



“The reason he smiles is because of the Care Workers, who are committed to ensuring that he is cared for.” – Gideon Mbuzi

LOCAL COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

Gideon Mbuzi, African Volunteer (Zambia), Regional Support Team
Rita Mbuzi, African Volunteer (Zambia), Luanshya Service Centre

Hands at Work is committed to developing Gideon and Rita as upcoming African leaders and revealing them to the ministry outside of their home country. As part of this growth, in November 2018 Gideon and Rita, along with their three-year-old daughter, Semba, spent six weeks in Malawi serving alongside Royie and Violet and our local Service Centre team in Dedza.

Rita shares, “While I was in Malawi, I was encouraged by the unity that I saw within the Service Centre team. One of my highlights was spending lots of quality time with Violet. When she came to Kachele Village in the past she always seemed shy but she truly is a mother in the communities in Malawi. She knows each of the

children by name and knows their stories, and she is also known by all of the children. When she sees a situation in the communities, she doesn’t leave until there is a plan or the situation is resolved.”

Rita continues, “Despite the poverty being so incredibly high and the people struggling a lot, I was encouraged to see how much the Primary Caregivers fight for their families. They work so hard in their fields to try and make sure their children or grandchildren have food.”

Gideon reflects, “One of the things that deeply touched my heart was the community ownership that I saw in Malawi, where the leaders are involved in what is happening. In the community of Mpata there were complications on the land where the Care Point was located. Initially, the owners of the land wanted to serve every child in the community. Yet with the help of the community leaders and their understanding of our mandate

to care for the most vulnerable, the leaders talked with the owners who, after hearing our mission, provided a piece of land for the Community Based Organisation. The Service Centre helped provide some building materials for a new structure that the Care Workers can use to serve the most vulnerable on this new land, but the majority of the materials were sourced locally and provided by the Care Workers. The Care Workers also took great responsibility and ownership and constructed the new building themselves.

One of my highlights was meeting Peter*, a young boy living in Mpata who has a difficult home life. He lives with his mother who struggles with a mental disability, and is often taken advantage of. Sadly, Peter doesn’t know his father. In addition, Peter’s house is in poor condition. The Dedza Service Centre temporarily fixed the house recently, in preparation for the rainy season, but are making plans to make these fixings permanent. The Dedza Service Centre and the Regional Support Team are talking about how they can best support Peter’s mother and her disability.

Despite the challenges at home, Peter is called the smiling angel because he can always be seen with a smile on his face. The reason he smiles is because of the Care Workers, who are committed to ensuring that he is cared for.”



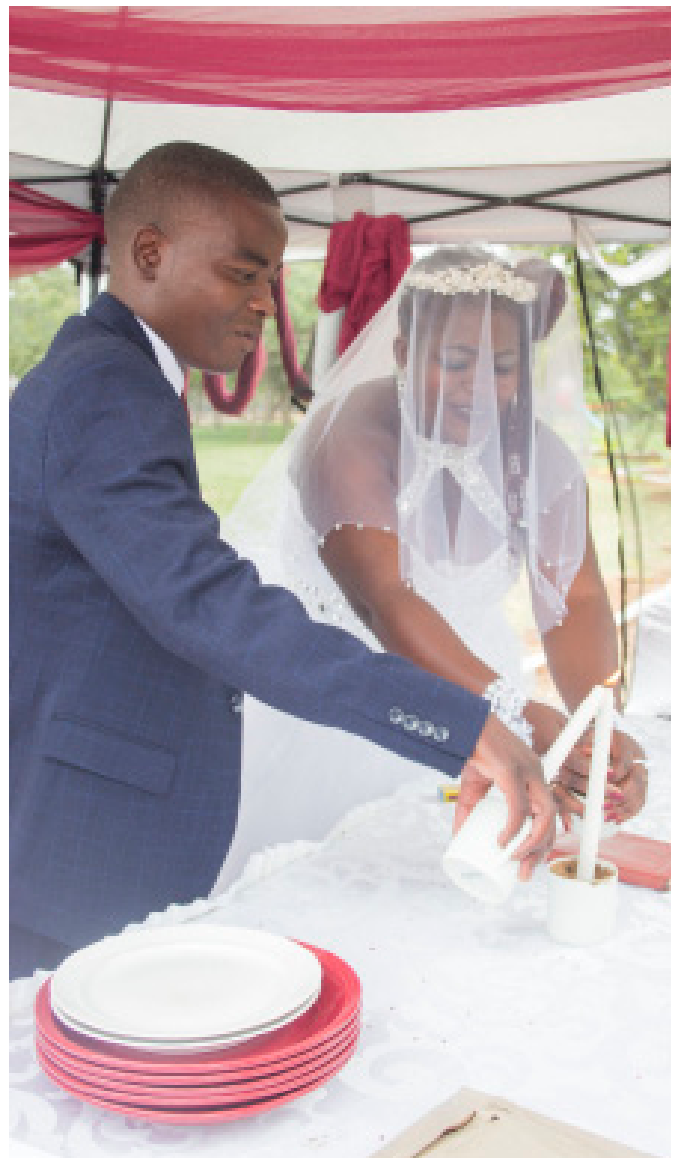
CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

Gideon Mbuzi
Rita Mbuzi
Celia Cattelain

INTRODUCING PRUDENCE AND TERRANCE

On December 22, 2018, Prudence and Terrance Gwishiri were married in Harare, Zimbabwe. The wedding was attended by a few of our Hands at Work family in Zimbabwe, and both Prudence and Terrance's families. Congratulations Prudence and Terrance!



INTRODUCING THE 2019 VOLUNTEER INTAKE

Last 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, they will also experience His heart for themselves and His church.



Brianna, 19, Australia



Shana, 22, Australia



Eliza, 22, Australia



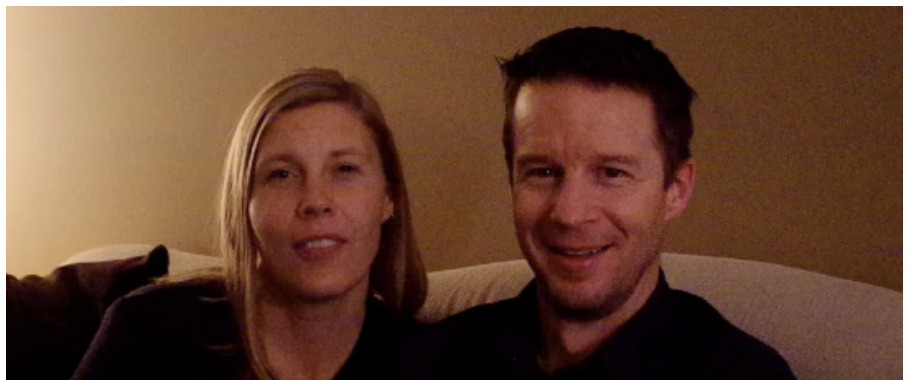
Candece, 27, Australia



Karl and Jill, 54, Australia



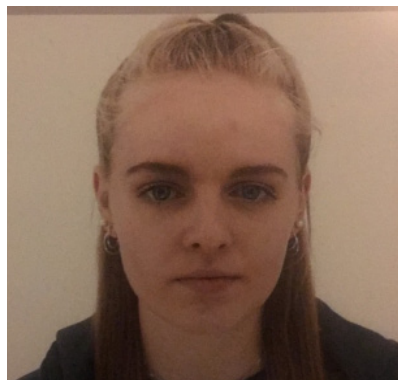
Brandon, 32, Canada



Bree, 39, and Ian, 40, Canada



Jakob, 19, Germany



Jess, 19, UK



Zoe, 22, UK

PRAYER REQUESTS

Last week, orientation for the volunteers from the 2019 intake began. Pray that God will prepare their hearts and minds as they join the Hands at Work family and learn more about what it means to serve the most vulnerable in Africa.

Over the course of the last few weeks, there has been unrest in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and in Zimbabwe. Pray for the safety and protection of the children who are already vulnerable. Ask God to keep them safe and that our children receive the daily essential services. Pray for peace and stability in both of these countries. Pray for the wisdom and guidance of the leaders and the people within their borders. Ask God to give wisdom and discernment for our local Hands at Work teams as they support the most vulnerable communities in this season of instability.

In 2019, due to a change in government policy, children who do not have proper legal documentation to attend school will no longer be permitted in schools. The local Hands at Work teams in Hazyview and Oshoek are working hard to make plans for the children and families that this policy will directly affect. Hands at Work is seeking to understand the increased vulnerability our children face, not only due to the lack of education and regular routine, but in their day-to-day living. We see the Life Centre in each community as an opportunity to facilitate the growth and development of each child affected. Pray for each child to enjoy learning at the Life Centre and that they will feel safe. Pray for each child who is not permitted to attend school, that they will find a sense of belonging and acceptance at the Life Centres.

Throughout 2019, many people from Hands at Work will be travelling to different countries to support the work there. Ask God to give continued protection as they travel.

PROMPTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Celia Cattelain, Partner and Advocate for the community of Miswa, Zambia

At the beginning of February Celia, a friend of Hands at Work from France, came to spend two weeks in Zambia, building relationships with the Care Workers and children in the communities in the Kabwe area.

“The beauty of the work happening here is that everywhere is different. Even though I’ve been before to the communities that the Luanshya Service Centre supports, I was touched in different ways by the communities in Kabwe.

I felt a real sense of family between the Care Workers. I didn’t sense that there was any hierarchy at the Care Point, even if there may be within the community. As always, the children were wonderful. It was a reminder to the privileged of the

world that we need very little to be happy. My hope, as I go home, is that I can share the stories of the people I have met with my friends and family.

In the West we may pray often or send money or clothes, but what we don’t realise is what being in Africa does for us on a personal level. On one occasion I was asked to share the Word and felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to tell the story of the Samaritan woman by the well. Just as that woman may have felt that she didn’t have anything to give, so I felt in coming to Africa. I have realised, though, that as I open myself up, I have so much to receive from the people in the communities.”

