

HANDS ON DECK



CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

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“in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God’s will the way may be opened for me to come to you.”

I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.”

- Romans 1:10-12



“It is not to change people but to offer a space where God can do what He wants to do.” – Sisanda Sityatha

YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP

Levy Mwenda, African Volunteer (Zambia)

Sisanda Sityatha, African Volunteer

Over the last year, there have been several discipleship programmes happening across Africa. The purpose of these programmes is to intentionally invest in the youth who attend Care Points – equipping them for their futures in practical ways and sharing the truth about Christ and what it means to be a Godly leader. Levy and Sisanda share about two of these programmes run for young men in Chisamba Community, Zambia, and Sommerset Community, South Africa.

Levy shares, “We see some youth who go to school or university, but there is no job for them at the end. We are striving to equip our youth so that when they return to their community, they can do well. We

want to raise young people who have skills and good character. When they return from spending time with us, we pray that people will trust them to do things well and they will get work. They will charge fairly and not use cheap material. They will be a blessing to the community. We are pushing the young men to do things well, otherwise it is not good for their future or the community. We want them to be men with one wife, in the church and loving Jesus with their whole hearts.”

Sisanda shares, “For the last month, the four young men from Sommerset who have been participating in a discipleship programme have been staying at the Hub. God has blessed us to flex our hospitality muscles. I’ve experienced hospitality from the Hub community, and there is power in it. It is not to change people but to offer a space where God can do

what He wants to do. The group of us at the Hub that served the boys had to humble ourselves and hear from God about how we will serve them. We have had great one-to-one sessions that were places of growth. We could share our hearts and gifts with them. One of the challenges that we experienced was making assumptions about where they were at. We learnt from that and from the youth in other communities, so we were careful to ask many questions to find out where they were at. If in this month, the boys can grasp what has been offered to them, we can see culture changed. A few people can make a big change in a culture. We pray that these boys would be so impacted by this time and by God that it would transform their lives and their community.”



ALWAYS FOLLOW UP

Audrey Singue, African Volunteer (Mozambique), Chimoio Service Centre Coordinator

“Rebecca* is a 15-year-old girl living in Matsinho A Community in Mozambique. Her father has passed away and her mother is remarried but remains living in the community. Rebecca and her 12-year-old sister live with their grandmother, who was quietly arranging for Rebecca to get married. When her mother heard this, she didn’t agree and went to talk with the Care Workers because she didn’t want her daughter to get married that young. Together they went to talk with the grandmother and share their concerns about why it’s important that Rebecca does not get married young and is able to stay in school. Thankfully, Rebecca’s grandmother could see the damage that getting married would’ve done and is committed to making sure that Rebecca stays in school.”

Praise God for the quick response of Rebecca’s mother and the Care Workers. Thank God for the grandmother’s receptive heart. Pray that Rebecca will stay in school and that the Care Workers will continue developing a strong relationship with her, as well as her mother and grandmother. Pray that they will work together to care for Rebecca in the ways that she needs.

“When her mother heard this, she didn’t agree and went to talk with the Care Workers because she didn’t want her daughter to get married that young.” - Audrey Singue

UPDATES FROM THE UK

Becci Leung, International Office Volunteer (UK)

David and Jane Newsome, International Office Volunteers (UK)

It's amazing to see how God has been using our International Offices to further the kingdom. In this time of turmoil and uncertainty across the world, God has been expanding the work in the UK and bringing people deeper into their calling to serve and advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable.

Becci shares, "Here in the UK International Office, we have recently been so encouraged by the start of a new partnership. Turning Point Church is in the very north of Scotland, and one of the leaders there, Judith, actually came on a trip to Hands at Work about 10 years ago. Judith was really impacted by her time in Africa and now the church she co-leads has partnered with Matsinho B in Mozambique. It's such an answer to prayer and it's fantastic to see the fruit that came from seeds planted a long time ago. We ask that you join us in praying for this partnership, that it will continue to grow and flourish even when they haven't been able to visit. Pray that both Turning Point and Matsinho B will together be impacted and transformed by their relationship."

David says, "One of the challenges that all International Offices face at the moment is maintaining the momentum and interest of our partners when they're not able to come to Africa. This year we continued with an initiative that was started in 2020 which was a series of online events called 'Hands at Home'. This enabled us, for example, to consider the impact of Covid on education both here and in Africa. It also included a session reflecting on the biblical mandate for our work, led by Markus Kalmbach from Hands Germany. These and other events all helped keep partners connected in

the second year when people aren't able to travel."

Jane shares, "Because things are starting to open up a bit more in the UK, we're able to start visiting partners again. Recently, David and I travelled down to the south coast of the UK and spent time with Ellie Bridgeman, (who is a Hands UK volunteer), and her family. It is so good to be able to meet face to face once again when relationships are so central to Hands at Work. From there, we went to St. Albans Abbey where they were having a fundraising event for a borehole in one of our partner communities. It was a very successful and fun event. We came away thinking that we are so privileged to be part of this – a movement of people passionate about faith and justice for the poor. There is so much to be thankful for."

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Praise God for the time that our International Offices spent studying the scripture of Nehemiah. Pray that much fruit comes from this time together.

In some of our International Offices, advocate gatherings are starting again as COVID restrictions lift. For those able to gather in person, pray that their time together would be impactful and an encouragement for everyone. For those who are still unable to meet in person, pray for creativity as they find unique ways to meet together from afar.

There are many community investment projects happening in our communities like building Life Centres, toilets and storerooms. Praise God for our international partners who have been supporting in contributing to these projects. Pray for these projects, that they wouldn't simply be seen as physical projects but that they would be symbols of God's faithfulness and provision to our communities.

Across Africa, there is much fear, uncertainty and misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine. Pray that God will dispel the fear and that people will be courageous in receiving the vaccine.

Right now, there is much planning happening around 2022 teams. Pray for the preparations and conversations that are taking place. Ask God to make a way for teams to come in 2022!

INTRODUCING MR AND MRS WIEBE

July 19th was a day of celebration for the Hands at Work family across Africa as Brandon and Candece Wiebe committed to spending the rest of their lives together in marriage. Congratulations to the happy couple!

