

HANDS ON DECK

ISSUE FIFTY ONE



“I saw a huge need for the kingdom culture to be modelled in this community.” – Jackie Okindah

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Jackie Okindah, African Volunteer (Kenya), Regional Support Team Leader (South Africa)

Towards the end of 2017, Jackie spent three months in Mozambique. The purpose of her time was to support and encourage the Chimoio Service Centre (SC) and to help with expansion.

“While I was in Mozambique, I had the opportunity to be a part of the expansion into our new community, Chigodole. The first day we were there, we went to a church for a meeting with the pastors. As I saw the church, then met the pastors and heard their stories, I saw a huge need for the kingdom culture to be modelled in this community. We shared with the pastors the vision of Hands at Work and several of their wives put up their hands and said ‘count me in, I want to walk with you and make a difference in the community.’

On one of my days in Chigodole Community, I asked the Care Workers to show us who the most vulnerable were. They led me to the home of a 98-year-old man who lives alone in a small home. I could see that he was extremely traumatised and when I heard his story I realised why. Three of his daughters had passed away because they had been struck by lightning and he was therefore stigmatised and ostracised by the surrounding community. When I visited, he had not eaten for four days. Yet the Chimoio SC team are amazing! They helped to clean his home and washed his clothes. It was great for the Care Workers to see the example being set by the SC.

There are immense needs in our communities in Mozambique. One of the boys that I met, Ernest*, comes from a family with six siblings. His mother lives with them but she has mental challenges. He has two older brothers who are out looking for work to help support the family. One

of the younger boys was wearing a skirt because the family had no other clothes. The reason that I pushed to visit his home was the wound on his hand which had lots of bugs and dirt in it. I helped to clean the wound and I showed his mother the easiest way to keep it clean. It was unbelievably tragic because even after he had been cleaned up, the clothes that he was wearing were soiled and dirty. Sadly, Ernest and his family are one of the many families across Mozambique who are living in desperate vulnerability.”

Please pray for Chigodole Community and ask God to give the Chimoio SC the wisdom and understanding to serve and support the Care Workers and the most vulnerable children with grace and love.

+ CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

Jackie Okinda
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FIGHTING FOR THE LOST ONE

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

“When we make commitments like ‘fighting for the lost one’ or ‘making it personal’ we are not simply going to sit back and not do anything. We are going to stand our ground as parents who are fighting for the lost children. Recently, our SC identified a challenge in Katetaula Community where the children would go to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to do farming from October through to the end of December. This means that their time in school is interrupted and as a SC, we know that this is not right and we need to fight for our children.

We made a plan to go to Katetaula in December 2017 to learn more because we saw that there is a lot of land there. Unfortunately, due to the sheer number of pigs and goats roaming around eating the crops, the people are unable to farm, which results in farming in the DRC. Michael Mwila, Luanshya SC Coordinator, had an opportunity to sit with the headman in the community to talk about the possibility of locking up the animals. Thankfully, the meeting with the headman was successful and they agreed that something needed to be done. As a SC, we are making a plan with the leaders in the community to talk to those people who own animals to explain the situation. In 2018, we are pushing to see that the most vulnerable children do not go to the DRC and instead are able to finish school.”

Please pray for the Luanshya SC as they fight on behalf of the most vulnerable children. Ask God to give them strength and determination when the situation is challenging. Pray for favour and that the most vulnerable children will be able to fully attend school without interruption.



The Luanshya SC, alongside the Care Workers planted a field.

PRIMARY CAREGIVER FARMING SUPPORT

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

As the vulnerability in many of the communities is so high, we realised that we couldn't simply care for the children without trying to do something to support their families.

Michael shares, “There was one Primary Caregiver in particular that we knew needed extra support in Chibuli Community. Catherine is 47 years old and has 5 children. Prior to her husband passing away, she had led a good life. Her husband was a Care Worker and he also worked hard making charcoal and growing maize to provide for his family. Tragically, in 2015 he passed away. After the burial, his family came and took everything that the family had, leaving them with nothing. The Chibuli Care Workers made a plan to provide a small piece of land for Catherine and her family to stay.

Three of Catherine's children are coming to the Care Point but Catherine is unable to feel settled and life is extremely difficult. In December 2017, as a Service Centre (SC) we bought farming inputs – fertiliser and herbicides to help with planting. We went to Chibuli and alongside the Care Workers planted a

field. Recently I went to check on the field and the maize is growing well despite not receiving enough rainfall. When it is time to harvest, we will do it together and support them as they sell some of the maize and keep some for food. They are expecting to harvest between 30-35 50kg bags of maize.”

Despite her circumstances, Catherine was praising God because people have come around to support her. Through the love of the SC and Care Workers, other people in the community have witnessed the love of God. Pray for the SC as they continue to find a way to best support the Primary Caregivers in the communities. Ask God for enough rainfall to produce a plentiful harvest.

PRAYER POINTS

Earlier this week, Jackie Okindah travelled to Mozambique where she will stay for a longer period of time. Pray for God to keep her safe and that she will be a strong support and encouragement to the Chimoio Service Centre.

Please continue to pray for rain in Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe which will enable the maize to grow strong to give people a good harvest and added food security.

Pray for the unrest in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It has a direct impact on the safety and security of the most vulnerable children. Ask God to protect them and bring peace to the situation.

Many teams are coming to serve with Hands at Work in Africa in 2018. Pray for the kingdom of God to be glorified through the teams and that they will feel inspired and deeply challenged to bring what they have learned in Africa to their home country.

The beginning of January marked the start of a new school year for the children in our communities across Africa. Praise God for the opportunity that the children have to access education and pray that it will continue. Pray for the Lord to protect the children as many of them travel a far distance to and from school.

INTRODUCING THE 2018 VOLUNTEER INTAKE

This week, we welcomed volunteers from around the world who have come to serve in Africa for a year. We continue to thank God for blessing us with volunteers who want to come to serve God by working with the most vulnerable communities and families. Please pray for each of these volunteers, that as they experience God's heart for the poor and as they meet the most vulnerable children, they will continue to dig deeper into their relationship with their Father.



Poulson Family (Bristol, UK)



Caleb Walton (19, Wolverhampton, UK)



Vicky Volker (18, Hamburg, Germany)



Jon Mycio (27, Toronto, Canada)



James McLaughlin - left (26, Sydney, Australia)