



“What does worldly leadership and then Godly leadership look like?”

– Grace Kariuki

OSHOEK YOUTH CAMP

At the beginning of June, a youth camp was held at the Oshoek Service Centre for 16 of the youth from Beeskop, Oshoek and Sthobela Communities. The primary goal of the weekend was to encourage the youth to start taking ownership of their Care Points. It was a time of building into them as they become future leaders within their communities. Devon and Grace were among the Hands leaders who supported the camp.

Devon Van Hoffen, International Volunteer (Canada), Regional Support Team (RST)

“One of the goals for our time together was to help the Care Workers and the youth identify their needs at their Care Point and what they want it to look like. After we discussed that, the youth did an exercise, drawing on a piece of paper what they saw happening at

their Care Points. They split up into groups and talked what they had drawn. It was good to get a picture of what is happening on a regular basis at the Care Points.”

Grace Kariuki, International Volunteer (UK), RST

“A few of the questions that we asked the youth were: How can you interact with another child to influence your peers in the right way? What does worldly leadership and then Godly leadership look like?

We played games together, with each game having a lesson attached to it about what it means to be a Godly leader. We also discussed how they wanted their Care Points to look. Near the end of the weekend, a 13-year-old girl shared in her small group that she had learned that ‘even if you don’t have anything, you can still care for someone

else.’ It was encouraging to see the kids have the space to express themselves and learn from each other. Before the kids went home, we had the privilege of praying for them and commissioning them back to their communities. Each of the youth made commitments to how they will interact and bring life, light and hope to their Care Points.”



CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

Devon Van Hoffen
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Levy Mwenda
Michael Mwila

MOBILISATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

In April of this year, Levy and Michael travelled to the DRC with the specific purpose of mobilising the local church in Toyota Community to care for the orphans and widows within their community. Levy and Michael reflect:

Levy Mwenda, African Volunteer (Zambia), RST

“After we did Holy Home Visits with the pastors from the local churches in Toyota, the pastors confessed to not knowing what was going on in their community. They felt challenged by what they were seeing. When we had finished the home visits, we sat together with the pastors and talked about what the way forward could look like. We were honest with them; sharing that they aren’t leading the Community Based Organisation (CBO) but are there to be a support and to serve as a ‘father figure’ at the Care Point. It was encouraging to see the way that they were touched by the work that is happening, because the work is for the church and we are the church.”

Michael Mwila, African Volunteer (Zambia), Luanshya Service Centre (SC)

“On one of the Holy Home Visits with the pastors, we visited two young children – six and seven years old - that are staying with their grandmother. When the father passed away the mother remarried a man that doesn’t want the children around. This home is in a dangerous area – it is on a busy road, there is little security, it is near a pit mine and is located about three kilometres from the Toyota Care Point. We spent time with their grandmother at their home, encouraging and supporting her. It was good to see how the church reacted after the Holy Home Visits and that they are ready to jump in and support the Care Workers and the children.”



Nurses for Africa Team in Malawi

Becci Feltham, International Volunteer (UK), Partnerships Team

Nurses for Africa (NFA) send teams of nurses from across the US who travel to Africa for 2 weeks to run clinic days and classes in the most remote and vulnerable communities. In May, Becci travelled to Malawi to assist Brian and Lisa Dalley (International Volunteers, Canada) in hosting one of these teams.

“When the team arrived, we spent time packing the pills that the nurses would be prescribing to patients during the clinic days. We then travelled on dirt roads through the mountains to the community of Maonde where we would be spending the week. We went on Holy Home Visits where the nurses were able to assist with some minor health issues that were present in these homes. The next day, the clinic opened and the nurses saw all 150 children from the Care Point, their families and the Care Workers. The second clinic day was open to members of the community. Over these 2 days, the nurses saw 890 patients. Some of the most common illnesses we saw included malaria, worms, malnutrition, flu, chest

infections, ring worm, eye infections and infected wounds.

The team also ran classes on hand washing, antenatal care, wound care and ‘Days for Girls’ which is a great project around feminine hygiene. The team was also able to provide around 40 pregnant women with sonograms where the women were able to hear their baby’s heartbeat for the first time. One of the sonograms found 2 heartbeats – the mum was very surprised to hear she would be having twins! Many of these mums were very young and were anxious about their upcoming labours – many of them would be having their babies at home without any support.

At times it was quite overwhelming to see the level of need in this community, but the NFA team’s visit made such a big impact.”

Please pray for God to bring healing and protection to the patients that the NFA team saw. Pray for the women that are facing pregnancy alone and pray that God will protect them and give them safe deliveries of their children.

UPDATE ON TRAVELS

Catherine Clarkson,
International Volunteer
(UK), Partnerships Team/
Communications Team

"At the beginning of the year, I remember asking God what He wanted for me this year and I heard the word 'courage'. I think that courage has definitely been something that I have needed, because if I had known all the things that I would end up doing this year, it would have seemed impossible otherwise."



At the end of April, Catherine travelled to Zambia where she spent four weeks at Kachele Village. The Hands family in Zambia has had a challenging couple of years so it was a blessing for Catherine to go and simply connect and invest her time and energy with the family. From there, Catherine travelled to the UK for the International Office Gathering and then stayed on to assist George Snyman as he travelled in the UK visiting some partners.

Catherine shares, "The International Office Gathering was an incredibly special time together as we cast the vision of the way forward as 'one Hands'. We shared stories of our experiences as we asked ourselves: where has God taken us? Where are we today? Where do we envision us moving forward tomorrow?"

After the gathering, George and I travelled to several places across the UK to spend time with some of our partners. The highlight for me is always in hearing people's stories! It's amazing to me the way that God has a different plan and story for each one of us which is carefully, but intentionally woven together. The Hands family around the world is made of so many different threads – different stories of people – which create a rich tapestry of family, ministry and life together.

George spoke at five churches, one school and one community group. Aside from that scheduled time, there was also much time spent building relationships with individuals and families over meals and time in their homes. Connecting with our UK advocates was also such a joy. It was an incredible time and the work that is growing in the UK is really exciting."

PRAYER POINTS

Angel, one of our volunteers from the Likasi Service Centre in the DRC, is having a baby! Pray with us for her and the baby, as well as strength and energy for Erick and the rest of the team during this season.

There are exciting things happening with our partners in Germany. Please pray for continued favour in developing relationships with existing partners and new ones.

At the end of June, Grace Kariuki (International Volunteer, UK) travelled to Mozambique for three months. Pray that God would keep her safe and healthy as she travels. Pray that, together with the local team in Mozambique, they would see God's kingdom advanced.

There is a Maranatha Workshop currently happening in Share, South Africa for the Primary Caregivers and children. Please pray for hearts to be soft and receptive to God's word and the message the leaders bring. Pray that the Holy Spirit would lead them.

Hands at Work has zero tolerance for the abuse and neglect of children. Pray that God would give Care Workers, and all levels of Hands, strength and encouragement as they deal with difficult and emotional situations.