worker. In 2003, Peter felt called to Miswa and was shocked by the devastation that the HIV/AIDS epidemic was having on the community. Having been neglected as a child himself, the suffering Peter saw impacted him deeply and he knew that he needed to act immediately. In 2007, with the support of Hands at Work, Peter cast the vision to the local church: to see them unite as Christ's body to care for the community's most vulnerable children.

As a result of Peter's mobilisation of the local church in Miswa, people from the community wanted to start a school and so in 2008 the Community School began. Initially the children and teachers met under a tree, but with the community's help, a thatched classroom was built and then a more permanent structure was constructed. In 2015, Hands at Work began officially partnering with the Miswa Community Based Organisation (CBO). Coming to the Care Point in Miswa, 50 of the most vulnerable children began receiving a hot, nutritious meal daily, and support with their education and basic health care. Since the start of the Miswa CBO, the number of children being cared for has increased to 100.

In 2018, the Hands at Work local office team in Kabwe ran a Maranatha Workshop for the Care Workers, sharing the foundation of who Jesus is and who he can be in their lives. The local Hands at Work team in Kabwe were encouraged to see a reconciliation of relationships amongst the Care Workers and a deeper understanding of the love of Christ.

The Care Workers and some of the Primary Caregivers have come together and planted a garden next to the community borehole, which provides easy access for watering. They have planted various vegetables and continue to work together in tending the garden.



Children Currently Supported **100**
 Number of Care Workers **25**
 Coordinator Name **Daniel**
 Distance from Local Office **5km**
 Basic Services Started In **2015**