

HANDS ON DECK

ISSUE FIFTY-SEVEN



“It could only have been God who came into their hearts.” – Pinky Ngutshane

GOD DIDN'T LEAVE US

Gugu Sibanda, Hazyview
Service Centre
Pinky Ngutshane, Hazyview
Service Centre

At the end of June, there was a week-long Maranatha Workshop in the community of Mafambisa in South Africa for the Primary Caregivers and the children. The Hazyview Service Centre facilitated the workshop along with members of the Regional Support Team and people from the Hub in South Africa.

Gugu shares, “As we were preparing for the workshop, I was a bit nervous because I know the brokenness of the community and the many challenges that they face. A part of me was hoping that something would come up which would prevent me from going to the workshop but God is good and He was with us throughout the week. When we first arrived at the Care Point, which also operates as a church, we spent time praying

over the building and the week to come. Each person in our group was nervous because we didn't know what to expect. Would the children and Primary Caregivers even come? We didn't know but had to simply trust in God.

“The following morning, the first day of the workshop, we saw God show up as the children came. Once the children had arrived, we split them into three different groups – ages 0-6, 7-12, 13 and above. On the first day, the children were distracting one another in the groups, especially among the youth. As the Service Centre, we finished the first day feeling discouraged and exhausted, but by the next day, we had more energy and were ready for the day. In my group, on the second day, the children were open as they were taught about the forgiveness of sins. When I was leading the ages 7-12 group, we didn't play games, but spent time hearing about their brokenness. It was my first time to

hear children share that openly and honestly about the challenges that they face, and it broke my heart. Yet through all the difficulty, God didn't leave us. He stayed with us.

“During our time with the Primary Caregivers, one of my highlights was seeing one of the ladies, who we didn't actually even expect to come, accept Jesus Christ into her life.”

Pinky says, “The youth group that I helped with was different than any youth group I was used to teaching. I could feel myself getting impatient and thinking, ‘Father you sent me here and no one responds’. Yet as I watched the other members of our team, all I could see was their patience with the youth. I realised that you don't have to rush these things. All you can do is trust God. On the second day with the children, we had a breakthrough. They didn't seem like the same children that we had been with the day before. It could only have been God who came into their hearts.”



CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

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A HUNGER TO LEARN

Hannah Mohajer, International Volunteer (Canada), Regional Support Team

Recently, Hannah had the opportunity to travel to Mozambique and spend time in the communities of Macadeira and Chigodole, where she was able to support the first few days of a Maranatha Workshop for the Care Workers.

“While I was in the community of Macadeira, God drew back another layer to show me the deep level of vulnerability. I met a six-year-old girl who I played with on Wednesday, and four days later she passed away. I don’t know why she had to die but all I could sense God saying was ‘she’s mine’. Sometimes in the brokenness, all we can do is to hold onto the glimpses of God that He gives us. I find it amazing that God in his goodness can sometimes use the very things that break us to also make us, if we allow him.

“When I think of Chigodole, I remember two of the first stories to come out of that community. One was the little boy who was blind but is now able to see (thanks to cataract surgery) and another was a boy who had been struggling on an adult dosage of epilepsy medication, but has now been given the children’s dosage, and is doing much better. I see their restoration as somehow prophetic of what God is doing at that Care Point.

“18 Care Workers and 5 church leaders came to the Maranatha Workshop, and from the beginning of the week, there was a great hunger and excitement. The Chimoio Service Centre shared about creation and being made in God’s image. One of the pastors mentioned that ‘we don’t know a lot about the Bible, but please teach us; we want to learn.’ When the Service Centre shared about how each of us were in the pit of brokenness, a number of Care Workers stepped forward to say that they needed Christ to rescue them, and gave their lives to Him.

“The name ‘Chigodole’ translates as ‘the one who kills.’ What I find incredible is that in a community with such a terrible past, God is transforming the lives of the most vulnerable. On the last day, we heard testimony after testimony of how Jesus was changing their hearts, healing wounds, and restoring broken relationships.”



Some of the newer children in Chinyausunzi.

POURING OUT ON BEHALF OF THE AFFLICTED

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

In June, Kara travelled to Zimbabwe with a group of five people from the Hub in South Africa. She spent a week walking in the communities and connecting with the local Service Centres.

“During a Holy Home Visit in Chinyausunzi Community, I visited Elizabeth*, a grandmother who has seven children, two of which had passed away and the other five who are unstable and don’t often come home. She has been left to care for two of her grandchildren – both of whom attend the Care Point. When we arrived, she started sharing that she hadn’t been to church for three to four years because she had been hurt by the church. As we were talking, she mentioned that she does pray but didn’t know who she was praying to. We were then able to share about Jesus and her Care Worker, Florence. We asked Elizabeth what Florence does for her, to which she replied that Florence visits and helps take care of the children.

“Then we told her that Florence visits because she wants to show her what Jesus is like. Slowly, you could see something fall into place. Immediately, Andrew, a member of the Mutare

Service Centre, started sharing the story of the Bible with her. It was amazing to see her engagement and her commitment to come to church with Florence. It was in that moment that I saw how Florence had made the choice to pour herself out on behalf of the afflicted. She was being the hands and feet of Jesus by visiting Elizabeth, even when she did not know it.

“Additionally, it was special to be in Chinyausunzi when there was an increase of children. It was beautiful! When you are in Chinyausunzi, the children feel free to play and engage with everyone who is there, but you could see that the newer children were not sure what to do. The Service Centre team were quick to engage them in games and made a point of introducing them, ensuring that they felt welcome. It was a privilege to see the light of Christ spreading further into the community. This is Jesus turning up.”

KACHELE VILLAGE MAINTENANCE TEAM UPDATE

Over the last few months, the Maintenance Team at Kachele Village in Zambia have been going into the community to help with repairs identified by the Care Workers in a few of the communities that we are serving in.



In the community of Maranatha, the team went out and put some grill doors on the kitchen and a door on the toilet which will help to ensure safety and proper hygiene.



In K-Block Community, the Maintenance Team has started to build a Ventilated Improved Pit Latrine toilet with two sides – one for boys and one for girls – which will help to improve privacy. The team are trying to involve the members of the community as much as possible in the building of the pit.



In the community of Kalende, one of the buildings of the community school was very unstable and at risk of collapsing. The decision was made to take down the building to ensure the safety of the Care Workers and the children as this is where they frequently ate their daily meal.



When the Care Workers identified a family in the community of Zimba that was in desperate need of home repairs, the Kitwe Service Centre encouraged and challenged the Care Workers to take ownership of the repairs. The Care Workers have responded by eagerly and willingly taking ownership of the repairs and helping with the labour. Thankfully, the family now has a safe place to sleep at night.

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Ritha and Gideon, African Volunteers (Zambia), have committed to spending six weeks in Zimbabwe, supporting the Mutare and Honde Valley Service Centres. Ask God to minister into their lives as they take this step of faith. Pray for God to give them courage, peace and protection as they step out of their comfort zones to serve the most vulnerable.

In July, Pragcidence Mwenda (African Volunteer, Zambia), spent two weeks in Malawi, hosting a team from Canada. Praise God for their time and the way that she was able to speak into the lives of the team members.

Jennifer Kim and Suzette Lee are members of the International Office in the US. Recently, they spent two months across Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe to help host teams from the US and to spend time walking with the Regional Support Teams. Praise God for the way that He challenged them and spoke into their lives while they were in Africa.

Pray for the Chimoio Service Centre in Mozambique as they continue to follow up with the Care Workers in Chigodole Community after the recent Maranatha Workshop in July.

LIFE CENTRE PAINTING TRANSFORMATION IN PFUNANI

Beth Fulton, member of the PACC Team (Australia)

In the middle of July, the President's Avenue Community Church Team (PACC) from Australia came to spend two weeks serving with Hands at Work in South Africa. A part of their time was spent painting the Life Centre in Pfunani alongside the Care Workers and children.

"We had an amazing week in Pfunani. We were able to paint the Life Centre with the Care Workers and the children. It was amazing to see the transformation and see the Care Workers excited to take on the project themselves and make it their own. One of the Care Workers, Audris, really made it his own and was busy interacting and helping two of the youth boys paint.

In the afternoon, when the rest of the children came, we split them up into teams and they got to paint their own section of the wall. They had the best time and it put new life into their Life Centre building. Later in the day, we did Holy Home Visits and from almost all the points of the community, you could see the Life Centre. It stands out, making people smile and brings more hope and vibrancy."

