

HANDS ON DECK



CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

Jackson Singoyi

Barbara and Brian Singoyi

Peter Hagemann

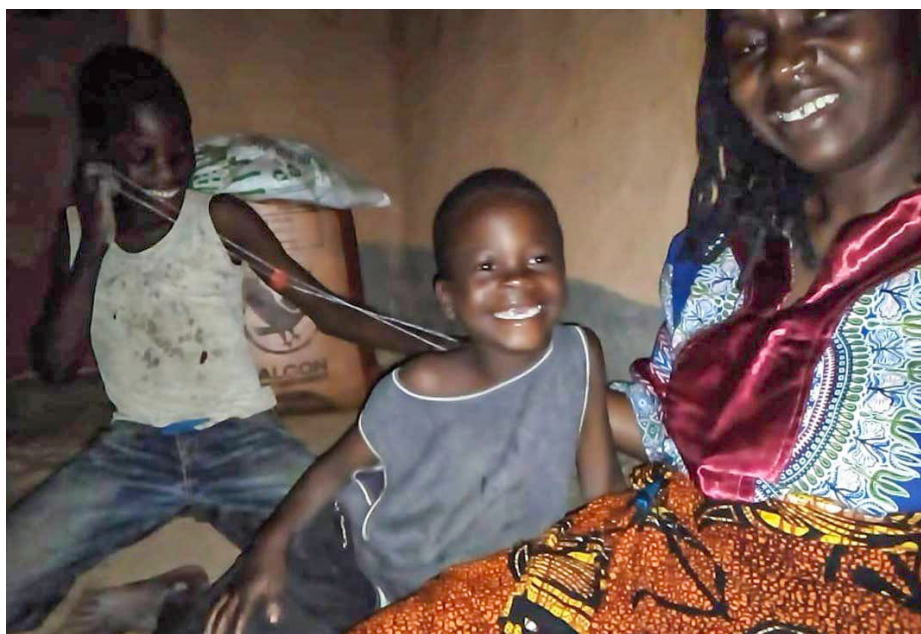
Luwis Lengwe

Niza Ngulube

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ ‘He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

- Matthew 25: 41 - 45



“As we were talking about Jesus, the demons started manifesting, but we kept on praying until they were delivered and gave their lives to the Lord.” – Barbara Singoyi

COMMUNITY STAY REFLECTIONS

At the beginning of the year, Barbara, Brian and Jackson joined Hands at Work in Zambia. As part of their orientation, they went on their first community stay in Chilabula and Malakota Communities. This is always a special part of the orientation programme – to stay with a family and be a part of their lives for a few days.

Jackson Singoyi:

“I visited Chilabula for two nights with Jones, who is a Hands at Work African leader. On our first night we visited a family with six children. Both of the parents are alive. They lived in a house that had a grass roof but had plastic on top that was trying to prevent the rains from coming in. One of the main challenges was trying to not get wet during the night because the rains would eat through the plastic. The first night we got soaked. The children knew how to not get wet but we didn’t. It was a good experience. The mother of the family is very supportive. She is the one that

built the house and did some of the thatching herself with the help of a few people in the community. But the father struggles with the abuse of alcohol. He comes home late and doesn’t really provide for the family, so it’s up to the mother to provide in whatever way she can. She tries to find ways to sell relish or farm maize so that she can provide for her family. You could really see a heaviness on her face. She was so burdened with everything going on. It was clear how this family has been affected because they lost their father figure and there is no one to lead them spiritually. Pray that God will give the mother strength and help the father come to the realisation that he’s got a bigger role to play in his family.”

Barbara and Brian Singoyi:

Brian shares, “Our stay in the community was a really big eye opener. We stayed with Dorcas* who is caring for two grandchildren, John and Emmanuel*. The children’s father has passed on but their mother is still alive. In the beginning, we didn’t know how we were going to build a relationship with the family,

but the Lord worked it out. We were able to get to know them and start getting closer. Particularly John got really close to us in a short period of time. He was really craving that parental love. Dorcas doesn’t have a way of supporting the family. She has a small field that she uses to try and get food. We only saw them wearing the same clothes. The Lord was showing us that you can have a lot and yet there are children who don’t have anything”.

Barbara says, “We learned that Dorcas was involved with a cult and there were lots of things that they had been bound with. As we were talking about Jesus, the demons started manifesting, but we kept on praying until they were delivered and gave their lives to the Lord. A pastor from a local church came in and said that he would continue walking with them. Emmanuel also gave his life to the Lord after hearing the story of Jesus for the first time. I was reminded that it’s good to lead people to the Lord, but what about the follow-up? Because without follow-up, they may retreat to their past ways”.



WHAT IS MY ROLE?

Peter Hagemann, International Office Volunteer (Germany)

In February, Peter, a member of our International Office in Germany, came to spend time at the Hands at Work base in South Africa and in Eswatini.

Peter shares, "We have started Hands at Work in Germany and we are in the process of setting up the administrative stuff: accounting, registrations and everything else that is involved in the process. We are planning to reach out to churches this year to get more people involved and to partner with them."

Pray for the team in Germany to have continued wisdom and discernment as they finalise the work in Germany.

Peter says "I was able to spend a full week with the Eswatini Service Centre (SC) and the team from the Hub. I saw the rhythms of every day, and how there is so much going on. There are many activities that they are trying to coordinate, as well as continuing with the day-to-day activities. It was great to see what is happening on the ground and how there are many challenges. Yet the SC is there every single morning. I was so challenged by this and by the faithfulness of the SC and the Care Workers.

I was personally challenged by asking myself the question, what is my role? I was trying to be open to God for Him to show me what He wants me to do".

"It was great to see what is happening on the ground and how there are many challenges. Yet the SC is there every single morning. I was so challenged by this and by the faithfulness of the SC and the Care Workers." - Peter Hagemann



Kisunka Maranatha Workshop



Miswa Life Centre Opening

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

We can praise God for the opening of the Life Centre building in Miswa Community, Zambia. It is an amazing testimony of God's faithfulness and we pray that it represents the beginning of new life in Miswa.

Praise God for the church mobilisations that have taken place in Eswatini and Zimbabwe, and for the way that God is moving in the hearts of the local church pastors. Pray that the seed that was planted will continue to grow and take root in the heart of each person who heard the message.

Thank God for the Maranatha Workshop that took place in Kisunka Community, Democratic Republic of Congo. Pray that God will continue to heal the brokenness that was revealed throughout the week and the follow-up that needs to happen.

Pray for George Snyman and Erick Rukang (Likasi Service Centre Coordinator) as they spend time in

Goma with the SC there. Pray that they will be a strong support and encouragement. Goma can be an uncertain place so please pray for God's protection upon their lives. Pray for each interaction that they have with people in Goma – that they will be led by the Holy Spirit in everything that they do and say.

Pray for the new communities in which we are planning to start working, in Eswatini, Mutare and Nigeria. Pray for God's hand to be upon all of the plans and preparations. Pray that God will raise up people in these communities who have hearts of grace and compassion and long to serve the most vulnerable.

Pray for the crops of people living in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Pray that they will have a successful harvest, despite the heavy rain that they have been experiencing.

LIVING BY THE SPIRIT

At the beginning of February there was a two-day young leaders training, facilitated by George, Blessings and Jackie at Kachele. It was a time of going deep into God's word and learning what it means to live by the Spirit and have Godly character.

Luwis Lengwe, African Leader (Zambia), Kabwe Service Centre

"Thank you to everyone who organised the meetings that we had. It was a huge encouragement to hear how people were praying for us, and to receive messages saying that they were praying for us. We had a good time. One of the things that touched me was when we spoke about the Holy Spirit. The Spirit Himself that is in us. We live in this body but we need to be in charge of our bodies. We need our body to know that we are in charge. Whenever the body feels like it wants to get tired of doing the things of God, we need to stand firm and say that our body needs to submit. It is a choice each day that comes. A seed was being planted in our lives. It was a time of weeding but also of fertilizing and application in our lives."

Niza Ngulube, African Leader (Zambia), Chisamba Service Centre

"We learned about Godly character. We must study and meditate on God's word day and night because every part of scripture is God's breath. It's very important to spend quiet time, to hear what God wants to speak to us. We need to take time away from the things that take our attention, to allow God to speak to us. Many times, God really wants to speak with us but we are busy with other things, so we end up missing what God wants to speak. It is important that we worship God in truth and in spirit. Worship is not only when we are together but also, in my quiet time, I need to be worshipping my Father. How we live is a big part of worship but we can only do that when we allow God to come and speak."