

HANDS ON DECK



CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

Michael Mwila

Virginia Tshabangu

Eunice Maphanga

Sepiso Zaza

“O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting. Then say, “Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather us and deliver us from the nations, to give thanks to Your holy name, and glory in Your praise.” Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting even to everlasting. Then all the people said, “Amen,” and praised the LORD”
- 1 Chronicles 16:34-36



“One of the things that I learned was the importance of building relationships with the pastors in our communities.” – Michael Mwila

FIGHTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER

Michael Mwila, African Volunteer (Zambia), Luanshya Service Centre

In October, Michael travelled to South Africa for two weeks. Throughout his time there he was able to visit the communities and see the way that the work is being done, but he was able to bring a fresh perspective. Two of the things that Michael was able to do was spend time with the Oshoek Service Centre and participate in a pastors' training in Oshoek.

“During that pastors' training, we talked a lot about righteousness and justice. Righteousness is about how I stand with God, and justice is about how I'm treating my neighbours and other people. Many churches focus on righteousness but they don't talk much about justice.

Fighting injustice will cost your life. After learning and teaching about injustice, we heard that many of the pastors were fighting injustice, but doing it alone. That workshop brought them together and they realised that they could work together to fight the injustice in their community.

During our training it was not only teaching - we also saw healing take place. Pastor Sphiwe is a pastor who stays close to the Service Centre house in Oshoek. She is running more than four churches, but she has leg challenges and needs to use a walking stick. On the Tuesday of the workshop, she said that she didn't sleep well and wasn't feeling good, but trusted that we could pray for her. During our time of worship we prayed over her life, and we saw God heal her. She came to the meeting with

a walking stick but left without it. One of the things that I learned was the importance of building relationships with the pastors in our communities. Sometimes we are quick to invite them to workshops but don't continue building those relationships outside of that time. Having close relationships can help the work that we are doing.”

Join us in praying for the pastors who attended the workshop. Pray that they will continue to grow in their understanding of what it means to fight injustice. Pray that they will find ways to work together in serving the most vulnerable.



KNOWING ONE ANOTHER

Sepiso Zaza, African Volunteer (Zambia), Member of the Zambia Regional Support

Recently, Gloria and Sepiso had the privilege of spending time in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The purpose of their time was to support the Likasi Service Centre, which serves five of the most vulnerable communities.

On one of the team visits to Toyota Community, Sepiso was asked to facilitate a Relationship Group, which is a safe place where Care Workers can share their challenges and worship God together.

“Starting the Relationship Group, I put people into pairs with people they didn’t know, and asked them to share their stories. Truly, God was working on this day because when we came back together, people expressed surprise because they didn’t know one another. There are times when we are walking with Care Workers who we have known for a long time, but we don’t know their story. Yet we are asking about the stories of our children. It should start with us knowing each other. During that time of sharing, Jones and Sammy, who are Hands at Work volunteers, weren’t there. But when they arrived, I asked them to share one another’s stories and they were able to do it, which was amazing.

It encouraged me that we need to know the people who we are walking with. I also had to ask myself what limits us from knowing one another’s stories? Maybe it’s fear that when I ask somebody, they will look down on us? But, regardless, we are called to go deep in knowing each other.”

“There are times when we are walking with Care Workers who we have known for a long time, but we don’t know their story. Yet we are asking about the stories of our children. It should start with us knowing each other.” - Sepiso Zaza



PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Thank God for the Maranatha Workshop in Chilabula Community, Zambia, and for the work that He started in the hearts of each Care Worker. Pray that they will continue to reflect on what they heard and pray that they will continue to go deeper in understanding what it means to serve the most vulnerable.

Pray for each Hands at Work volunteer to have the strength, energy and determination that they need to finish the year well.

Pray for all of the movement that will be happening in the coming year. Ask God to give peace to each person who has raised their hand to go and support a new area. Pray for the logistics involved – that God will give us favour.

Pray for the health of our children. Pray that God will keep them healthy and strong. Where there is sickness, pray for full healing and restoration of their bodies.

HAZYVIEW YOUTH CAMP

Recently there was a camp for several of the youth from Mafambisa, Mluti and Zwelisha Communities. Prior to this camp, the Hazyview Service Centre had committed to facilitating youth groups in these communities.

The purpose of the camp was to invest into the youth and share the love and hope of Christ. The youth were split into boys and girls, and each group spent two days at the Hub, where they could be intentionally invested into by Hands at Work volunteers, away from the pressures that they face at home.

Virginia Tshabangu, African Volunteer (South Africa), Hazyview Service Centre

“Many of the girls had never been away from home but they enjoyed spending time at the Hub. As we did the camp, we noticed that many of the girls struggle with forgiveness. They can put up walls and appear hard but they expressed that they appreciated

the relationships that we are building with them, and even confessed some of their unforgiveness.”

Eunice Maphanga, African Volunteer (South Africa), Hazyview Service Centre

“As we gathered with the boys, I, together with Sisanda and Xolani, other Hands at Work volunteers, spent time with them, sharing our stories in a safe place. As boys began to share, it gave others the courage to also share their struggles. It was inspiring. Some of the boys even felt free enough to confess things that they wanted forgiveness for. We are building good relationships with one another that allow us to be open.”

Please pray for the youth, that they will walk in truth and continue to meet in their community. Pray for the Hazyview Service Centre and the Care Workers to have wisdom in knowing how to support the youth in the challenges that they face.