

# HANDS ON DECK



## CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

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*One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”*

*“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”*

*- Mark 12:28-31*



*“We needed to depend on God, not on our own knowledge. We prayed for weeks ahead of time. We even delayed the start of the workshop so we could have more time to pray.” – Sylvia Mwelwa*

## TRUST THE LORD

Belita Mumbi, African Leader  
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**“Trust the Lord completely  
and do not depend on  
your own knowledge.”  
– Proverbs 3:5**

In July, the Luanshya Service Centre team held a Maranatha Workshop for Primary Caregivers in Chilabula. The purpose of these workshops is to provide the Primary Caregivers with an understanding of the unconditional love and healing that comes through Jesus. As they are set free from the inner wounds of their trauma, they are able to better care for their children and share the hope of Christ with them.

Belita shares, “On the first day of the workshop, there were between 45 and 50 people who came. Sylvia started by sharing about the ‘Jesus We Know’, to which many people responded and opened up. She asked people who Jesus is to them and many shared. Then she shared

about God and creation, after which Jimmy (a member of the Service Centre) shared about the Holy Spirit. To demonstrate, Jimmy covered a granny’s face with a chitenge to show blindness and how we can hear and be led by the Holy Spirit. After that, we saw five Primary Caregivers give their lives to Jesus. On day two, we learned from Xolani (a member of the Zambia Regional Support Team) about the heart of Jesus, unity and Relationship Groups. Then we went outside by the mango tree and talked about the function of the tree: how all the different parts depend on each other, and as people in a community, we can only do as well as all of our different parts. We need to come together and work together to care for our children. Coming away from the workshop, many Primary Caregivers committed to coming and helping at the Care Points and wanted to join the Relationship Groups.”

Sylvia says, “I’ve done many Maranatha Workshops and been to Chilabula many times and even done one in Chilabula before and not seen the fruit. We needed to depend on God, not on our own knowledge. We prayed for weeks ahead of time. We even delayed the start of the

workshop so we could have more time to pray. Sometimes we want to go to the community and change people without knowing that it is only God who changes the people. We prayed that God would do the work and bring the fruit, not using our own programme or knowledge. This time we saw God’s hand because we trusted Him.

Among the five Primary Caregivers who received Christ, one of them was the mother of Silas\*. We all know Silas – he is 14 years old but he is so small - he looks like he is 6 or 7. Both his parents drink so much. Both parents came to the workshop drunk and we wanted to push them away, but we knew that they needed Christ the most, so we invited them to come closer. His mother said to us, “You people care for my child and I want to care for people the way that you do.” On the Thursday of that week, she came to the workshop sober and Silas’s father was the first one there, and also sober. Since then, they have given up drinking and when I went to Chilabula the week after the Maranatha Workshop, Moffat’s father was at the Relationship Group!”



## YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY IN ZAMBIA

One of the dreams at Hands at Work in Africa is to raise a generation of young people who love Jesus, are committed to their families, belong to a local church, are generous to the poor and are positive role models in their communities. We are dedicated to engaging with our youth who attend the Care Points to equip them with skills that will prepare them for a hopeful future.

Across Africa, youth have been identified and invited to participate in being disciplined. We ask them to give us a year of their life to be invested into, and then we disciple and teach in three specific areas:

**HEAD – Character development, good citizenship and community ownership**

**HEART – Christ and His kingdom, and Godly living**

**HANDS – Key skills development, with the goal of equipping them for future employment**

In July, one of these youth ministries started at Kachele in Zambia with four young men from across the Chisamba, Kitwe and Luanshya Service Centres. Currently they living at Kachele. Currently they are living at Kachele. They are:



Abraham from Zimba. He shares, "I am very happy to be here and part of this."



Andrew from Miswa. He shares, "People are caring for us and the Lord is speaking into our lives."



Enock from Chibuli. He shares, "I am happy that I am a part of this community. The community we found here is caring for us and now this is our home."



Aaron from Miswa. He shares, "I am excited to receive the mentorship that people are giving to us. May the Lord continue to bless the people who are blessing us. There is so much peace here compared to my home."



## IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

Jen Waspe, International Volunteer (UK),  
Zimbabwe Regional Support Team

In July, Jen and her family travelled to Zimbabwe where they spent three weeks. For Jen, who is Project Support for the Mutare Service Centre, it was an important time to be with the team and deepen relationships and unity as they work together.

Jen shares, "During the first week we were in the Mutare communities - Sakubva and Chinyausunzi – connecting with people and building relationships. And then during the second week, we went to Honde Valley. One thing you'll hear a lot about in Zimbabwe is the white robe church, the effects of which we encountered on one of our Holy Home Visits. There was a Gogo there with her son and daughter-in-law. The daughter-in-law had a small baby and she was busy sorting the baby out as we chatted. As we talked, we learned that two weeks earlier, this mother had lost her 2 ½-year-old child. And then we realised that they were part of a white robe church. The child had been fine and running around but then he got a fever and died.

The white robe church doesn't believe in doctors, hospitals or clinics. Maybe they'll take you to the church and give you some funny water to drink, but this child likely had malaria that could've been treated. It seemed as though nothing had happened. Even in Tsatse, one of our new communities, the Honde Valley Service Centre was saying that they've met families who have lost 4 or 5 of their children simply because they won't take them to the clinic. The children are dying from things that can be treated because the white robe churches don't allow medical input. It's really something that we are fighting against in Zimbabwe.

Then the third week, I went to Mozambique with my eldest son, Marley, and we helped host a team from the UK. One day we were going to do a Holy Home Visit in Matsinho B, with Judith, one of the ladies on the team. We were visiting Sarah\*, Memory\* and Mary\*. As we were walking along, we were asking who we were going to visit and as the Care Workers shared, Judith said, 'Oh my goodness, these are children that I have been praying for, for years.' As a church in the UK, they had the names of children in Matsinho B that they handed out to various people and it worked out that Judith was visiting the family she had been praying for. It was cool to see. She said, 'I can't believe that God did this and I actually got to meet them.'"

Please stand in prayer for the situation in the Honde Valley, Zimbabwe. Pray for the light of Jesus to break through the darkness of the white robe church. Thank God for the relationships being built around the world in the Global Church.



Judith with Sarah\*, Memory\* and Mary\* in Matsinho B Community, Mozambique.







## SEASON OF CHANGE

Gideon and Ritha Mbuzi, African Leaders (Zambia), Zimbabwe Regional Support Team

Ever since September 2022, Gideon and Ritha and their two children have been living in Malawi, serving on the Zimbabwe Regional Support Team and supporting the two Service Centres in Malawi: Dedza and Lobi. At the recent Hands on Deck meeting, they had an opportunity to feedback on all that God has been busy doing.

Gideon says, "In Malawi, we've been busy working on the Life Centre building projects across our communities. In Mphunzi, we've really seen the hand of God on the Life Centre, especially with the participation of the Care Workers. They have really made it personal because of what happened a while ago when we were being evicted from where we were feeding the children. We were homeless for a time and so when the Care Workers heard that we are starting to build our own Life Centre, it brought a lot of joy to them and the community at large. They were there to fetch water and offer to help the builders. As we speak, the Life Centre is 90% done and the children have already shifted to the new place. They couldn't wait to use it. In Chinku, we have our own land that we are developing and starting to build a Life Centre on. We've done the groundwork and prepared the community. They are so excited about what is to come.

Chilindaukwe is our new community in Malawi where we are feeding 50 children. We started feeding in June and it has been going on well. One thing that impacted me is the community ownership that people have taken. They have taken the Community Based Organisation (CBO) on as their own. The village headman and leaders are the ones that are involved in the community. Every time we call a meeting, they come without fail, and when we need to discuss things, they are there."

Ritha shares, "It has been a great opportunity working alongside the team in Malawi. It has really helped build and grow our relationships with one another. Recently the team was split into two Service Centres. The Dedza Service Centre is being coordinated by Violet and Ivy and they are working with Beatrice, Madalitso and Richard. They are serving 568 children. And the Lobi Service Centre is being coordinated by Tanazio and he is working with Harold and I am supporting them. They are supporting 540 children. We really thank God for how He has been so faithful. The team and the number of children are growing.

In Malawi, we've just finished doing bulk purchases, which was so busy but was good to do because the prices keep going up. Bulk purchases save us from spending lots of money because we have bought enough maize to last up until next year's harvest and other groceries that will last until January. It's a big job so it has been a blessing to have people come and support us to see how we can best do this. We also have containers that we are storing in Fosa and Mngwere communities, where we put the food we purchased. Recently, we did our first three essential services shop from the containers. This is a new rhythm and though change is tough, we are trusting God that our Care Workers will understand and hear the heart behind this and how it is helping us. We need to keep praying that it will go well and the Care Workers will get used to this new change."





## THE JOY OF THE LORD

Jonathan Oh, Visitor from the United States  
Jack Shin, Visitor from the United States

In July, Jonathan (18) and Jack (18) spent a month in South Africa and Eswatini during their school holidays. It was an opportunity to walk with the Service Centres and visit the most vulnerable communities.

Jonathan shares, "I've been really impacted by the self-sacrificial mindset that people have. The Care Workers who are at the Care Point spend their weeks serving – both the Lord and the children. I didn't see them complaining but rather they always had a smile on their face. While we were in Eswatini, we did a community stay and I was able to stay with a family whose teenage boy attended the Care Point. While at their house, the family talked about how they're not guaranteed a meal every day. They shared that you wake up in the morning and you wonder if you're going to eat that day. And yet they wanted to host us. At dinner, we saw that the mother had made extra food for us – a meal of rice and beans. Though simple, it was one of the most touching meals I've ever eaten. It came from a love that was self-sacrificial. I was reminded of a story in the Bible

about the woman at the temple. Jesus is with his disciples and He sees the Pharisees dumping their bags of gold into the offering. Then this woman comes along, who is a poor widow and only has two copper coins to give. Yet Jesus says that this woman has given far more than the Pharisees because it's about the position of her heart. It was clear to see the position of people's hearts as they gave abundantly even though they don't have a lot to offer."

Jack says, "I learned a lot about what it means to have joy in the midst of challenging circumstances. People have a supernatural joy when it comes to everything that has happened in their lives and where they are right now. We come from a background of privilege, and to come from America to Africa and see the contrast between the two has been very eye-opening. I've seen the Care Workers serve and feed the children with joy. There was one time that I did a community stay with two boys and their father. The father is an alcoholic so he's not really part of the family, meaning that these two boys are basically living on their own. And yet despite that, they were laughing and making jokes, which was surprising because I expected them to be a little sad and down, not really making eye contact, but they were fully engaged."

## PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Praise God for the expansion that has happened so far in 2023. Pray for each child who is coming to the Care Points, that they will experience acceptance, belonging and the unconditional love of Christ.

Praise God for the teams who have already come this year and the work that God has started in their hearts. Pray for the teams who are still to come, that God will be preparing them for all that He wants to do in and through them.

Pray for our International Offices as they plan for the teams to come in 2024. Ask God to place the right people on the teams and that He will be preparing their hearts even now.

Pray for the September and October Gatherings that are happening in Zambia. Praise God for the ability to meet together. Pray for those who will be facilitating, that God will give wisdom and discernment as they plan what to share. Pray that in everything that is shared, discussed and planned, God's will would be done and He would be glorified.

Pray for the global Hands at Work community, that we would continually grow in our unity and commitment to serving the most vulnerable as the global body of Christ.

With all the travel that happens throughout Africa and globally, we never want to take for granted the travelling mercies that God gives us. Praise God for His provision and pray that He would continue to watch our going and our coming.