

HANDS ON DECK



CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

Bindu Bongonga

Royie Nazombe

Vivian Onyebarchi

“Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” - Philippians 1:27



“When we asked who she was, she said ‘I am the only Christian in this valley and for years, I have been waiting for you to come.’” – Bindu Bongonga

HOPE IN THE MIDST OF GOMA

Bindu Bongonga, African Leader (Goma)

In January, Bindu from the Hands at Work team in Goma, DRC, came to Kachele for the launch of the Watchword in Zambia. It was a great opportunity to have Bindu with the Hands at Work family at Kachele in person, something that doesn't happen very often. While he was in Zambia, he was able to share stories of the challenges and miracles happening in Goma.

“Something that made me very happy is to find the Holy family. Together we are worshipping God. When we are praying and worshipping, the Holy Spirit is with us.

One day, we were walking in Luhonga Community doing Holy Home Visits when we came to Alex's house. He was very sick and close to death. He was brought to the clinic along with his wife who was also sick. He said that he saw Jesus in his life. When he had recovered, we saw him at the Care Point as a Care Worker. He said

that this is his way to serve because this family belongs to God.

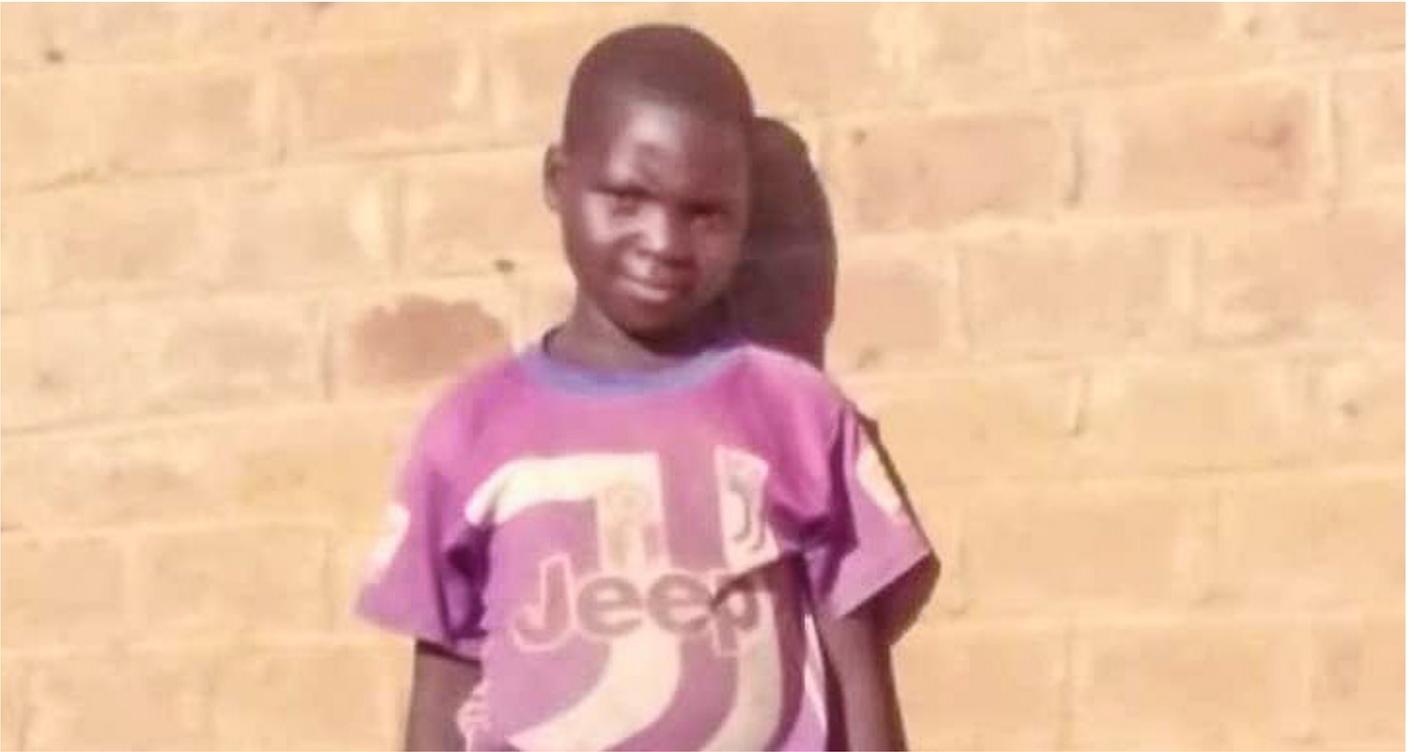
There was also a man in the community who was the first one to say that he wanted to be baptised. He is reminding me to do other revivals in the community. Two months before, he was really struggling in his personal life yet he was baptised and is now doing Holy Home Visits and pushing for revival meetings to happen.”

Late in 2021, Hands at Work started serving in a new community in the Goma region called Katembe. It is challenging to get there even when it hasn't rained. The mountains are full of rebels which makes it incredibly dangerous. Please pray with us for the safety of Bindu and the rest of the Goma Service Centre as they visit Katembe. Pray that God will protect them and give them favour.

Bindu continues, “The first time we met Noelle*, she was dying but instead of going to the clinic, she went to people from the white-robed churches. She said that she was there because she believed that she had

been poisoned. We brought her to the clinic along with her two boys. Her husband had left and gone searching to remarry. It's like God told us to go to the prayer room. We didn't know that we would find someone there. When she went to the clinic, they found that she had malaria and typhoid. She was given treatment, and when she was getting better, she went back home.

It was very far to get to her house. People told us that we couldn't get there. When we arrived, we asked where her home was and people said that she was living in the poorest house. As we sat with her, the whole village came to watch. There were demonic things happening, but as we started sharing the gospel, people started coming to Christ. There was one woman who was worshipping, who kept coming and when we were leaving, she was running in front of us full of joy. When we asked who she was, she said ‘I am the only Christian in this valley and for years, I have been waiting for you to come.’”



NOT ALONE

Royie Nazombe, African Leader (Malawi)

In January, Royie was able to come to Kachele for the launch of the watchword in Zambia. While he was in Zambia, he shared some of the amazing things that are happening in Malawi.

“One of the things that we did this year was purchase and distribute school uniforms to the children who are the most vulnerable. Some of the children had started backsliding and not going to school but when they got the new uniforms, they were excited to go back.

Elizabeth* is a 12-year-old girl from Kawaza. When we first met her, she was very shy. She would try to isolate herself at the Care Point but Violet, she knows the names of all of the children. I try to fool her, but I fail. Violet discovered Elizabeth’s situation and took time to visit the home. When she visited, she found that there were eight children living with their mother. The father has divorced the mother. After digging deeper, she found out that as well as the six children, there are also some grandchildren who are staying there. Elizabeth’s mother is grateful to the Community Based Organisation (CBO) because all eight of her children are in the programme. It means that she has been relieved. Her mother expresses gratitude towards the CBO and says that if it weren’t for them, she didn’t know what she would do. She shares that she has friends who are helping her carry the burden.”

Please join us in praying for Elizabeth’s family and the families they represent. Pray that they will experience God’s love and know that they are not alone.

“Her mother expresses gratitude towards the CBO and says that if it weren’t for them, she didn’t know what she would do. She shares that she has friends who are helping her carry the burden.” - Royie Nazombe

GOD SEES US

Vivian Onyebachi, African Leader (Nigeria)



In January, Vivian came from Nigeria to Kachele for the launch of the watchword in Zambia, something that isn't able to happen very often. She was able to spend time in the Kabwe, Kitwe and Luanshya regions walking in the communities and interacting with the Care Workers and children. A highlight of having someone from another country visit is being able to hear stories and testimonies from their country about what life is like, what the challenges are and what God is doing. While Vivian was in Zambia, she was able to share these stories.

"It has been a blessing and a privilege to be at Kachele for the watchword. When Toyin called me and asked me if I wanted to go, I said that I would go. I didn't need to talk to anyone before I said that I would go. I wasn't nervous, I didn't think of the obstacles, and I didn't know what God would have in store for me but I knew that I needed to go.

Ilaje in Nigeria is a community that is surrounded by water. Many of the

people living there have come from other countries and have tried to fill the area with sand so that they can build houses. But having all the extra dirty water cause lots of mosquitos. Another big challenge in Ilaje is that people don't know the 'Jesus that We Know'. The pastors marry as many wives as they can and then struggle to care for them. Often the women are responsible for making a living and caring for their children at home. We try to tell them about Jesus and that they don't need to be afraid but it is challenging to be a woman in Ilaje.

We need the Holy Spirit to see the children and we need to make it personal to want to care for them. I want to see a miracle every day when I go into the community. I want to see the children who need my help.

The watchword has been significant. It takes me back to the last time that I was in Zambia and we were told that every time we go to visit the children and care for them, God sees it. I'm going to use the watchword to encourage the Care Workers and Primary Caregivers that God sees them. As we visit the children, God sees us. Every time we go into the homes and minister, God sees us. We should not get tired or give up. God is happy when we visit and says 'that is my child.'"

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Praise God for the quick response of the Chisamba and Kabwe Service Centres in Zambia when the heavy rains happened and many of the most vulnerable homes collapsed. Pray that they will have continued wisdom and discernment as they address these challenging situations.

Pray for peace in Goma, DRC. For many years, there has been turmoil and conflict, causing people to live in much fear and uncertainty. Pray for God's peace to fall upon each person living in and around the Goma region. Pray that God will bring His hope and healing to the area.

Recently, African leaders Jackie, Jones and Sepiso travelled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to support the Likasi Service Centre (SC). Pray that they will bear much fruit during their time there. Pray that the SC would feel encouraged, supported and uplifted. Pray that they would be bold in sharing the gospel and pray that they would see God at work in every aspect of their