

HANDS ON DECK

ISSUE FORTY-SIX



“When his children were brought to the Life Centre, it changed everything for them.” – Catherine Clarkson

HOPE IN THE MIDST OF VULNERABILITY

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

Near the beginning of July, Catherine travelled to Mozambique and Zimbabwe to walk alongside the Service Centre team and to learn from, encourage and support them.

“On one of the Holy Home Visits I did in the community of Matsinho, Mozambique, I met a mother and her three children living in a home that was infested with ants. We sat a black plastic sheet which she now sleeps on to prevent the ants from biting her. As I sat with this mother talking about life, she shared that the food she had harvested this year had been stolen. Unfortunately, the fields that she owns are far from her home and with no resources available to her to arrange transportation, she was unable to bring the harvest home, resulting in it being stolen. Thankfully

the children are attending the Life Centre where they receive daily food and other forms of care and they are also visited in their home by the local Care Workers. This family faces such difficult circumstances, yet there is such a beautiful display of hope through the love of the Care Workers.

While I was in Zimbabwe, I had the opportunity to visit one of our newer communities, Chinyausunzi. I visited a father and his two sons. This family lives in a small home that was originally intended for single men working as miners. The father has suffered from poor health for a long period of time and recently when he went to the clinic, he was told that his condition was quite serious. However, despite the vulnerability that this family faces on a daily basis, this story still offers much hope. The children have just started attending the Life Centre in their community where they receive a daily, nutritious meal – something they had never consistently received until this time. The care that the children receive

is also not limited to just physical support like food. The whole family are being supported by their Care Worker, Florence who visits them every week. As I sat with this family, the father shared with tears in his eyes about how, when his children were brought to the Life Centre, it changed everything for them.”

Please pray for our communities in Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Pray for the Care Workers to continue caring for and loving the most vulnerable children even when it deeply costs them. Pray for God to continue transforming the communities and for His unending love and grace to be known throughout.



CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

Catherine Clarkson
Kara McLaughlin
Sonny Waspe
Sylvia Mwelwa



Prince attends the local Care Point in Mluti where he receives the love and support of the local Care Workers.

VISIT TO MLUTI COMMUNITY

In July, a team from Link for Life (UK) came to spend a week in Africa. During their visit, Kara McLaughlin and Sonney Waspe were able to accompany the team to the community of Mluti.

Their day was spent doing Holy Home Visits and playing with the children at the Care Point. After their day they both reflected on the following:

Sonney Waspe, son of Dan and Jen Waspe, International Volunteers (UK)

"On one of the Holy Home Visits that I went on, I visited the home of a young boy named Prince* who was staying with his mom and his mom's boyfriend. During the home visit, I felt sad because he had no shoes to wear and he had been asked to leave school because the school could not support him."

Kara McLaughlin, International Volunteer (Australia), Regional Support Team (RST)

"It pains my heart that he is unable to attend school. Every day, he gets up and walks around the neighbourhood. He attends the Care Point but he lacks basic social skills because he doesn't go to school and he is unable to relate to his peers. He does come to the Care Point to receive food but then heads home. He is slipping through the cracks, going unnoticed.

In our Wednesday morning Small Group, we have been talking about the lost sheep and going to find the lost and bringing them home. Prince's story has become personal to me. We need to leave the 99 sheep and fight to find the lost ones. Over the course of the last several weeks, the question that I have been asking myself is 'how do I go the extra mile to pursue the lost?'

Thankfully there was hope in this Holy Home Visit. When Prince's uncle heard about the situation, he felt convicted to care for the family. Every day he visits Prince's house and cooks for the family. He is only 20 years old. He is going to church and has been seeking God through reading his Bible and praying every night. It reminded me that even in the most broken of families, God is faithfully at work."

MARANATHA WORKSHOP IN MARANATHA COMMUNITY

Sylvia Mwelwa, African Volunteer (Zambia), Luanshya Service Centre

Hands at Work is focused on discipling our Care Workers; striving to provide them with an understanding of the unconditional love and healing that comes through Jesus. This healing is the goal of the intensive Maranatha Workshop running in each of our communities across Africa. Maranatha means, 'Come Lord'. Though a structure has been developed, each workshop is dependent on prayer and guidance by the Holy Spirit.

In the middle of July, there was a Maranatha Workshop in the community of the same name – Maranatha, in Zambia.. Throughout the week, the topics discussed were: 'The Jesus We Know'; the Holy Spirit; Relationship Groups; Holy Home Visits; and Life Centres. The workshop was facilitated by the Luanshya Service Centre (SC) and supported by the Regional Support Team (RST).

Sylvia shares, "During the week, we had 28 Care Workers come and participate and several of these Care Workers accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. When we discussed Holy Home Visits, we did a visual presentation demonstrating what doing a Holy Home Visit is, verses simply doing a home visit. It was great to see the Care Workers see and understand the differences."

Please pray for the Care Workers in the community of Maranatha to continue learning and going deeper in their own faith, and in their understanding of what it means to care for the most vulnerable.

PRAYER POINTS

Angel (Likasi Service Centre, DRC) had her sixth child, a baby boy, two weeks ago. Praise God for the safe and healthy arrival of this beautiful new life.

At the beginning of August, there was a Youth Day Camp in Bhandeni Community, Swaziland. Pray for the youth to take what they have learned and implement it into the daily rhythm of their lives. Pray for them to deeply know the love of God.

Many teams have come to serve with Hands at Work this year. Praise God for the way their lives have been impacted and pray for the deep work that God has started to continue. Pray for God to work in the hearts of the individuals on teams still to come as they prepare for their time in Africa.

This month, Tyler and Alicia Ralph (International Volunteers, Canada) return to Africa with their children, Hayden and Ruby. Pray for God to give the children a sense of peace and calmness as they adjust and transition to life back in Africa. Ask God to give Tyler and Alicia a continued grace and patience as they raise two children in Africa.

Brooke and Jed Heubner (International Office Volunteers, US) have come with their two young boys to spend a few months with the Hands at Work family in Africa. Pray for God to speak deeply into their hearts and minds while they are in Africa and pray for the boys to adjust well to living in Africa.

INTORDUCING MARC AND MICHELE DEMOUR

On July 21st, Marc and Michelle Damour were married in San Francisco, US. The wedding was attended by many of our Hands at Work family in North America, and the community at the Hub in South Africa watched via video from afar. Congratulations Marc and Michelle!

