

HANDS ON DECK



CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

George Snyman

Carolyn Snyman

Michael Mwila

Brooke Heubner

Levy Mwenda

*I will give them a heart to know me,
that I am the Lord. They will be my
people, and I will be their God, for
they will return to me with all their
heart. - Jeremiah 24:7*



“We are blessed because God is trusting us with people’s money because He loves what we do.” – George Snymen

OPEN DOORS

George and Carolyn Snymen, co-founders of Hands at Work

In April and May, George and Carolyn spent six weeks in Australia and New Zealand. This was an exciting opportunity for George and Carolyn to connect with people who are partnering with Hands at Work and to share stories and testimonies of what God is doing in Africa.

Carolyn shares: “When George and I first left, we stayed in Johannesburg and there were these posters on the dining room table which I thought were brilliant. One of them said ‘Life is not about waiting for a storm to pass, but about learning to dance in the rain’.

Our time away was great. We met such wonderful people. We got to connect with new people and we built upon relationships that we already had. We were able to spend time with Busie, who had just moved to Australia from South Africa, and had rest time with Sal and Robyn in their home. We slept in 13 different homes, we had nine flights, four long road trips, one train trip, 58 meetings, two board meetings, a two-and-a-half day advocate gathering and then, six weeks later, we got home. Our time was packed but God opened so many doors. God gave George the strength to share with people and lives were touched and impacted.”

George shares: “Throughout our time in

Australia and New Zealand God showed us the fruit of the last 20 years. Heart City Church was the first church that we visited in Perth and it is now being run by the second generation. 15 years ago, I built a relationship with the pastor, and his son grew up in front of me. So, when the son took over the church, we already had a strong relationship, and he is continuing in his father’s footsteps. To know that Hands at Work had a role in that is amazing. In Melbourne we spent time with Pastor Shane Lepp, who has been with Hands at Work for more than 20 years. While we were there he hosted a high tea and many people came to celebrate Hands at Work. There was a couple there who were on the first ever team that came to Hands at Work, 20 years previously, and they are still supporting Hands at Work and praying for us. Also, in Australia, we spent time with Robyn and Sal, who served with Hands at Work for 15 years. It was a highlight to spend time with them and honour them for their service! Another highlight was the advocates weekend that we had – it was incredible.

Then we travelled to New Zealand where we met many new churches and people who are on fire for Hands at Work. Many doors opened up while we were there. We went thinking that times are tough and things aren’t going to happen. I said, “I don’t know how we are going to do this”. But when you step out in faith on behalf of someone else, God does amazing things. For example, we met a young couple who had visited Zambia two years previously and

now they are advocating for Hands at Work as a small family and supporting many many children. It was so encouraging to see young families advocating and supporting the work. They paid all the costs to come and see us while we were there. We are different from other NGOs in that we get the majority of our money from ordinary people rather than big companies or people with lots of money. We are blessed because God is trusting us with people’s money because He loves what we do.”

The last leg of our visit was to the North Island of New Zealand and that is where we stayed with Kelvin and Louise, who have supported the work since December 1998. They were key people in helping us duplicate the Masoyi model into more than 40 communities. Kelvin worked for the government and he was able to source funding for us to duplicate it. And then, after that and until today, they faithfully prayed for us and supported Hands at Work. Now, all these years later, we ended up in their home. Do you think that God is amazing? Can you see how God works for those who are faithful? Now they are busy registering us in New Zealand and money is coming in from churches that don’t even know us. The wheel is turning – the people that came to serve – their children are now saying that they want to come as long-term volunteers. And it is all because of God’s incredible faithfulness and that is so beautiful.”

SHARING BURDENS TOGETHER

Michael Mwila, African Leader
(Zambia), Regional Support Team

In June, the Kabwe Service Centre, with support from the Regional Support Team, facilitated a combined Foundations Training and Maranatha Workshop in the new community of Chilipamushi in Zambia.

“Chilipamushi is located in a traditional small-farming area. The main reason that they do small farming is because they lack fertiliser and cannot purchase seed. Many people in this community are very vulnerable. They don't have much food, and another challenge is the distance between the community school and the clinic.



We started our programme by introducing Jesus. We shared about creation and how God created us. In that time six people gave their lives to Christ. We saw the power of God at work. When we asked who wanted to receive Jesus there was a Pastor, who didn't come into the middle but spoke to me afterwards. I shared with him about Nicodemus who came to see Jesus at night, and how we need to humble ourselves. The following day he shared with everyone about the journey that he was on and how he was just like everyone else. He humbled himself.

As we spent time together we were able to see the many challenges that exist among Care Workers. There is a struggle for leadership and a struggle to identify who the most vulnerable children are. There is a stronghold of belief in witchcraft and traditional healing. During the workshop, the Care Workers had an opportunity to share the things that they were struggling with. Angela had been through many challenges with family and in marriage. She has seven children and the youngest is three. When she gave birth to her youngest, she heard that her eldest was being sentenced to two years in prison. He then ran away from prison. Angela had thought about taking her life but she was encouraged by the other Care Workers. Another Care Worker, Beatrice, who had been through something very similar, was able to encourage and pray for her.”

SERVING TOGETHER

Brooke Heubner, International Office Volunteer (US)

In June, Brooke and Jed (from the North America International Office), together with their four children, spent a month in South Africa. It was great to have the Heubner family in person with the Hands at Work family in South Africa, something that doesn't happen very often. While they were in South Africa, Brooke was able to share about what is happening within their International Office.

“Our work in the International Office is three things. Firstly, we run a charity where we raise money, we send teams and we deal with the organisation and administration side of things. Secondly, we are a community that is continuing to grow. For me, this is a huge encouragement because when Jed and I came back from serving in Africa in 2010 there was nobody and it was so lonely, but now there is a whole community of people working towards the same vision. We have a very special gift and we are all trying to live out what we've experienced in Africa in our new context in North America. Every Monday we have our morning prayer meeting, and then every weekday whoever is available meets over Zoom and we pray through the prayer lists that are created and distributed across Africa and the International Offices. It feels like we're really in step with what is happening in Africa and that is amazing. Thirdly, we are building relationships and ministering to our advocates and pastors. Many of them are very lonely and so we have a real opportunity as the International Offices because of what we've learned in Africa. We can be a big encouragement to them because we know the same Jesus and we have the same goals.”



PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Praise God for the youth camp that recently happened in Nigeria and for the lives that were impacted. Pray for the Service Centre as they follow up with the youth, that they will have wisdom and discernment.

Thank God for the work that has been started in each of the new communities. Pray for each child who will be coming to the Care Point. Pray that they will experience love, acceptance and belonging. Pray for the Care Workers, that they will grow in their understanding of what it means to serve the most vulnerable. Pray that God will work deeply within their hearts.

Continue to pray for the situation in Goma - that God will make a way for His people. Pray for peace and restoration.

Pray over South Africa visa applications: for the Bonin family from Canada who have submitted an appeal which will be processed at Home Affairs in South Africa; and for God's peace and guidance for them as a family in this time, and for the Reddekopp family who have submitted the same appeal. Please pray for them as they settle in Canada for longer.

Pray for upcoming September and October Gatherings that will be held in Zambia. Pray for all the logistics that need to happen and pray that God will be preparing the hearts of each person who will be attending.



CASTING THE VISION

Levy Mwenda, African Volunteer (Zambia),

In June, Levy travelled to Malawi with his daughter Tawonga to support the Service Centre as they faithfully care for the most vulnerable children whilst hosting a team from the US.

"When you travel to support teams, you go to give yourself and share what God has taught you, but you are also open to learning. One day as we were travelling to community, Jeff, one of the team members, was asking his children, "Do you know watchword?" One of them said that they knew a little bit and then, from there, he started to share it in more detail and the kids started to memorise it. This was a challenge to me about whether we, as Hands at Work volunteers, take the watchword to our own children.

Do we take the watchword seriously enough to share it with them?

Another team member, Toby, stood up in front of the Care Workers and said, "We will continue to bring our children so that one day when we grow old and fail to come, our children will come and continue the work. Are we speaking to our children about what we do? Because they are the future." It was such a challenge to me and it was encouraging to see the team coming as a family and committing themselves to raising another generation. They are casting the vision to their young children."