

# HANDS ON DECK

ISSUE FIFTY-SIX



*"It is encouraging to see them practically serving in the communities."* – Jackie Okinda

## SERVICE CENTRE TEAM IN MOZAMBIQUE

Jackie Okinda, African Volunteer (Kenya), Regional Support Team

"When I found out that I was going back to Mozambique, I struggled with the unknown, a new language and the idea of breaking new ground. As I read the parable of the unfruitful fig tree that was to be cut down in Luke 13:6, it cut me deep because of the response of the gardener in verse 18 - "Sir, give it one more chance ...and I will give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer." These verses opened my heart to go to Mozambique and give my best. Mozambique has quickly become my happy place.

"There are three members of the Service Centre (SC): Audrey, Sandra and Ramos. The primary purpose of my time in Mozambique

was to spend time walking with and growing the SC team. I love their hearts, and it is encouraging to see them practically serving in the communities.

"Ramos, who is the newest member of the SC, joined us September 2017 as a bookkeeper. We quickly noticed how well he fit into the SC team and how great he is with the children by his willingness to play with them. During Holy Home Visits, the way he reaches out to help by showing love and compassion is evident. Ramos has been key in following up with the teenage boys in the communities and making things personal by visiting them, even at times on the weekends.

"Audrey is a strong leader in this SC. I have had the privilege of seeing how God is busy healing her and using her to impact and influence those around her. I was

encouraged seeing her out in the community and the way that she fits into all areas, from caring for the Care Workers to playing with the children. She makes things personal, and fights for the most vulnerable.

"Sandra is small in stature; I remember one time she shared about how people looked down on her because of her small size for most of her life, which had frustrated her and affected her confidence. Now, all of that has changed and she refuses to let this hinder her as a member of the team and out in the communities. I feel blessed to have seen her grow in her confidence to share God's word and facilitate Relationship Groups."

Please pray for Audrey, Ramos and Sandra in Mozambique. Ask God to continually give them the wisdom, understanding and compassion that they need to serve the most vulnerable well.



## CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

Jackie Okinda  
Rita Mbuzi  
Gideon Mbuzi  
Sara Waldvogel  
Busie Siyata-Jones

## A WILLINGNESS TO SERVE

Ritha Mbuzi, African Volunteer (Zambia)

Gideon Mbuzi, African Volunteer (Zambia)

As a Zambian married couple, Gideon and Ritha both feel called to serve in the ministry of Hands at Work. As upcoming African leaders in Hands at Work, we are committed to growing them as leaders and exposing them to the ministry outside of their home country. As a part of this growth, Gideon and Ritha, along with their three-year-old daughter, Semba recently spent two months in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) serving alongside Erick and Angel and our local Service Centre team in Likasi.

Ritha shares “It was good to be exposed to other people where we could learn from and be challenged by them. The members of the Likasi Service Centre are so committed. They are good at running towards the problem and they try not to leave any situation without trying to do something. One day, I had the opportunity to go to Toyota Community with Angel, a member of the Service Centre. We were doing Holy Home Visits when we found Simon\* and his brother, who are part of the Care Point, and were extremely sick. Angel knew that we couldn’t leave them and so we spent time bathing Simon and then took him to the clinic together with his brother. He hadn’t eaten which resulted in not being able to take his medication and so Angel gave him food out of her bag. It challenged me to see Angel treat Simon as her own son.

Gideon shared “The poverty that I saw in the DRC stuck out to me. I don’t think I ever saw a child throwing their food away but I regularly saw children waiting for leftovers which displayed their level of vulnerability and hunger. Yet all of the children were well-mannered. The Care Workers were teaching the children how to wash the dishes and I was encouraged to see the children helping one another with this.

One of the things that deeply impacted me was the attitude of the Service Centre. They make everything personal and treat the children as their own. They are well known in the community and know each of the children by name. Returning from the DRC, I feel challenged by the Service Centre’s commitment to advocating and fighting on behalf of the most vulnerable.”

---

## LIFE CENTRE PAINTING IN ZWELISHA

At the end of April, the Hands at Work family in South Africa travelled from the Hub to the community of Zwelisha where we helped with the pilot Life Centre painting project.





## WITNESSING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Sara Waldvogel, International Volunteer (US)

At the end of May, Sara and her fiancé, Xolani Makwakwa, (African Volunteer, South Africa) travelled to the US for three weeks, where they were able to spend quality time with family and friends before their upcoming wedding.



While Sara and Xolani were in New York, her friends and family threw an engagement party for the happy couple.



"The majority of our time was spent connecting with family and friends, but on three afternoons, we went sightseeing around New York."



"During our time, we got to celebrate my nephew's 4th birthday at the ocean. God has such a sense of humor because here was Xolani standing at the Atlantic Ocean holding a piñata – a path neither one of us expected, yet God knew long ago."



"There is a camp outside of New York that has been very important in my life. I loved being able to take Xolani there and show him a place that is so special to me and helped shape who I am."

## PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Praise God for dedicated Care Workers like Mama Emerance in Kambove Community, Democratic Republic of Congo, who have committed to serving the most vulnerable children.

Praise God for the women in the community of Mluti, South Africa, who attended the foundations training run by the Hazyview Service Centre (SC) in June and have responded to God's call on their lives to become Care Workers.

At the beginning of July, Hands at Work started serving the most vulnerable in three new communities in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Thank God for the new children who are attending the Care Points. Pray that they will feel accepted, wanted, and have a deep sense of our Heavenly Father's love.

As the Lagos SC continues to mobilise the local church in Amacoco, ask God to equip them with wisdom and discernment. Pray for more people with hearts of grace and compassion to begin serving the most vulnerable children.

Over the past months, there has been a lot of uncertainty in the community of Kikula, DRC because cobalt, a precious mineral, was found; turning the community into a mining area overnight. Although the finding of cobalt has slowed down, it will most likely become a commercial mining area. Pray for the Likasi SC and the Zambian Regional Support Team as they walk with church leaders to find a solution. Ask God to protect our children in Kikula, giving peace in times of confusion.

In the last few weeks, there have been three Maranatha Workshops across Africa. Praise God for the transformation that has taken place in the lives of the Care Workers, Primary Caregivers and children. Pray for an outpouring of Jesus' love, grace and compassion to the rest of the community because of what they learned and experienced.



The youth, who will be attending the new Care Point in Amakoko.

## CLAY IN GOD'S HANDS

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

At the end of May, Busie travelled to Nigeria to spend time with the Lagos Service Centre (SC). The goal of this trip was to walk with the Lagos SC and support them as they make plans for the new Community Based Organisation (CBO) in Ilaje.

"My time in Nigeria was spent listening to the SC and understanding where the gaps are as far as preparations for the start of a new CBO in Ilaje later this year. I also spent time in the existing Eagle's Wings and Temitope CBOs in Lagos, and Apatuku Community in Ibandan, which is a two-hour drive from Lagos.

My highlight was the meeting the SC had organised with the youth who had graduated from Eagle's Wings CBO, who will be a part of the new CBO. It was so encouraging to sit with these young people and hear their excitement and dreams they have about this new Care Point. It was helpful for us to understand that one of the challenges that has affected their attendance at Eagle's Wings CBO is the late time they finish school. The kids suggested, and we agreed, that the Care Point would operate from later in the afternoon until early evening, which would enable the youth to finish school. It was in this

meeting where we encouraged the children to give their upcoming Care Point a name. Excitedly, the youth discussed and then came up with the name 'Amakoko', which translates to 'potters'. They explained that they see themselves as clay in God's hands, and this is like a potter's house where they are being shaped into what God has for them. It was amazing to see the seriousness with which they chose the name.

Amakoko will care for the youth who have graduated from Eagle's Wings, the siblings of the younger children who attend the Temitope Care Point but have never been to school before, and any of the most vulnerable children in the areas surrounding Amakoko between the ages of 7 and 18. The youth were excited to hear that they are going to have more responsibility in taking care of the younger children."

Please pray for the Lagos SC to have wisdom and discernment as they mobilise the local church. Pray for men and women with hearts of grace and compassion to stand up and commit to serving the most vulnerable children as Care Workers.