

HANDS ON DECK

ISSUE FIFTY-FIVE



"It was special to see how our Primary Caregivers can become a part of our dream for Life Centres." – Tommy Malster

INTERACTING AND PLAYING WITH THE CHILDREN

Tommy Malster, International Volunteer (UK), Finance Team

Recently, Tommy travelled to Malawi with Dan Wasp (International Volunteer, UK) to look at their financial procedures, spend time in the communities with the Service Centre and overlap with the team from Westside Kings Church in Canada.

"I had the privilege of spending a lot of time in Mpata, our newest Community Based Organisation in Malawi. Upon arriving, I noticed that several primary school-aged children were at the Care Point. Knowing that this wasn't normally the case, I asked the Care Workers why the children were there so early. They explained that the children,

who were unable to pay their school fees, had been kicked out of school. Prince, a member of the Service Centre, quickly jumped into action and went to fight for the children at school. It was amazing to see the way the Service Centre team advocates and fights for the children they are serving. When I was in Mpata two days later, there were no primary school children at the Care Point – they were back in school."

A Life Centre is a place where the most vulnerable children are emotionally, spiritually and relationally cared for, and it is also a place where their Primary Caregivers can come knowing that they are loved, accepted and cared for.

"During one of my Holy Home Visits, we went to visit a mother named Precious*, but when we arrived, she was out in the field. While we waited for her to return, we visited with her

elderly mother and helped to fetch water. Upon arriving back with the water, we saw Precious sitting on the steps of the house with a big smile on her face. It was a blessing to be able to sit and learn her story. She has several children, one of which is five years old. His story is unique because he is not Precious' biological son. When his birth mother passed away, Precious made the incredibly courageous decision to take him into her home, nursing and raising him as one of her own. As they sat together, I was able to witness the special bond that they have developed. Later, I asked Precious if she had been to the place where her children go every day, to which she responded that she hadn't. I invited her to the Life Centre and she promised to come. When I arrived on Thursday, she was there. Throughout the day, it was amazing to see her interacting with the Care Workers and playing games with the children. It was special to see how our Primary Caregivers can become a part of our dream for Life Centres."

Pray for our Life Centres to be a place where the children and their Primary Caregivers can come and experience the healing and transformation of Christ in their lives.



CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

Tommy Malster
Alicia Ralph
Tyler Ralph
Sandra Hagemann
Kitwe Service Centre



Ruby on her first Holy Home Visit

A SPIRIT OF HOPE

Alicia Ralph, International Volunteer (Canada)

Tyler Ralph, International Volunteer (Canada)

At the beginning of April, the Ralph family had the opportunity to spend time in Zambia investing into the Kachele Family and spending time out in the communities.

Alicia shares, "While we were in Zambia, I was thankful to be able to visit the community of Baraka, where I got to take my daughter, Ruby, on her first Holy Home Visit. We visited Susan*, a grandmother who cares for six children. She tries to find odd jobs in the community to feed her family, but when it isn't farming season, she relies on the kindness of strangers to survive. I asked if her church cared for her and she shared that they did nothing and that she felt like God didn't care about the family. I shared that the Care Workers are also the church; that they are serving as the hands and feet of Jesus. As we walked away, it was obvious that something had shifted in her spirit because she knew that Joseph and Angus, her Care Workers, would return."

Pray for Susan and her family to know the unconditional love of their Heavenly Father and that in spite of their situation, He sees and cares for them.

Tyler shares, "Last year, Peter*, one of the young boys in Chibuli Community, passed away due to health complications. While I was in Zambia, I was able to visit his mother, Sara*, alongside the Care Workers. As we sat in her home sharing scriptures and praying together, the devastation on

her face was evident. I have rarely seen someone who is so broken and in so much pain. Prior to her son's passing, she had been a Care Worker at the Care Point but had stopped coming. It was special to encourage her and try to speak into her life. I left the community thinking and praying that she would come back and become a Care Worker.

A week later, I visited Chibuli and found Sara at the Care Point. Since I returned to South Africa, I have continued to hear reports that she has been coming every day. It was a blessing to see the life and light come back into her eyes."

FINDING FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Kitwe Service Centre Update

As Maranatha Workshops are held throughout each of our communities across Africa, testimonies of the transformation occurring in the lives of the most vulnerable are being told by our Service Centres as they witness the work of God in many lives. As the revelation of Jesus' sacrifice and love becomes real to our Care Workers, Primary Caregivers and children, they are experiencing a completely new reality and a completely new Saviour.

In April, a Maranatha Workshop was held in Racecourse Community for the Primary Caregivers and children. The week was split in half with the first two days being for the children and the rest for the Primary Caregivers.

During the workshop for the children, Blessing Sambo, a member of the Kitwe Service Centre, shared about creation and the Holy Spirit. The children were then broken into groups where they were able to share their stories of pain and trauma. Many of the children shared about how either one or both of their parents had passed away and they were now mistreated by the person caring for them. One boy shared that both of his parents struggled with the abuse of alcohol and his father was physically abusive towards his mother. It was clear to the Kitwe Service Centre how deeply traumatized and in need of healing he was, along with the other children.

During the workshop for the Primary Caregivers, there were 38 who accepted Christ. One of the grandmothers was depressed and unable to eat because four of her children has passed away each January for four years. Yet, as she shared her story, God set her free and she was able to eat that week. Every Friday since the workshop, she has been faithfully attending the Relationship Groups with the other Primary Caregivers.

Praise God for the healing and transformation that He brought into the lives of the Primary Caregivers and the children. Pray for continued healing as the Kitwe Service Centre spends time speaking into their lives through Relationship Groups.

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

In May, a team from Germany visited Mozambique for the first time and the Chimoio Service Centre felt greatly supported and encouraged by the team's presence. Praise God for their time in Mozambique. Pray for the relationship to continually develop and grow stronger!

At the beginning of June, Busie Siyata-Jones (African Volunteer, South Africa) returned from two weeks in Nigeria, supporting the Lagos Service Centre. Thank God for the way that she was able to invest, encourage and challenge each member of the Service Centre and the communities they support.

Many of the homes in the community of Nissi in Zambia are not in good condition, and with the rains coming in a few months, will add another layer of challenges and vulnerability to the families we serve. Please ask God to give the Kabwe Service Centre wisdom and discernment as they strive to support the most vulnerable families in these times of uncertainty.

Over the coming months, there are several Maranatha Workshops happening in different communities across Africa for either the Care Workers or the Primary Caregivers and the children. Ask God to prepare the heart of each person in attendance, that they will come with a willing spirit to hear and receive all that He wants to teach them.

WITNESSING JOY IN BROKENNESS

Sandra Hagemann, Kirchenkreis Winsen Team, Germany

When teams come to serve with Hands at Work in Africa, it is not only a blessing to the team, but also to the Service Centres and the communities they visit. In May, a team from Germany visited Mozambique. The team was a great encouragement to the Chimoio Service Centre, especially as this was the Service Centre's first team in Mozambique.

Sandra shares, "when Greta*, a grandmother in the community of Matsinho, was injured in a bomb attack, she lost one of her legs and began wearing a prosthetic leg. However, the prosthetic is shorter than her other leg. Although she is desperate to provide for her

five grandchildren, for whom she is responsible, she is unable to find sufficient work because of her injuries, and often there is not enough food for the family.

"It was difficult to see her in such poverty, but visiting her deeply touched my life. As we sat with her, she thanked God because we were there. She shared that our visit was a sign that God is there with her family. As we sat, she was able to laugh, which before coming to Africa, I couldn't have imagined that a woman who lives in such poverty could laugh and find joy."



The team with the Care Workers from Chigodole Community, Mozambique.



Greta* and her family!