

HANDS ON DECK

ISSUE SEVENTY



“We need to crave our Father because He is our only hope.” – Kara McLaughlin

EVERY PRAYER IS HEARD

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

In June Kara spent three months in Zimbabwe and Mozambique supporting the Service Centres (SC) in the respective countries.

“One of the things that I realised whilst in Zimbabwe is that what you see isn’t necessarily what is actually going on. This was particularly highlighted when I visited one of our new families, who were a part of the increase in Pimai C Community, Zimbabwe. We went to do a Holy Home Visit to the oldest son who was caring for his four younger siblings and nephew. He was responsible while their mother had gone to Mozambique to care for her new twin grandchildren. Throughout the visit, I spent a lot of time trying to think of something ‘profound’ to say that would encourage him.

A few days later, Jane, the coordinator for the Honde Valley SC, sent me an image with a message that communicated the need to listen more and talk less. When I watch Jane with our children and families, she carefully sits and listens, seeking discernment. It is so easy to get busy trying to connect with the families and to try to give a word, yet we can totally miss something our Father wants to reveal. This boy, who we visited, was struggling with some deep brokenness, but I missed it that day.

The Honde Valley SC continually remind me that we must pray for the strongholds that have a grip over our children. This Holy Home Visit in Pimai C deeply humbled me. How did I miss his brokenness? Why didn’t I slow down, carefully listen and discern? We desperately need the Spirit to guide us: our role is to hear and obey. We have the God of the universe with us, what more do we need? In our communities it

is serious, it is a matter of life and death. It was Maria, the coordinator in Matsinho, Mozambique, who said to me, “Kara, we are fighting the Evil One. He destroyed the previous generation and now he is trying to take our children. I want the Devil to be chased away from my community.” We need to pray that the destruction in our communities will end.

In Romans 4:20-21 Paul points to Abraham and says, ‘Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.’ We need to have faith because that is how we do not lose hope. We need to be ‘fully convinced’ that God is able, because He is!

We cannot just sit back. We may not always be on the ground but we have the spirit of Christ within us, and so we need to go deeper in our maturity. We need to crave our Father because He is our only hope. Even if, like Abraham, we only see ‘one’ child transformed. God can change a whole generation with that one child, but we have to step up, remember every prayer is heard.”



CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

Kara McLaughlin
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PRAYER REQUESTS

On October 11th 2019 Anna Snyman, known to many as Oumie, passed away, and is now at peace in the loving arms of our saviour, Jesus. Please pray for peace and comfort in this difficult season for George, Carolyn, the rest of their family, and everyone who loved Anna.

Pray for the Mozambique and Zimbabwe Service Centres. Pray that they will find peace and energy as they finish 2019. Despite the several challenges and crises that they have faced this year, pray that they won't lose hope and never stop fighting for their children.

Thank you for praying with us for the October Gathering in Zambia. It was a special week as God ministered and spoke deeply into the hearts of each person who attended. Pray that those attending from the Service Centres across Africa will be able to take the messages learned and goals set back to the rest of the teams and into the communities that they serve. Ask God to give them wisdom and endurance as they bring hope to others.



NORTH AMERICA COMMUNICATIONS GATHERING

Daytona Swarbrick, International Volunteer (Canada),
Communications Team

Often, Hands at Work volunteers travel back to their home countries to visit and spend time with family, and to share about what they have been up to in Africa. In August Daytona and Kristi Swarbrick had the opportunity to spend time in Canada with their family and friends, and towards the end of their trip they travelled to New York, where they had time with the Hands at Work Communications Team in North America.

“It was a pleasure to attend the gathering because it allowed us to feel united and together when discussing exciting plans. It’s tough to have people spread so far apart. Every day we would begin by digging into the word to draw near to God. Throughout the week, we played audio messages from a variety of people across Africa with a common theme of being rooted in Christ, like a tree – rooted by the water. Marc Damour shared from Jeremiah 2, reminding us that sometimes we don’t get it right because we try to create our own reserves rather than relying on Jesus as the source.

We had conversations about the communications and partnerships teams, recognising that both teams are intertwined. A challenge that we took away was to question, as we communicate, who our audience is, what we want them to understand, feel and do, whether it’s a piece of art, design or written work.

It’s rare for everyone to come together and spend a week in fellowship with one another in person, so we wanted to spend time working on projects together. In doing these things we were able to build relationships, understand one another and challenge each other, leading to growth.”