

HANDS ON DECK

ISSUE SIXTY THREE



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– Busie Siyata-Jones

STORIES OF ENCOURAGEMENT

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

After the watchword at the Hub in South Africa, Busie was invited to go to Zambia for the presentation of the watchword there. She then travelled to Malawi to support the Service Centre in Dedza, as they grow in their understanding of Hands at Work’s weekly rhythms. After two weeks in Malawi, Busie then travelled to Mozambique where she spent several days encouraging the Chimoio Service Centre, learning from them and visiting the communities that they are serving.

“While I was still in Malawi, I had the privilege of visiting the community of Maonde and spending time with Martha*, a Primary Caregiver whom I had met previously. Sadly, her seven-year-old passed away in

2018 from malaria and so, along with the Dedza Service Centre, we wanted to visit and bring much-needed support and encouragement. As we sat with Martha, she shared, “losing my son was difficult but out of it I realised how much my family is loved. When my son was sick, Tanazio and Butwell (members of the Dedza Service Centre), together with the Care Workers, took my son to the clinic and stayed with him the entire time. When he died, they were there. They couldn’t save my son but I know that my son died in the hands of people who loved him and that gives me comfort.” Hearing from the people living in the community how much they are loved by these two guys was such an encouragement. I’m so thankful that our Service Centres are committed to representing Christ in our communities.

My trip from Malawi to Mozambique was interesting. There were lots of bumps in the road but, through

the whole journey, I saw God’s faithfulness. When I finally arrived in Chimoio, the Service Centre picked me up and we headed off to Macadeira Community. As we were arriving at the Care Point, we saw people running in every direction and quickly found out that a bee’s nest had been provoked and, as a result, lots of people had been stung. We later did a Holy Home Visit to a caregiver who had been stung so much that she was unconscious and sick. Audrey Singue, coordinator of the Chimoio Service Centre, took time to clean this primary caregiver, pick her up and place her in the car to bring her to the hospital. Audrey and her Service Centre team are so committed to caring for the children and I was blessed to see the work that they are doing and how they handle the challenges in their communities.

I also visited Matsinho Community where I reconnected with Maria, the Community Based Organisation coordinator, and the other Care Workers and children, who I had met many years ago. They are so encouraged by our prayers. I felt blessed and humbled to meet some of the children that we are praying for by name. I want to be more prayerful for our children. We need to make it personal because they do the same for us and are a huge gift to each one of us.”



CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

Busie Siyata-Jones
George Snyman
Nick, Florie and Joseph

SYMBOL OF HOPE

George Snyman, co-founder of Hands at Work

In February, George had the opportunity to spend two weeks in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, alongside Erick Rukang, coordinator of the Likasi Service Centre. George shares, "Goma is probably one of the darkest places that we work in, yet there is probably the most hope there. When I am in Goma, I see Jesus more than in any place on the planet".



"It is encouraging to see the way that the Service Centre in Goma is growing. Bindu (sitting on the far right) is the first full-time Service Centre member, which is incredibly exciting."



"Every day the Care Workers in the community of Luhonga come together at six in the morning and start preparing the meal that they will serve to the most vulnerable children. Afterwards, they spend time having a Relationship Group and praying with one another."



"There is a young boy, who I have known for many years, who is 'dead' inside. While in Goma, I reached out to the Hands at Work family, asking people to send encouraging messages to this boy. When Erick translated the messages, the boy's face lit up for the first time in years and then, for the first time, he began to play football with the other children."



"While I was in Goma, I had the opportunity to reconnect with the first person we ever did a Holy Home Visit to in Goma in 2009. When we first visited, his wife had passed away moments before we arrived. Yet for 12 years he has refused to get married because he wants to focus on caring and providing for his children. He has chosen to live like this so that his community can see who Jesus is."

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Already at the start of the year, there has been a lot of travel as people go to support the work that is happening across Africa. Thank God for the way that He has protected and kept us safe as we travel.

Pray for each of our Service Centres across Africa. Ask God to give them continued unity and wisdom as they serve the most vulnerable amidst challenging situations.

Pray for each of the teams who will be coming to serve with Hands at Work in 2019. Ask God to prepare the hearts and minds of each team member who will be coming. Pray for a willingness to serve and to invest into the most vulnerable children and communities that they will be spending time with and pray that they will be encouraged by what God is doing across Africa.

As the 2019 Volunteer Intake prepares to finish orientation and spend one month supporting one of the Service Centres, ask God to prepare their hearts and minds. Pray that they will have open hearts to all that God wants to teach them during this time. Pray that through their time supporting a Service Centre, they will develop a deeper understanding of what it means to serve the most vulnerable children.

JOY IN THE MIDST OF PAIN

Nick, Florie and Joseph, members of the Link for Life Penkrigde Team

In the middle of February, the Link for Life team from the UK came to spend a week serving with Hands at Work in Africa. The team spent their time in the communities of Share and Mafambisa.

Nick shares, "On one of the days in community, I had the opportunity to visit a Care Worker's father and her sister. When we got to the house, she got out some chairs, then we exchanged names and she showed us some family photos. It made me really happy to see how proud she was of her family. Every morning, she comes to check on her father and make sure that he is doing all right. It is so nice to see how much everyone cares for one another. It reminds you that even though they don't have everything, they are still so happy. It's frustrating to see how much people have back home and yet are still so ungrateful and unhappy. I hope that my eyes are continually opened to the things around me."

Florie says, "While we were in the community of Share, we met a

grandmother who is caring for six of her grandchildren. The children's father has passed away. When the children are at the Care Point, she has the time to tend to her garden which is amazing because she has ploughed it by herself. I've seen that despite the negativity, God has given them the strength to stay positive. It's really special to see that despite all the bad things in their lives, they can still persevere."

Joseph shares, "I found joy and kindness in the communities and people despite the situations that they are in. It helped me to understand more of empathy and realise that these are not just stories that we see on a television but these are real people who have joy despite pain. Some of the children acted in a matter of aggression and violence but we don't know what might have happened at home. This trip to South Africa has impacted each of our lives."



Penkrigde Team playing with the children in the community of Share, South Africa.