

HANDS ON DECK



CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

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Care Worker Esther

“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” - Galatians 4:4-5



“We need to always seek after him and we must depend on Him for everything. He is the only one that endlessly loves us with all of our flaws.” – Penelope Khumalo

GOD’S LOVE IS GREAT

Penelope Khumalo, African Volunteer (South Africa), Oshoek Service Centre

In October, the Oshoek Service Centre facilitated a Care Worker revival for nine of the Care Workers from across the seven different communities that they support. During this time, the Oshoek team invested into their lives, physically and spiritually, releasing them from the pressures and expectations of their everyday lives and giving them the opportunity to simply be loved and appreciated.

“This was my first Care Worker revival and, going into it, I thought that the revival was only planned for the Care Workers. I didn’t think that it would also impact me. As a Service Centre, we shared about the love of the world and the love of Christ. One

of the Care Workers shared that all of her life she has been chasing men and finding love from them, but coming away from the revival she realised that the love that she had been wanting was the love of Christ. And I could relate to that. At some points in life, I’ve tried to find love in the wrong places, but I didn’t know that what I needed was the love of Christ.

Another story that impacted me was Mama Thembi. She shared that when she met her husband, he loved her so much and promised her all the things in the world. But then he died. She said that she had all the love in the world but then her husband died and she wasn’t receiving that love anymore. That’s when she realised that the love of God doesn’t die. She said, “He will never leave. People can love me and say that there isn’t anything else that I need but then they die and I’m left with nothing.

But actually, it is Christ who is left with me. It was only Christ that helped me get through the loss and grief.”

Coming away from this revival I want to continue to support the Care Workers and remind them of what we have learned. To remind each other that the only person who will love us always is Christ. We need to always seek after him and we must depend on Him for everything. He is the only one that endlessly loves us with all of our flaws.”

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EL ROI FARM

Josh Snyman, African Volunteer
(South Africa), Projects Team Leader

“When we bought the farm in El Roi there were two main visions for it. The first was that the farm was to be a place where we could practically play out the vision of the Youth Discipleship Ministry (YDM), an area where boys and girls could come and stay and be intensely disciplined. At this point this discipleship is mostly being done by Barbara and Brian (African Volunteers, Zambia). Most importantly, the youth can learn about the Jesus we know and be disciplined into healthy life rhythms and basic life principles. On top of this they can gain farming skills. The YDM vision is that the youth are invested into 24 hours a day. The second vision of the farm is what we refer to as ‘bringing the bread home’. We are busy repositioning ourselves to generate an income for Hands at Work through farming so that we can continue with the vision of serving the most vulnerable.



The farm is about 126km from Kachele and is deep in the bush. It has a river that runs along the border that is home to crocodiles and hippos. When we arrived there was no cell-phone reception, no drinking water and no electricity. There are farmers on the road but they are much closer to the tar road than us. It is difficult to get anything in and out, especially during the rainy season, but this is where we are based. When we started the farm, the first thing we did was to drill and install a solar borehole and to get a container transported there before the rain started. Then we slowly but surely started developing the ‘farm yard’, a place where we can send people to stay on a more regular basis. We started by building a wooden structure on top of the container and we built a little toilet and shower outside so we could send a team to start building the first house/dormitory on the property. Currently, we have that container with the wooden structure on top and behind it we have a vegetable garden. There is a camping area close to the container, which is where a team from Australia and New Zealand stayed whilst they helped build the house. We are trying to create an environment where people can continue to come and help support the youth ministry and to help develop the property.

We are about 80% of the way through building the first house. We specifically designed the house to host 12 youth on one side, with the other side for Brian and Barbara. They will share a living space. They will eat and cook together. There will only be one lounge area. It is deliberately designed like this to ensure that discipleship happens and the YDM vision is born and made practical in this house. Our goal by the end of this year is to try and finish the house and create a liveable space. For this to happen we need to finish the installation of the solar, as this will be our primary source of electricity, finish the plumbing and fit the house out with the required appliances. In the field we have planted five hectares of maize and two hectares of soya beans.”

Please pray for the team that is continually working at the farm to complete the house – that God will keep them safe as they work and that they will finish well. Pray for the farm to flourish and be a place where many young men and women will come to know the Jesus we know and develop necessary healthy life skills for their future. Pray for the maize and soya crops to grow and for this to be bountiful.





JOY OF THE LORD

Esther, a Care Worker in Seville B Community, South Africa

In October, there was a Maranatha Workshop for the Care Workers in Seville B – a new community for Hands at Work in 2023. The purpose of the workshop is to share about the love of Jesus and what it means to serve in their community.

“My name is Esther. I am married and I have four children – three girls and one boy. I was not born in Seville B here but in Phalaborwa. I moved to Seville B in 1997. I never knew that there were so many vulnerable children in my community but after Hands at Work came and cast the vision about the most vulnerable and the widows, I realised that I could care. I learned lots and heard that you can’t have two Gods. You can’t mix God with ancestral worship. Normally we mix God and ancestors but I heard that you have

to choose one. That’s where I chose to take God only without mixing God with other things.

Before Maranatha, I was struggling at home but now there is peace in my house, even in me – there is peace in my heart. Even my husband – he understands that this Jesus is in his house. He trusts Jesus and now when he has a problem he goes straight to prayer.

I have peace, I am happy and I am encouraging the other Care Workers to say ‘the joy that I have after receiving Jesus, can you guys join me. Let’s come and be together with Jesus so that you can feel the joy that I feel as Esther.’ I have joy in my heart. I was losing hope but after Maranatha, I have strength to keep going.”

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the situation in Goma; for the children, Care Workers and Primary Caregivers who have fled from their homes as the conflict in the communities of Katembe and Luhonga increases. Ask God to protect and keep them safe in the midst of the instability and conflict. Pray for the Goma Service Centre as it supports the families. Pray for the harvest that was recently planted in these communities; that it will be protected.

The community of Eagles Wings is located within the larger slum of Ilaje in Nigeria. It is on the ocean and as the tides change throughout the year, it floods from underneath and there isn’t much that can be done. Within Eagles Wings, there is a community school where children from the ages of 6 to 12 can attend school. Overtime the school building has slowly been collapsing and the walls crumbling down. Currently, a new building is in the process of being constructed, which is an amazing answer to prayer. Even more amazing is the impact that this is having on the wider community. From the local leaders to the Primary Caregivers to the children, everyone is getting involved in the building process. Pray for the continued construction of this building, that it will go smoothly and God will keep the builders safe as they construct.

Pray for the health of our children. Pray that God will keep them healthy and strong. Where there is sickness, pray for full healing and restoration of their bodies.

Greeting for Christmas – May our brothers and sisters in Christ experience the joy and peace we have in celebrating the birth of our Saviour.