

# HANDS ON DECK



## CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

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*“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’*

*But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. - Luke 15: 20 - 24*



*“ We have experienced joyful and painful times, but there has been so much life and growth coming out of this season....” – Kara McLaughlin*

## LISTENING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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

At the beginning of 2020, Kara travelled to Zimbabwe, where she spent two months supporting the Mutare Service Centre in their care of the most vulnerable children. From there, she travelled to Mozambique, where she has been living for the past five months. Due to the rules and regulations put into place during the coronavirus pandemic, she has been unable to travel from Mozambique.

“Being in Zimbabwe for two months and now in Mozambique for almost five has been nothing short of life changing. It has been stretching and beyond anything I could have imagined, but I wouldn’t change it for anything. Mozambique has become a safe and holy place for me. It has given me time and space with Jesus, to grow in my relationship with Him. This season has taught both me and the Chimoio Service Centre (SC) about the necessity of prayer in our work. We have experienced joyful and painful times, but there has been so much life and growth coming out of this season, and I count it a real privilege.

One of the most precious things I have

learnt has been about our relationship with the Holy Spirit. Truly getting to know the Spirit has changed my life and given me a deeper understanding of how we can do the work that we do. We need the Holy Spirit for everything. One of the things that Audrey (coordinator of the Chimoio SC) has pushed over the past few months is that things need to start with us. Whatever we want for our communities, begins with us. So, we have been digging deep into God’s word, reading Bible stories, and asking, what does this mean for us? Once we do that, we can take it to our communities. While we were reading the story of Esther, we got excited because we saw how, after three days of fasting and praying, Esther was able to come up with a strategy to save her people. It was unusual and involved hosting banquets. Through her obedience, God moved. We realised that when we go into community, we need to listen to what the Spirit is saying. We need to be obedient, even if it feels small or somewhat strange, because through our obedience that one thing can have a ripple effect and cause the enemy to be destroyed.

We discovered this as we were walking with one family in Matshino B Community. They had a complex family history and we were not sure if there was any abuse happening. There were many times when we would sit in the car and pray. We were asking

the Spirit to lead us and give us wisdom. It was so incredible because the Spirit revealed the truth, and somehow showed us how to navigate the situation when we had no idea what to do. We also experienced this in Matsinho A, where there is a 17-year-old girl who is extremely broken and has been struggling with making good decisions. The situation got to a point where we knew that we needed to pull in the church leaders and Care Workers to find a solution. The Service Centre and I spent time praying and seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit. As we prayed, God reminded us of the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. Going into community, we were able to share the story with the Care Workers and church leaders, and they decided that the grandmother of the girl needed to hear the story. One of the church leaders said that he would share the story, which God used to minister and help guide the grandmother. She expressed that this was exactly what she needed to hear. The Spirit gave us His word and used it in this family’s life.”

Thank God for the way that He is moving. Pray that He will continue to work and minister in the lives of the most vulnerable, through Kara and the Chimoio Service Centre.



## GROWTH IN ESWATINI

Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, when travel between Eswatini and South Africa was restricted, Hands at Work volunteers have not been physically able to be in Eswatini to support Futhi (African Volunteer, Eswatini Service Centre). In July, God opened a door, and Busie and Vusi were able to enter Eswatini after undergoing a series of coronavirus tests and periods of isolation. Although allowed into Eswatini, Busie and Vusi were uncertain when they would be allowed back into South Africa.

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

“It’s unbelievable to see the growth that has happened in the last few months, in such a difficult time. It’s amazing to hear the Care Workers say how they’ve seen God in this situation, and how He brought Futhi into their lives to support and guide them. I’ve seen such growth in our Care Workers.”

**Futhi Mathonsi, African Volunteer (Eswatini), Eswatini Service Centre**

“It has been tough, the last few months being on my own in Eswatini, but I have experienced God walking with me, encouraging me and teaching me a lot. In this season, God reminded me about our watchword for 2020, and that it was time to take the next step in my spiritual growth and trust God. I knew that there were many children who were now in my hands.”

**Vusi Mabuza, African Volunteer (South Africa), Eswatini Service Centre**

“When God opened the door to finally cross the border to Eswatini, I had many hopes about what our time would be like. I want to bring hope to the hopeless and love to the Care Workers and Primary Caregivers. My hope is for the Care Workers to find their hope in Christ, and to know that He is there and has always been there for them. I want them to know that God loves them. My prayer for the grandmothers who are afraid is that they will see Christ as their only hope.”

## CHRIST AT THE FOUNDATION

Tommy Malster, International Volunteer (UK), Finance and Regional Support Team

Out of needs identified in the Kabwe region, and because of the immense vulnerability of the children who we serve, a vulnerability amplified by coronavirus, the Kabwe Service Centre (SC) completed new projects in Chisamba and Miswa Communities. Each of these projects contributes towards the overall health and safety of the most vulnerable children and their families.

“A few weeks ago, when Gideon Mbuji, coordinator of the Kabwe SC, was in Miswa Community, some of the Care Workers expressed how tough it had been to harvest any crops to provide for their families, because of the drought that this area has been facing for several years. A borehole had been constructed in the community earlier in the year, where people can get clean water, and so a garden was started on a plot of land close to the Care Point. The most vulnerable Care Workers and Primary Caregivers were identified and they came together to plant the garden with rapeseed, cabbage and tomatoes. The dream is to see the Care Workers and Primary Caregivers save some of the seeds to plant the following year. Our prayer is that this garden will become sustainable for the Care Workers and Primary Caregivers

long-term and that it will be a spiritual experience for each person; that they will draw a connection between the growth in the garden and the spiritual growth that can happen in their own lives.

In Chisamba, there is a young boy named Solomon\*, who lives with his young siblings. Earlier this year, their home collapsed during a storm, forcing the family to stay in different places. Shortly after, they moved into the homes of Care Workers, whilst we looked for a longer-term solution. Eventually, a plan was put in place to build the children a new home on the same land that they lived on previously. On the final day of construction, Solomon stood with me and Jones, another member of the Service Centre, as we put the windows onto their home. It was very encouraging to see Solomon taking ownership of his new home. Whilst the physical construction of the house was important, it was just as important to acknowledge the need for Christ to be present within their new home. It was amazing to see the Care Workers praying for the completed building.”

## A DAY OF CELEBRATION

June 20th was a day of celebration for the Hands at Work family across Africa as three couples committed to spending the rest of their lives together in marriage. Dawson and Celine Reddekopp were married at the Kachele Village in Zambia, Audrey and Noel Casiano were married in Mozambique and Taiwo and Bisoye Adedeji Rotimi were married in Nigeria. Congratulations to the three happy couples!

