

HANDS ON DECK

ISSUE TWENTY-EIGHT



Hands at Work
AFRICA



"It's been a daily reminder in all my daily tasks, to do them well, to do them for Ernest." – Daytona Swarbrick

A MONTH AT KACHELE VILLAGE, ZAMBIA

KRISTI SWARBRICK (INT'L VOLUNTEER, CANADA) - PROJECT SUPPORT, SOUTH AFRICA

DAYTONA SWARBRICK (INT'L VOLUNTEER, CANADA) - COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Kristi and Daytona spent a busy month together at Kachele Village in Zambia, being a part of the community there, and attending the meetings held during the October Gathering. Kristi was excited to reconnect with friends and put faces to the names of those she had only previously heard about. She was encouraged to see the growth within Kachele, seeing new people involved, married couples coming on board together, and people like Reuben and Boyd, previously Care Workers, stepping onto the RST.

Kristi loved the way the October Gathering was structured; starting with George giving a challenging word in the morning, followed by someone sharing about Hands DNA, then a

different group of people presenting on a particular topic each day. Each day was concluded with breaking into small groups and reflecting on the day.

Kristi felt challenged by many things that week. She shared, "George and Dan both spoke about Kingdom Culture. George said we can't have dual citizenship, we have to separate ourselves from one, and it's our choice to work out which one we're going to let go of. There are parts of my life I haven't fully laid down to the Kingdom." She also felt challenged by what was shared about Holy Home Visits. She shares, "I have a new role that's very office-based and I have a fear that I'll lose focus -- that going out to community won't be a priority. I want to be held accountable to ensure that I get out to community and that I don't lose sight of why I am doing what I am doing. I need to remember that behind every number, behind every line on a spreadsheet, is a child."

One of Kristi's highlights was working closely alongside two growing African leaders, Reuben and Agness, in

planning a teambuilding afternoon for all the participants at the Gathering. In doing so, much more work was involved in preparation but she shares, "I found so many blessings and more reward than I ever thought."

Daytona shared the story of Ernest, one of our children in Chibuli Community. He shares, "When we were in Canada we often found ourselves saying 'you don't have to come to Africa to find brokenness.' But we also felt that this is where God has called us to be." Daytona visited Chibuli Community several times during his month in Zambia. He shares, "When we were in Chibuli, we came to Ernest's house where I was shooting video and taking pictures. It surprised me how much my heart was seized for this little boy. Ernest was seven when he got sick; he's about 10 now. He can't walk or talk. He lays on a mat. I pushed to take him outside -- just so he could have a change of scenery. It's tough to know that this is his existence. His mother finds piece work and is often away, and I thought, 'If this were my son, what more would I do for this boy?' My first thoughts were to take him out of his situation, and I still wrestle with that. What more could I do for Ernest? I know that God grieves for him and loves him more than I ever could. For me, it's been a daily reminder in all my daily tasks, to do them well, to do them for Ernest."



CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

Matthews Mumbi
Tyler Ralph
Thulane Sheba
Daytona Swarbrick
Kristi Swarbrick
Melissa Warren

CONSTRUCTION IN MWAISENI

MATTHEWS MUMBI -
CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE
TEAM, ZAMBIA

For the past few weeks, the construction and maintenance team from Kachele Village has been busy working in Mwaiseni Community, renovating the home where our children gather each day to receive their meal. For years, Esnart, from Kitwe Service Centre, has used her home as the main Care Point to serve the most vulnerable children in her community.

The team has been busy putting a new roof on Esnart's home, rebuilding and plastering a wall which was ready to collapse, and putting a concrete floor in. The team also has built a toilet on the property, so the children and Esnart no longer have to use the neighbour's toilet.

Esnart, a single mother, has been using her home for years, before Hands at Work came around. Since 1995, she has been giving her home, food, and time to serve the most vulnerable in her neighbourhood, and she has never asked for anything to be done to her home. As needed over the years, she has added onto her home and did what she could to provide shelter for the children. But as time progressed, her home began falling apart, and God showed us her home just in time, before the rainy season hit and destroyed the walls in her home. We thank God for the sacrifices Esnart has made, and feel the responsibility to ensure she is taken care of as much as the children she cares for, as her home is a place where children find life, and even sleep if they have nowhere else to stay.

A few weeks ago, four youth from Mwaiseni came to Kachele Village to work alongside the construction team, tilling up the ground to make it ready to plant grass. Over the Christmas break, the plan is for these boys to plant grass. Pray with us that these boys will be influenced by those who live at Kachele, and will feel called to be strong youth leaders in their community.



Tyler + the team sitting together in front of the tents they slept in.

BRINGING THE CHURCH TOGETHER

TYLER RALPH (INT'L
VOLUNTEER, CANADA) - RST
SOUTH AFRICA/ZIMBABWE

Tyler, along with George, John and Lesley Bentley travelled to Zimbabwe to bring churches from across the world and Zimbabwe together. They also met with Shelly VanB and her team who were already in Zimbabwe. Three layers of churches came together: the local church in the community, the church on the hill (in the city), and the international church. Their time was about bringing them all together and encouraging them to make a difference in their communities. Farai and the local office in Zimbabwe had been busy gathering pastors – two from Pimai (Honde Valley) Community, two from Chinaka Community, and one from Mutare (where the local office is located).

Once everyone was gathered together, they made their way to Honde Valley, where the meetings would take place, and where everyone would be staying. George opened up by speaking about who we are as Hands, and that we are all one – no “big man” was present.

The second day, George spoke about Kingdom Culture, being open and brutally honest about his own culture, allowing his words to be well received. After discussing more in small groups, everyone went on Holy Home Visits. Tyler shares, “We visited Mama

Makoko's house – but I can't really say her house. She's just staying there – and the man who owns the home came back last week to say he wants her out. It's hard to hear. Her daughter is 15 and married to a 49 year old for security. We returned to the Care Point and discussed what we had seen. It was difficult, but it was also good to experience it all together.” After hearing more stories of children from the Care Workers, the team spent time playing, sitting and praying with the children. “Already I saw that there had been victory, that these pastors were getting it.”

Going to Chinaka Community the next day, they all went on Holy Home Visits again. Being a tough community, Tyler says, “There's no doubt this is the right community to be in. It's tough, but it's where Hands needs to be.” George challenged the pastors and everyone present by asking, “With everything you've seen, with what you've heard from the Bible, why is there a lack of response from your church for these communities?” Local pastors, wives, and international visitors were all deeply challenged, and they all opened up and were vulnerable, sharing how they each felt convicted.

Amazing testimonies have been coming out of Zimbabwe since. Tyler shares, “This is only the second time we've had all three layers of the church together and I think it will really change the way Hands works in the future, and will shape what Church Mobilisation will look like.”



HAPPENINGS ACROSS AFRICA

MELISSA WARREN (INT'L VOLUNTEER, AUSTRALIA) - PROJECT SUPPORT, ZAMBIA RST

Since the October African Leaders Gathering at Kachele Village in Zambia, God has been working mightily through teams in each of our eight countries across Africa. In the two weeks between the Gathering and the last Hands on Deck event, the Zambia Regional Support Team has gone out in two teams seventeen times to visit communities, meeting Care Workers and families, and working hard to see the way forward for 2016.

Busie and Alicia spent two weeks in Nigeria, and have been greatly encouraged. Toyin and Taiwo, heading up the local office in Lagos, have learnt to be field coordinators this year. Spending two days in Apatuku Community, Alicia and Busie found life there. Previously a tough place to visit, they were so encouraged and excited to see transformation taking place in an extremely hard community, as well as four new Care Workers who have responded to God's call. God has been at work in Nigeria, as Toyin and Taiwo have been so willing to learn and step out.

In Zimbabwe, Farai and the team have been busy re-casting the vision for Relationship Groups, determined for Care Workers, children, and caregivers to have a place to come together and

share life. The local churches have been busy as well, building huts for grandmothers from their own resources. A church from the city also visited Honde Valley Community to see and visit with the most vulnerable families.

In Mozambique, churches are offering buildings for Care Points, and the local office has started meeting for a Relationship Group each Monday before weekly meeting. Much prayer for healing and restoration is needed for the Care Workers in Macadiera, as they are so traumatised by the war in Mozambique. God is busy at work there, using Florence as beautiful feet.

Dan and his team in South Africa spent time in Swaziland, casting the Hands vision to pastors in local churches in Msengeni, Bhandeni, and Oshoek. Pastors there are learning to serve their community, and there were opportunities for Dan and the team to implement Relationship Groups and Holy Home Visits. Two nights in Bhandeni gave way for deep conversations with Care Workers, sharing with them the importance of having the entire community involved in the CBO; two nights in Msengeni were spent preparing Care Workers for Maranatha workshops, and many Care Workers found healing from their inner wounds.

Melissa shares, "Amongst all that, God is busy moving in all our countries, showing us many good things and many tough things, and showing us how to move forward with His help."

THULANE VISITS ZAMBIA

THULANE SHEBA - BOOKKEEPER, HAZYVIEW SERVICE CENTRE

It would be Thulane's first time travelling to Zambia. He shares about his time travelling and what he learned while in Zambia, attending the meetings held during the October Gathering at Kachele Village with leaders from across Africa.

He shares, "When I was told I would be part of the team going to Zambia, I was so excited.

Immediately I was thinking of all the people I would be able to meet, like Blessings and Gideon. I was so excited to meet all these people I'd heard so much about." The day before the team from South Africa left, they met together in the chapel at the Hub. Unexpectedly, Thulane felt nervous. "I realised I had to cross through two countries, and the Zambezi river – and I don't do well with large bodies of water!" Once leaving the Hub and starting on his way, Thulane began to feel much better as the other people in his car supported and encouraged him, making him feel comfortable on the journey.

Thulane was impacted by the sense of community he felt while spending time with other African leaders from neighbouring countries. He shares, "I'd be lying if I said there was one moment when I felt lonely there. Everyone had a great attitude, were open with one another and I felt very welcomed."

Thulane felt deeply challenged each time George and other leaders shared. He felt George was speaking directly to him, and shares, "It was greatly challenging and very inspiring. I've been encouraged to not leave what I learnt during this trip in Zambia, but to bring it back to the rest of our team, living out and implementing the things I've learnt by my actions."



HOW MUCH DO YOU REMEMBER FROM 2015?

As the last Hands on Deck event of the year, Kachele Village and the Hub played a trivia game. The purpose of this was to take some time to reflect on God's goodness towards us over the past year. If you're up for the challenge, join in and answer these questions, while reflecting on God's provision over Hands at Work and your own life during 2015.

1. The Chans welcomed a baby boy - what is his middle name? What does it mean?
2. What verse does our watchword for 2015 come from?
3. How many people were part of the February 2015 intake? Who were they?
4. How many teams did we have across Africa in 2015?
5. We introduced VSLA into our communities in 2015. What does VSLA stand for?
6. What month did our International Office come together in SA in 2015?
7. We had a wedding at Kachele this year. Who got married + in what month?
8. We launched a new type of social media for Hands this year. What was it?
9. What were the dates of 40 Days of prayer this year? And who was the child we focused on?
10. Which 4 topics were shared about at the October Gathering?
11. Which new local offices did we open this year?



ANSWERS: 1. Temwani / Love | 2. Habakkuk 3:2 (NIV) | 3. 13 - Brian, Lisa, Jade, Grace, Michelle, Charliette, Heather, Niklas, Mark, Riley, Phil, Rachel, Jared | 4. 30 | 5. Village Savings + Loan Association | 6. May | 7. Mateyo + Belliah / August | 8. Instagram | 9. February 18-April 4 / Innocent from Kalende Community | 10. Holy Home Visits, Relationship Groups, Church Mobilisation, Life Centres | 11. Mozambique + Oshoek