

HANDS ON DECK

ISSUE SIXTY-SEVEN



“It drew people into the work and then everyone started to help” – Dan Waspe

POWER MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS

Dan Waspe, International Volunteer (UK), Regional Support Team

Towards the end of May Dan had the opportunity to spend three weeks in Malawi. His primary purpose was to spend time supporting, challenging and encouraging the Dedza Service Centre, as well as host a visiting team from Church Unlimited in South Africa for a week.

“When Cyclone Idai hit Malawi, it came with torrential rain, causing a number of the homes to collapse. Thankfully, none of our children were left homeless, because there were members of their extended families who could help. However, this meant that some young children had potentially inappropriate and vulnerable sleeping arrangements. Since the Cyclone we have been helping the Dedza Service Centre ensure that the most vulnerable families are being supported with the

work that is needed to repair their homes.

While I was in Malawi I had the privilege of reconnecting with a family that I have been building a relationship with over several years. There wasn't a specific reason that I went to see them, but spending time with the family changed the rest of my time in Malawi. In taking my eyes off the to-do list and spending time with this family, I had a great evening with them. Coming away, I felt a renewed sense of purpose and was keen to understand whether our reaction to situations is how we would react if it were members of our own family who were struggling.

The visiting team that I was hosting was from a church with which we have a long history. One of the ladies on the team is in her seventies, and Royie, who is the coordinator of the Dedza SC, didn't think that she would be able to help make bricks. However, she jumped straight into the mud and started helping. It changed everything. It drew people into the work and

then everyone started to help. In the evening, the team would talk about the Holy Home Visits that they had been on, and they would cry for the ladies who had lost their homes and for people whose grandmothers had taken their own lives. As time went on, they weren't simply crying for the people in Malawi, but for themselves and the brokenness in their own lives. As the week went on they were able to connect with the people who they met, in their brokenness. Through this time together, the scripture in 2 Corinthians 2:12 became so relevant: 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness'."



CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

Dan Waspe
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MARANATHA WORKSHOP IN KATETAULA

Michael Mwila, African Volunteer
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Through Maranatha Workshops, Hands at Work is extending to our Care Workers an understanding of the love and healing that can only come from Jesus. It is an important week where God breaks through into the lives of our Care Workers and brings them back to Jesus. It allows the Care Workers to create unity, allow forgiveness for one another and to carry burdens together.

“On the first day of the Workshop everyone was feeling the heaviness of the community. It was a push to worship and a push to bring the Word but, thankfully, Sylvia persisted in bringing the session to discuss ‘The Jesus We Know’. Out of the 18 people in attendance, there were nine who wanted to surrender their lives to Christ.

As the week continued we shared about the power and fruits of the Holy Spirit. In Katetaula people often live in fear of witchcraft and of confronting one another with the truth. After learning of the Holy Spirit, it felt like a weight was lifted. Healing came and people began to open up and share more openly and honestly. Throughout the week we spent time sharing about the value and importance of building relationships and standing together in unity.

As a Service Centre, one of our highlights was seeing one of the Care Workers, Sylvester, be completely open and vulnerable. He shared about the pit that we sometimes live in and how he has struggled over the past few years, ever since being rescued from the pit, with repeatedly going back in and out. He struggles with drinking beer and letting it go but he, for the first time, brought it up openly so that others could witness his desire to let that stronghold go and be held accountable. Another highlight was Paulina who was part of a certain religious sect. In the past, when it came to worship or prayer, she would not contribute and would sit silently. Yet by the end of Maranatha, it was clear that she received something. For the first time ever she was the one leading people in dancing and praising God. God changed something in her heart this week. Compared to two years ago, Katetaula is a completely different community. There has been incredible transformation.”



THE REASON WE COME BACK

Frank and Crystal Letkeman, International Office Volunteers (Canada)

Frank and Crystal are part of the International Office in Canada and support with sending teams. In the middle of June they came to Zambia to spend a week at Kachele Village and have time in Katetaula, which is the community that they are partnering with Hands at Work to support.

Frank shares, “We did not expect to be back in Zambia quite this soon, but when we were deciding what to do for Crystal’s 50th birthday, we knew that we needed to be in Zambia. We didn’t quite know why, but we were confident that God was calling us to Zambia. On the first day we arrived in Katetaula to find that one of the Care Workers had fallen and needed to be taken to the hospital. God brought us into the community at exactly the right time to have a vehicle and take the Care Worker to the hospital. We got to do a Holy Home Visit to the Care Worker in the hospital, which was a blessing. We spent a lot of time with the Care Workers, which was amazing. I was able to share the Word with the Care Workers and, even though I don’t feel super-equipped to share the Word, I enjoy the way that they experience God’s Word.

Crystal reflects, “On one of the days, I thought that I would help with the cooking of the food at the Care Point.

Thankfully, the Care Worker in charge did not leave me to cook the food on my own, because it might’ve burned. Every child coming to the Care Point is reliant on the food cooked. Every bean that I sort matters because food is so important. In Canada, Frank and I help prepare teams as they come out to Africa. Our desire is that they come with servant hearts and so we try to live this out also.”

Frank says, “People often question why we come to Africa for a week or two. They say, “why don’t you just send the money to the organisation, rather than spend it?” But I know my heart; I keep coming back to Africa because I probably won’t be disciplined to simply give that money away. I’ve seen the impact that it has on the Care Workers, Primary Caregivers and children, and I’ve seen what coming back does to our own hearts. Having this time in Africa emphasised the importance of being on the ground in the community for my heart. I love the connection that I have with Care Workers like Umbredo, Jealous and Sylvester because, along with the children, they are one of the reasons I come back. I love that, even in the simplest of things, we pray. The gospel is of upmost importance. I left Africa feeling full, having experienced the love and joy of the communities.



LIVING A LIFE OF GENEROSITY

George Snyman, co-founder of Hands at Work

In May George had the opportunity to spend three and a half weeks in Australia. For two of the weeks, he was joined by his wife, Carolyn. George had time to share with current and new partners about the transforming work that God is doing. Additionally, George and Carolyn were able to spend a few days in New Zealand, speaking at the church of a couple who had heard about Hands at Work whilst living in Australia for 10 years, and since have moved back to New Zealand. They have been actively sharing about Hands at Work with their church and challenging them in their response to caring for the most vulnerable.

"About four years ago, when I went to Australia and visited Clinton and Jenny Wood, who are long-term partners and friends of Hands at Work, they had just started a group on a Monday evening, where they invited people off the street to be part of a bible study and then have a meal. I had the opportunity to meet the group and, after I shared about Hands at Work, they decided as a group that they wanted to support a number of children. This year I went back and I met with this group, which has now grown considerably. After I

shared, specifically about Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo, they talked amongst themselves and then somebody stood up and said that, "they really believed that they should step up and support the work even more". It was a great example of ordinary people, some of whom have no permanent address or are homeless, and others who have very tough and vulnerable situations at home, who are still willing and able to support Hands at Work. It was beautiful to see. Generosity is one of the key gifts that we see vividly across Africa. We see it in the homes that we visit, when a family kills the one and only chicken that they have, simply so that you can have lunch. It isn't a language that you hear among the wealthy. The homeless people said that what they were giving 'wasn't good enough' and so they upped their level of giving. Are we generous enough?"

"One of the farmers who supports Hands at Work lost a significant amount of their crops during the drought in Australia but said that they wouldn't reduce the amount that they gave to support the children. The following year they planted their fields in the dust and in faith. Then they prayed. It rained from the north, whereas it normally only ever rains from the south. It is people, like this, who find their faith and their meaning in life."

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Recently two Care Points in South Africa – Oshoek and Somerset – had two separate youth camps. As Hands at Work, we believe in investing into the next generation, and creating a space where the youth feel safe, comfortable and free to share any burdens that they are facing. Thank God for all of the youth who attended the camps and everything that they were able to learn about their Heavenly Father. Pray that the children who attended will be followed up by the Hazyview and Oshoek Service Centres and the Care Workers, and that deeper relationships will continue to be formed.

In the last two weeks it has been decided that foreign currency is no longer allowed to be used in Zimbabwe. This has caused big changes in the way that we are able to purchase food to care for our children. Please join us in praying for Zimbabwe as a country. Pray for those living in Zimbabwe and, specifically, for the Service Centres in Mutare and Honde Valley, the Regional Support Team, and those at our Care Points, as the cost of living is high and there is a lot of uncertainty. Pray for them as they navigate the financial challenges. Pray for wisdom and discernment as they support the communities in Zimbabwe and continue to provide the three essential services of food, education and basic health care for the most vulnerable children. Praise God for the way that He has enabled the Regional Support Team and the Service Centres in Mutare and Honde Valley to bulk purchase six months' supply of food for all of our Care Points in Zimbabwe.

Praise God for the breakthroughs that He has brought during Maranatha Workshops across Africa. Thank God for the way that He brings reconciliation and forgiveness into situations that the Care Workers carry as heavy burdens. Many Care Workers have forgiven one another for hurts caused to each other – working examples of what it looks like to see captives set free and wronged forgiving the wrong doer. Pray that Care Workers across Africa will grow in their unity and will continue to develop personal relationships with God. Ask God to give them the strength that they need to face any spiritual warfare that they come across.