

# HANDS ON DECK

ISSUE FORTY EIGHT



*“It means that God is working in these communities as He brings hope to the hopeless.” – Dan Waspe*

## HOPE TO THE HOPELESS

Dan Waspe, International Volunteer (UK), Regional Support Team (RST)

At the end of August, Dan travelled to Nigeria for the second time this year. Nigeria is a tough country to work in. It is not the easiest place to go but it is a huge blessing and privilege when people do. Doing the simple day-to-day tasks in Nigeria is difficult as it always chaotic. However, the Lagos Service Centre has continued to choose to rest in the chaos. There is darkness around them but they haven't let that seep into the work. The Service Centre team in Nigeria is comprised of four local volunteers – Toyin, Taiwo, Vivian and Matthew.

“I saw a huge amount of growth in the SC which is encouraging. The team is learning what it means to be in the world but not of the world. On one of the days, I went

to Temitope Community Based Organisation (CBO) to spend time with the Care Workers and children. The sheer number of children in Ilaje Community is incredibly overwhelming. Yet it was in the middle of that chaos and confusion that Toyin started gathering the children together to play games and sing songs. She was calm and gentle as the children screamed and ran around her. After about an hour the children started to settle down and join in. It was beautiful picture of perseverance as in the middle of the noise and busyness there was a group of children singing and listening to Toyin share stories.

Overall, I noticed that the children in our communities are looking much healthier. I used to go to community and meet our children and you could see by their physical appearance that we were caring for the right children. Now you get to

a community and you ask yourself whether we are caring for the right children because they have started to look healthier. That means that what is happening at the Care Point is working.”

As time goes on, children are getting healthier, being healed from past wounds and understanding the love of Jesus. It doesn't make their desperate vulnerability disappear but it means that God is working in these communities as He brings hope to the hopeless.

Pray for the Lagos Service Centre as they continue to fight for the most vulnerable amidst dark and challenging situations. Ask God to give the South African Regional Support Team wisdom and guidance as they strive to support Taiwo, Toyin, Vivian and Matthew from afar.



## CONTRIBUTORS

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Dan Waspe  
Busie Sityata-Jones  
Rita Kamkobe  
Melissa Warren

## NISSI COMMUNITY YOUTH CAMP

Rita Kamkobe, African Volunteer  
(Zambia), Luanshya Service Centre

Recently, several of the youth from Nissi Community, Zambia, came to Kachele Village for a week-long camp. On the first day, the youth and facilitators spent time getting to know one another and on the second day the official program started.

Rita shares, "For the first session, one of the facilitators shared about forgiveness and the impact that unforgiveness can have. It was clear that there was a spirit of unforgiveness among the children as they broke down in tears in our small groups. I found out that one of our children hadn't forgiven her aunt for something she had done but after the camp she wanted to go apologise and forgive her aunt. She desired reconciliation. Throughout the week, many of the children received Jesus Christ and invited the Holy Spirit into their lives to guide them and walk with them."

During the week, the team found out that a few of the youth had previously gone to witch doctors. As the team shared about Jesus and the good news of the gospel, four of the youth were set free from the powers of the enemy. Hallelujah!

Ask God to give the Kabwe Service Centre wisdom and guidance as they follow up with the youth, bringing much needed encouragement. Ask God to continue transforming the lives of the youth and pray that they will become agents of change within their own communities.



## NEW BEGINNINGS

Busie Sityata-Jones, African  
Volunteer (South Africa), Regional  
Support Team

Throughout 2017, the Oshoek Service Centre (SC) identified several children attending the Oshoek Community Based Organisation (CBO) who were not coming to the Care Point during school closures because of the far distances they had to walk. They recognised that they were losing these children and that something needed to be done to address the desperate vulnerability. The SC started walking in a new community called Houtbos. The SC have identified 52 children who are the most vulnerable and are using a local church property as a Care Point.

Busie shares, "In Sthobela Community (also in the Oshoek region), the Care Workers used a makeshift shack to cook for the children—which is moveable. A team from Woodlands Central Church (UK) helped us move the shack to



the Houtbos Care Point. Currently, there are four Care Workers; three of whom are caregivers of the children. It is encouraging because they are starting to understand the vision and are eager to support and visit the children."

Pray for the Oshoek SC team. They are stretched thin but are committed to caring for the most vulnerable, whatever the challenges.. Pray for more Care Workers to join the team in Houtbos - those with a heart of compassion to serve the most vulnerable.



## RETURN TO SWAZILAND

Melissa Warren, International Volunteer (Australia), Zambia Regional Support Team (RST)

At the beginning of September, Mel came to South Africa for three weeks to spend time in communities and participate in the September leaders' gathering. During the second week, she had the opportunity to travel to Swaziland where she spent time in Shoka and Msengeni Communities.

Mel shares, "I remember when I was a part of the South African RST in 2013, helping to support Swaziland and being challenged by George to break ground into new communities in this country. Through this, Bhandeni Community was identified and has commenced 3 Essential Services (3ES), and we are now also working in Shoka and Msengeni communities. So it was very special to be able to go back and see, 4 years on, the huge progress that has been made.

When we were in Shoka community, we spent time encouraging the Care Workers, playing with the kids and doing Holy Home Visits. My highlight was seeing our response to the drought in this community. In November 2016, the SA RST had hired a tractor to plough the fields and then the RST and Service Centre, alongside the Care Workers and Caregivers, helped to plant maize fields for every family we serve in this community. We visited a home of a single mother with five children and as we entered their house, we were ushered into a room that was entirely filled with maize from their harvest! The 2 sisters we were with beamed with smiles, sharing how they were so happy that this meant their family would have a secure food supply for the whole year. This has challenged me deeply as we consider, as the Zambia RST,

how to provide harvest support in our rural communities in Zambia. The next day, we went to a new Care Point in Msengeni Community known as Msengeni B, a new area we were planning to commence 3ES in at the beginning of October. Our plan was to do Holy Home Visits to assess new families that we would be adding to the programme. It was such a blessing to do these visits with Baba Vusi (African Volunteer, South Africa) as he has such a gentle and quiet spirit that makes people feel safe and free to open up to him deeply. On one of the visits, I found myself judging the situation as we approached the home. The home was big, there was a car out front and there was much activity from a family that seemingly appeared to be doing very well. As we heard the story however, we discovered the father, who was the sole bread winner for the family,

had passed away just a few months earlier. Overnight the vulnerability of this family changed completely – from having a father as protector and provider for this family, to a sole widower caring for her 6 children and elderly father-in-law, and no longer knowing where the next meal would come from. This situation reminded me of the harsh reality of life lived right on the edge for many of the families we serve who have no safety net. But God's goodness can be seen in the timely plan He had for this family to be a part of the 3ES that we would soon be commencing in this part of the community."



A room entirely filled with maize from the harvest!