

HANDS ON DECK

ISSUE SIXTY-SIX



it together is such an encouragement.

“Also, while I was in Mozambique, I had the chance to witness Audrey, who is the coordinator of the Chimoio SC, fight for Sarah*, a young girl living in Matsinho Community. When Cyclone Idai hit Mozambique, Sarah and her mother’s home was destroyed and so they fled to their field, where they had a small shelter. Sarah and her mother’s immense vulnerability was taken advantage of when a man offered to marry Sarah’s mother. This meant that Sarah and her mother moved to live with him far from Matsinho. Upon hearing the news that Sarah had been moved far away, Audrey committed to fighting for Sarah to return home, where the Care Workers could ensure that she was being holistically cared for.

“It was encouraging to see the unity in which the community came together.” – Tyler Ralph

FIGHTING FOR THE LOST ONE

Tyler Ralph, International Volunteer (Canada), Regional Support Team

In April, Tyler had the opportunity to spend five weeks in Zimbabwe and Mozambique, supporting the Service Centres with their day to day responsibilities and supporting them in the wake of Cyclone Idai.

“Currently, there is a drought in Zimbabwe, particularly in the Honde Valley, and although a few families have done okay, there are many who are struggling. While we were in Pimai B, the Honde Valley Service Centre (SC) came together with the Care Workers, Primary Care Givers, the community headman and an agricultural specialist to discuss the possibility of planting a communal garden that all of the Primary Caregivers could be a part of. They worked together to decide how to use this land, with the hope of securing a sufficient harvest in the coming months. All of this was possible

because of the generosity of Jane, the coordinator of the Honde Valley SC, who sacrificially donated her land for this season of planting and harvesting. During the meeting, one of the Primary Caregivers, who had received seed and fertiliser in 2018 and had done well in the harvest, stood up and shared that she was there to help with the garden but didn’t expect to receive anything. She was eager to help because of the way that her family had been supported; she wanted to give back. It was encouraging to see the unity in which the community came together.

“The idea of planting a garden in Pimai B came from the garden that was planted in Matsinho, Mozambique. Initially, when the conversations about planting a garden happened, Maria, the coordinator of the Matsinho Community Based Organisation, doubted that it would work. Yet people pushed to have the garden planted and today, you can see how excited she is about it, and the life that is coming from the garden is evident. The fact that people in the community had to do

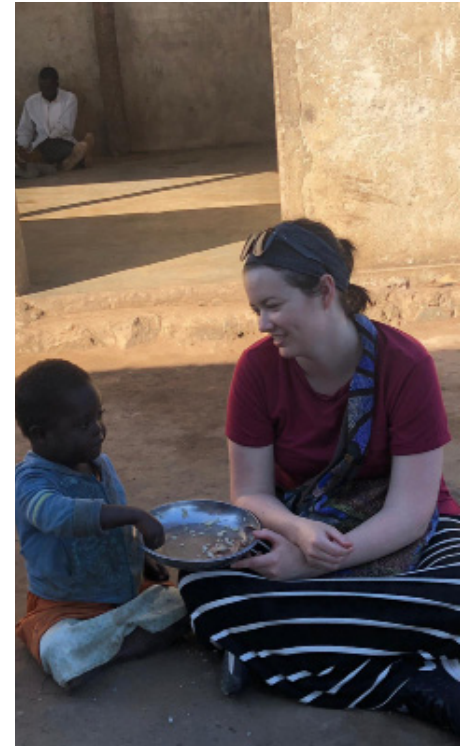
“Daily, Audrey asked Sarah’s aunt and uncle where she had gone. Eventually, Audrey found out where Sarah was staying and went by motorbike deep into the jungle to where she was. When Audrey found Sarah, she was covered in sores and looking malnourished. Audrey asked the family to send Sarah back, to which they agreed. When Sarah didn’t return to Matsinho, Audrey travelled, once again, deep into the jungle, to bring Sarah and her mother back. Today, they are living with a relative in Matsinho and doing well. It’s amazing and humbling to hear about someone like Audrey, who would go at the risk of her own safety, to fight for Sarah.”



CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

Tyler Ralph
Jill Peacock
Lisa Dalley



SERVING THE MOST VULNERABLE IN CANADA

Jill Peacock, Saskatoon Care Worker

In 2013, having served in Africa for 8 years, Lynn and Jayme Chotowetz (International Office Volunteers, Canada) felt called to return to Saskatoon, Canada. Seeing the impact that Hands at Work was making in the lives of the most vulnerable, they felt challenged to bring the Hands at Work model and vision to the most vulnerable living in Saskatoon. Since they returned to Canada, Lynn and Jayme have been building and investing into a core group of people, who, having caught the Hands at Work vision, feel called to speak truth and life into the most vulnerable in Canada, particularly those involved in the child welfare system. The group in Canada take their inspiration from the Care Workers that they have met while visiting Africa, and are committed to sharing about the light of Christ into the darkest and most broken situations.

At the end of April, Jill Peacock came to Zimbabwe with several individuals from Canada, including Jayme. They came with the purpose of gaining a deeper understanding of what it means to care for the most vulnerable, with the desire to take what they experienced back to Saskatoon and the ministry that they are a part of. They spent

time walking with the Care Workers in communities in both Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

“When I came to Africa in 2018, I was deeply impacted by Audrey, who coordinates the Hazyview Service Centre. I remember her sharing with us about a Holy Home Visit that she did to a family who wouldn’t open the door. Rather than giving up, she sat on the doorstep and waited for the family to open the door and for Jesus to show up. Upon returning to Canada in 2018, I was faced with a similar situation: when I arrived at a home I was visiting, the grandmother wasn’t there. As I debated what to do, I thought of Audrey and, being challenged by her faithful commitment, I decided to sit on the doorstep and wait until the grandmother came home.

One of the verses that we talked about during our time in Mozambique and Zimbabwe came from Psalm 1:1-3 which says, ‘Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted

by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.’ As a group, we were deeply challenged by the words in these verses. We spent time discussing and reflecting on the following questions. Are we bearing fruit? Are our roots going deep or are they not there? Are we bringing green leaves and fresh fruit? As we went into the most vulnerable communities, it was encouraging to see these verses being lived out.”

Please pray for the team who visited Africa in Africa as they adjust back to life in Canada. Pray that God will continue to show them what it means to dig deeper roots not only in His word, but in the relationships with the people that He has placed in their midst. Pray that they will be able to share their experiences well, and inspire many others in Canada to get involved!



MAKING IT PERSONAL

Lisa Dalley, International Volunteer (Canada), Partnerships Team

Earlier this year, Lisa travelled to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for two months, and was joined by her husband Brian for 3 weeks. The primary purpose of their time was spent supporting 10-year-old David* with his serious health challenges.

David stays with his auntie Sara* in Toyota Community, as his mother passed away when he was young. Sara, struggling with her own brokenness and having three other children under her care, has found it difficult to care for David in the way that he desperately needs. David had never been to school because of his illness, however in January 2019, he started school only to drop out when he got seriously sick again. David moved to temporarily live at the Hands at Work office in Likasi, where we could ensure that he was receiving the best care possible.

"I was surprised when the words came out of my mouth to say "I will go" when I first heard David's story. The words flowed from my heart, out of my mouth, and my hand was in the air before I realised what I was saying. I never expected the DRC to be a place that I would go to but I am thankful that I did.

"While in the DRC, I took David to the clinic daily, and he enjoyed the rides in the taxi. I continued to support his education by teaching him daily. The hope was that when he eventually returned to grade 1, he wouldn't be behind. At first, he would lay down all day and struggle to speak

because he was so ill and it required too much energy. Yet as he received regular meals and the life-saving medication, he gradually gained more energy and strength. Sometimes if a child is sick within the community, they are pushed aside by their family, which meant that David had never been involved in family activities before like praying before a meal or washing dishes or doing laundry. While he was staying with us, we made it a point to teach him how to do daily chores and pray before meals, which he enjoyed. He felt useful and encouraged. Sara could only see an unwell boy as a burden to her family, but now he could contribute to family activities.

"Eventually, when he was doing much better, we made plans to transition him back to living at home. He was very excited to visit home and show Sara everything that he had learned. Slowly the time that he spent at home grew longer, and the Care Workers committed to going to his home to help ensure that he was receiving enough food and his medication. Additionally, the local church in Toyota have made plans to help care for David and the local Hands at Work team in Likasi are supporting David with food and his medication. Please continue to pray for the situation. Pray for Sara, that she will grow in love and compassion for David. Ask God to bring continued healing to David's body and that he will receive the care and attention that he needs."

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Thank God for people around the world who have committed to partnering with Hands at Work to serve the most vulnerable across Africa. May God bless them and their families.

The loss of crops increased the vulnerability of children being served by local volunteer Care Workers in Mozambique. In response, breakfast has been added to the daily food provided at the four Community Based Organisations operating in Mozambique – in Macadeira, Chigodole and Matsinho A and B. This provision is crucial for the health and well-being of the children. Thank God for the Care Workers in Mozambique who have committed to serving this extra meal. Pray that the Care Workers and children will know God's provision during this season of hunger.

Across Mozambique and Zimbabwe, there are four communities where gardens have been planted: Chigodole, Macadeira, Matsinho and Pimai B. Pray for the crops to grow and that the harvest will be enough to support the families in desperate need. Pray that in this time of desperation, the community will come together in unity and be willing to serve one another.

In May, Bindu, a member of the Goma Service Centre in the DRC, broke his leg. Ask God to bring complete healing to his body.

Ask God for the continued growth and development of the Zimbabwe Regional Support Team. Ask God to give wisdom and discernment to leadership as they seek to support the growing team.