

HANDS ON DECK



CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

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“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. – 1 John 3:16–18



“But here, they know the children by name. They know if a child is not there and what is going on in their lives.” – William Mushanga

KNOWING CHILDREN BY NAME

Hands at Work is committed to continually investing in and raising up African leaders, who love Jesus and long to be a part of His calling to serve the most vulnerable. Regular exchange visits for leaders between regions are a key part of this discipleship. These visits are an opportunity to learn from one another and gain a deeper understanding of what it means to serve the most vulnerable across Africa. Recently, Blessings and William travelled to Nigeria to spend time serving and supporting the Lagos Service Centre (SC)!

Blessings Sambo, African leader (Zambia):

“The level of poverty in Nigeria is huge. Seeing the poverty made me realise that what we see reflects what is happening in the spiritual realm. You can feel the heaviness as

you walk through the community, specifically in Ilaje, where three of our Care Points are located. Many families have a household god that they place on the entrance. There is such a great level of darkness. One lady said that she lost four children and the belief is that she was cursed because she turned away from those gods. Every day the SC enters into the battlefield and it reminded me that each day has to be filled with prayer. Seeing the physical idols, I felt the need to ask myself, what are the idols in my own life? Because we each have something – it just might not be visible. It takes the Holy Spirit to know what we are worshipping.

Going to visit Alugbo – the new community that we want to expand into – we met a female pastor, Bhole, who is the ‘Mother Theresa’ in this community that is full of Muslims. Every night she goes to disciple the powerful leaders who don’t want to be seen

by other Muslims. She is amazing. She used to be a Muslim but got converted. She is running the race so well. She is also a trained nurse who treats children and the people of this community whenever they are sick; there isn’t a clinic in the community.

There is one youth in the local church who plays the drums, but his father is still a Muslim. The father doesn’t wait for the service to end but drags the boy out and abuses him. Then this youth is locked in the house. But less than ten minutes later he is out and back in church. He doesn’t care about what his father does. He has found something so genuine. It really encouraged and challenged me to see his faith.”

William Mushanga, African Leader (Zambia):

“On the first day, we went to the Eagles Wings Care Point, where



KNOWING CHILDREN BY NAME CONTINUED.....

the teachers who are also the Care Workers are caring for 150 children. They are doing wonderful work. They teach the children and they visit the children in their homes. In most of our communities in Zambia the teachers are just the teachers. But here, they know the children by name. They know if a child is not there and what is going on in their lives. When we arrived, they welcomed us with songs, and then they shared the word of God and encouraged us. It was amazing to spend time with them.

When we went to the Temitope Care Point, we did a Holy Home Visit to a woman named Noreen*. When we reached her house, I saw that it wasn't even a house. She said that we couldn't sit in her house because there would be nowhere to sit. When we saw inside, we saw that there was no floor and that it was wet because of the frequent flooding from the ocean. Noreen is caring for three children. Her husband left her but occasionally comes back to see the children. She is so broken. It felt hard to encourage her because of what she is going through. She wasn't a Christian when we arrived, but through the Lagos SC sharing about Jesus and His love she accepted Christ and started going to church."

Pray that Noreen continues to grow in her relationship with Jesus and to trust in the one true God. Pray that the Lagos Service Centre will find a way to help build her a new house.

"We also had the chance to visit the new community that we are working in, in Nigeria, called Alugbo. We visited a woman named Sara* who is caring for three of her children while the other two are staying with her mother. Her first husband passed away while her second husband is in prison. She is the second wife and sadly is mistreated by the first wife. In order to survive she depends on people bringing her food. Her two youngest children are malnourished and while we were there one of the boys asked his mother for food, but she said that there was nothing. God opened our eyes. We were touched and could see that they were so vulnerable. We brought some food to give to the family so that they wouldn't go hungry that day. We pray that God makes a way for her family."



MARANATHA WORKSHOP IN BEESKOP

Pinky Ngutshane, African Leader (South Africa)

A Maranatha Workshop is a safe place for us to share the truth of Jesus with our Care Workers, Primary Caregivers and children. It is a place of healing, freedom and reconciliation. Recently, there was a Maranatha Workshop for the Care Workers in Beeskop Community, South Africa.

“Throughout the Workshop, we dug into the book of 1 John, with the theme of love being strongly present. Going into the week, the Lord told me, ‘Pinky don’t rebel’. God was not sending me to do all the nice things but to be obedient to Him – to be a vessel. We need to do what God has sent us to do and then He will do the rest.

We sang a hymn that I’ve known for a long time. As we were singing God asked me to share what it means so that everyone could understand. It means ‘my love for you has redeemed you and set you free’. It was clear that God had a plan for us and our redemption.

The first day was really tough. The Care Workers needed to hear the same message on Tuesday so that those who were not there on Monday could participate. Throughout the week, we saw healing and reconciliation take place.

We do need to pray for one of the Care Workers who is stuck in between following Christ and participating in traditional healing.”

Pray for this Care Worker, that she will be bold in following Christ. Pray that she will continue to know the truth of Christ and be set free from the desire to enter into traditional healing.

*“We need to do what God has sent us to do and then
He will do the rest. ” - Pinky Ngutshane*



SUSU FOUNDATIONS TRAINING

Luwis Lengwe, Kabwe Service Centre (Zambia)

Jackson Singoyi, Kabwe Service Centre (Zambia)

Recently there was a Foundations Training in Susu Community, Zambia. The purpose of the Training was to share about the 'Jesus We Know' and the heart of Hands at Work. The Training was facilitated by the Kabwe Service Centre with support from Michael Mwila, the coordinator of the Luanshya Service Centre.

Jackson shares: "It was great to see that the number of Care Workers throughout the week was high. It brought us encouragement to see that. On the first day, we shared about the Jesus We Know, and then we built on what they had learnt throughout the week. The Care Workers were engaged and willing to learn. As we talked about Jesus, four of the Care Workers – Ritha, Mary, Innocent and Jackson – gave their lives to Jesus.

As the week progressed, we began to share more about the work that we do. We talked about our nine commitments, and we saw that the biggest thing that stood out was denying your own culture. You could see the lies that have been circulating and just how much the enemy has tried to take them away from their faith in Jesus. The Care Workers

asked good questions and wanted to know more. They wanted to know the truth. Many said that they were going to do things differently going forward, because they now know the truth."

Luwis says: "After each day of the training we had time with the children and it started from nowhere. But it gave me a picture of what a Life Centre looks like. We were just meeting with them, sharing about the Bible and helping with their homework. The first day we talked about David, and then Gideon, and on the third day we shared the truth of Jesus. Many gave their lives to Jesus. Having this time with our children was one of my highlights. Where there is life, people want to experience it, and we saw that with our children. We didn't force them, they were just eagerly waiting for when we were done with our sessions with the Care Workers. We did life together. We also took time to share the activities with the Care Workers because we were going at the end of the week and needed someone else to take it up. They agreed to take the ball and run with the activities for the children, which is amazing."

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

In March there was a youth camp for several of our youth from Sommerset and Welverdiend communities. It was facilitated by the Hazyview Service Centre and held at the Hub in South Africa. We praise God because each of the youth accepted Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour and got baptised at the end of the week. Pray that they will remain steadfast in their commitment to following Jesus.

Praise God for the open borders between Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Pray that we will see much fruit come from Hands at Work leaders being able to travel between regions.

Pray for the Zimbabwe Regional Support Team as they want to do Foundations Training in each of the communities in which they serve. Pray for all the logistics involved and that God's hand will be upon each one.

In Matsinho Community, Mozambique, the Care Workers and the Chimoio Service Centre have started a youth group for the young girls. They spend time crocheting together, learning about Jesus, and sharing their challenges. Pray that this will be a safe place for our girls where they experience freedom from the burdens that they carry. Pray that they will come to know the love of their Heavenly Father!