



40 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR AFRICA'S VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND HANDS AT WORK

February 22ND - APRIL 9TH, 2023

Thank you for praying with us. Please use this content to inform your prayers for the week. We appreciate that we are all busy, but it means so much that you would pause to bring these concerns to our Heavenly Father. There are a couple of questions at the end of each entry for you to engage your whole family.

March 20 - 25

Day 23-24 of 40 - Farai

Greetings from Zimbabwe. My name is Farai. I'm married to Mildred, and we are both serving with Hands at Work in Africa here in Zimbabwe. Friends, I'd like to ask you to *pray for Zimbabwe as a nation*. Zimbabwe is heading for general elections, scheduled for July, 2023. Historically, Zimbabwe elections have been characterised by violence and instability. During and after elections, lots of trauma had been experienced. *So may you pray for our Primary Caregivers who are part of these communities, who stay with our children in their respective homes. May you pray that they'll be protected and safe during the election season.*

May you pray for our Care Workers who are, day in, day out visiting the children, coming to the Care Point to cook for children. May you pray that they'll be protected and safe from any political manipulation upon their caring.

May you pray for our children. For they shall be walking to school, coming to the Care Point. May you pray that there will be no one, no one who may use the political environment to perpetrate early marriage to our girl children. As Hands, we are fighting early marriages and we are saying zero tolerance on early marriages. However, because of the political environment, some people perpetrate early marriages and we'll lose many of our children. So, let us pray that there will be peace during the elections and after elections. I thank you.

- **Farai's prayer request is for the elections happening in Zimbabwe. Pray that the elections will be fair and peaceful.**
- **Farai shared that sometimes the children are forced to get married at an early age. Pray that this won't happen in Zimbabwe or any other country. Pray that children are protected from this.**

Day 25-26 of 40 - Kupa

"Today's prayer request mentions prostitution and drugs. It is an important problem to understand, but parents may want to listen first before sharing it with younger children." - Pinky

Hello everyone. This is Kupa messaging you from Dedza, Malawi. Currently, I serve in Zimbabwe as part of a team that's supporting Service Centres in three different countries: Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Malawi.

Today I would like us to pray for our young girls in Sakubva and Chinyausunzi. These are communities in Mutare. The communities that these young girls come from are slum communities and the housing situation is very cramped and there's a lot of drug abuse. There's a lot of prostitution within the communities. My specific prayer request is for the young girls that are in their teenage years. We have had a lot of young girls come up to the Care Point from a very young age. When they hit their teenage years, we somehow lose them to all the other seemingly attractive things that are happening in their community. Care Workers have been trying to build relationships with these children from a very young age and trying to keep them close and to maintain relationships with them. But as we know, when girls get to a certain age, sometimes those relationships become harder and harder, and the attractiveness of things that are detrimental for the lives of these children, pulls these girls away.

We want to pray for them to see Jesus, to encounter Jesus at a very young age. That alone will preserve their lives. That alone will keep them, even when temptation comes their way. We want to pray for people that are older than these girls, but the young role models that these girls can stand and look up to. We want to pray that they're willing to walk with these children. We want to pray, as we look at establishing youth groups within these different communities, that they help impact these young girls' lives at the young age that they are, and that they're able to have a better future ahead of them.

We also want to pray even for provision of school fees. Oftentimes these girls, when their parents do not have enough money for them to go for high school, they're left vulnerable within the community and resort to things like prostitution and some end up getting married at a very young age. Thank you.

- **What are some ways that people misbehave or get into trouble at your school? In Kupa's prayer request, she prayed that our girls, specifically in a community called Sakubva in Zimbabwe, would make good choices. She also prayed that they would have good role models. Let's pray that they will have positive people who they can look up to and help guide the decisions they make. Who is a good role model in your life?**

Day 27-28 of 40 - Dan

"Today's prayer request contains mentions of sex. It is an important problem to understand, but parents may want to listen first before sharing it with younger children."

Hey everyone. My name is Dan and I'm married to Jen. I have four children and serve here with Hands at Work in South Africa. As I record this from a side store room in a community called Mluti, there's a group of Caregivers, that's women that look after our most vulnerable children here in Mluti, they're meeting just next door, and these Caregivers have given up their time to come and cook and care for our children here in Mluti at the Care Point.

One of those Caregivers is a lady that we met in 2020, and we found out that her daughter had been abused and been raped. We looked at getting her support as a victim, but also to report this to the police where the man was arrested, but to this day we are still waiting our next court date to see any conclusion of this case. Gender-based violence is a pandemic here in South Africa, but it goes beyond South Africa. Last year I had the opportunity to be based in Zambia as a family. I had a, a front row seat to watch an incredible Service Centre in a place called Chisamba, led by Cecilia, but supported by Nisa and Emma and Peter in particular, as that team of people fought for a young girl that was also raped within her community. That team had to play every role possible from, nurses and doctors as they took the child to the hospital and had to deal with corruption there, to playing the role of Social Workers and counsellors, to playing the role of the police at times where they had to actually pursue and lead the investigation and the arrest of the perpetrator, right through to being at court, every court meeting to push for justice. It was incredible to watch the bravery of the Service Centre, both across Africa, but also the scale of the problem. The system is so broken with no

protection, no support for victims, no justice, which means there's no deterrent - nothing to dissuade people that want to abuse our children.

So I'm asking today that we can pray particularly for our girls and our women. We pray for those that have been abused for their healing, and their recovery. We pray protection. We pray that within our communities there would be layers of protection for our children that would stop this from happening. And when it does happen, we pray for justice. And that justice isn't because we want vengeance. It's because we want a deterrent to let people know that girls within this community are not objects. They are not to be taken from and that they're to be cherished and protected as daughters of our God.

- **When someone does something wrong, or against the law, who would you tell? Would you tell a teacher, police officer, guardian, or parent? Let's pray that everyone has someone who will protect and care for them.**
- **We know it is wrong to be mean to, hurt or bully anyone. Let's pray for everyone to realise it's wrong, and for people to be kind to each other.**