

HANDS ON DECK

SPECIAL ISSUE:
MARANATHA WORKSHOP



Hands at Work
AFRICA



Stories from Maranatha Workshops across Africa

SOUTH AFRICA

Audrey Sibiya, Hazyview Service Centre Coordinator

Care Workers, Regional Support Team (RST) Members and the Hazyview Service Centre Team came together for a week in the community of Share, South Africa for a Maranatha Workshop. We are aware that many of our Care Workers are just as broken as our children and need support and healing before they can truly bring abundant life and holistic care to the children of their communities. Much prayer went into this week, knowing our desire for God to show up had to surpass any workshop activities, sessions or training.

And God did show up – thank you Father! Audrey saw God work in many ways, especially on the first day as everyone came together to sing the song “You are Faithful”. This song encouraged the team to put their trust in God each day, even when they were feeling nervous. Throughout

the workshop, the Service Centre and RST stayed in the homes of the Care Workers. Staying with the Care Workers allowed the team to build deeper relationships with them and their families. In this way the team lived out God’s calling to visit one another as Jesus first visited us.

After the workshop Audrey reflected, “I was surprised with all that God had done. Not just for the Care Workers but for our team as well. We learned to trust God instead of our minds. We also realised that our work is not just about the children but also about the Care Workers, they can be just as broken. On a Holy Home Visit, Lucy, a Care Worker, opened up about being beaten by her husband. This taught us to be aware of the Holy Spirit, for he might want us to minister to a Care Worker or grandmother as well as a child. Workshops like this

are helping. Some of the Care Workers have received Jesus and many are beginning to understand that we can give all of our suffering to God. I saw happiness in the hearts of each Care Worker as they shared their testimonies at the end of the week - they were all dancing in celebration!”

The Service Centre team continues to support the Care Workers in Share as they process their inner wounds and begin to heal. We are thankful for the support and prayers that came from across the world as we experienced an abundance of blessing throughout the week. Please continue to pray for healing among our Care Workers as many of them have experienced the same pain as our children. They deeply desire to care for the vulnerable children in their community and as their inner wounds are healed they are able to give away that same healing.

[Click to read in our Newsroom an introduction to Maranatha Workshops.](#)

+ CONTRIBUTORS

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MALAWI

Busie Sityata-Jones, Regional Support Team (RST) Co-Leader (Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe)

Busie travelled to Malawi to support the Zambia RST and Malawi Service Centre as they facilitated a Maranatha Workshop in Mngwere. Over five days, the team focused on sharing with the Care Workers Jesus' unconditional love, and the healing He brings for each of them through the Holy Spirit. Busie was blessed to spend so much time with the Malawi Service Centre team: Royie, Violat, Butwell, Symon and Ivy. Together with Levy they facilitated five intense days of sharing and transformation.

Day One – The Jesus We Know

The team shared the story of salvation through Jesus. They shared how we were all lost and yet Jesus came to visit us, save us, and adopt us into God's Kingdom. They revealed to the Care Workers how we are no longer orphans because we now have the Holy Spirit who is our helper, comforter, and healer. The Care Workers truly had their eyes opened when they learned about this Jesus.

Day Two – Holy Home Visits

The team brought an understanding about home visits to the Care Workers that is defined by Jesus. **Because He visited us, we visit others.** They stressed that home visits become holy when we go with this intention, and when we go to visit not just the children, but the auntie, the gogo, the single mother. We go to listen and bring hope and be beautiful feet.

Day Three – Relationship Groups

Care Workers were encouraged to form groups where they could get to know each other better and support one another through challenges. Busie and Levy led groups of men and women separately, and as the Care Workers spoke up, sharing their wounds and struggles, many breakthroughs occurred. In the men's group, Francis shared stories from his life that no one knew about; deep hurts from his divorce and the broken relationship he has with his children. The male Care Workers were deeply impacted by seeing their leader so vulnerable and after they stood with him and prayed, they too shared their deep, personal struggles.

Day Four – Life Centre

This day focused on turning the Care Point where the children meet each day into a Life Centre. In Mngwere, Busie saw how the Care Workers are living this out. She watched a male Care Worker sit with a group of young boys teaching them to make straw baskets. She watched teachers help the children with homework and the female Care Workers washing each child's hands before eating. "I could see that every day, this is how they do it".

Day Five – Testimonies & Celebration

Everyone shared stories from the week of their challenges, victories, and transformations. The Care Workers ended the week with an understanding that in everything we do together to care for the most vulnerable, we do it because Jesus did it for us. Busie saw how this revelation had become their motivation and encouragement. She came back to South Africa with a challenge for the Care Workers across all of our communities to be vulnerable, bold, and care for our children sacrificially.



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ZAMBIA

James Tembo, RST Leader (Zambia)
Sukai Tembo, RST (Zambia), Care Worker Support
Blessings Sambo, RST (Zambia), Care Worker Support

“Royie, Service Centre Coordinator in Malawi, was in a taxi with three ladies. They were praising the work that Hands was doing in the community. Royie asked the women if they knew who was doing all of this good work. The ladies replied, ‘Yes we do, it’s Royie’. They didn’t even realise that Royie himself was seated right next to them. They didn’t even realise who Royie was. Most of us don’t know the real Jesus. We’ve put Jesus in a box and don’t seek to know the Jesus that is right in front of us.” - James

“We really saw God at work in Kamakonde. Many people confessed that they thought they knew Jesus, but they really didn’t. Many Care Workers acknowledged that they were themselves wounded and accepted the true Jesus. One Care Worker shared a story. Her community had accused her of being a witch. After receiving the message of Christ, she was immediately healed. The following morning she came to the workshop singing. She said she had stayed up the whole night singing because God had given her a new song to sing, “Come and See What the Lord has Done”. When her grandchildren asked her why she was singing, she just kept repeating the song over and over.” - Sukai

“One of our Care Workers attended the workshop for the first two days but was absent on the third. Without a husband, she struggled to provide for her family and there wasn’t any food at home. After the Care Workers received healing, we discussed with them how they can take care of each other. Sometimes we don’t realise the

issues and hurts taking place in our own group. The Care Worker’s then discussed how they could support each other in their struggles, especially the lady who had to stay home. We already see the teachings being implemented in the community. The Care Workers have been transformed and are focused on visiting the children through Holy Home Visits. How we can sustain this? I urge all of us to continue fanning the flame. The work is huge and we need all of your prayers.” - Blessings

ZIMBABWE

Busie Sityata-Jones, Regional Support Team (RST) Leader (Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe)

As Busie and her team looked at the layers of The Wall: Christ, The Church, Healthy Leadership, Home Visits, The Most Vulnerable Children, 3 Essential Services, Care Worker Support and Care Points, they started to realise that in many of our communities, Christ was not the centre. If Christ is not the foundation of our wall, how will it stand up? Maranatha Workshops have allowed God to mend many holes. During these workshops, God has brought healing to areas of brokenness within our Care Workers so they in turn can bring healing to their communities. When a Maranatha Workshop was held in Pimai, Zimbabwe, Busie witnessed how rejection was a huge stronghold in the community. Many Care Workers are affected by HIV/AIDS but they do not want to tell their status for fear of rejection. How can they bring transformation to the community if they are not transformed themselves? During the workshop, Busie walked with a Care Worker, Sarah, and they visited a woman suffering from deep rejection. She became a stepmother two years ago, forced to care for her husband’s two children in an unfamiliar home. She had lost all sense of worth,

saying, “The kids are not mine, the house is not mine, I am nothing. I am just a wife, why do you care?” She did not even feel worthy of a visit. “I felt rejected by her,” Busie said. “I was so overwhelmed by her deep hurt and sadness. She looked sick but I realised it wasn’t sickness, it was sadness. I looked at her and wondered ‘Why her and not me?’”

When the woman’s stepson Christopher came home from school, Busie saw he had a very strong connection with his Care Worker, Sarah. He greeted her with a big hug and smile. It was encouraging to see their relationship, but Busie also noticed how it contributed to the stepmother’s feelings of rejection. Once Christopher was home, every time they asked the step mother a question she would reply, “I don’t know, ask him”. After the home visit, Busie was able to talk to Christopher alone and explained that because his stepmother felt rejected, she was rejecting others. Busie said, “I told Christopher how I was rejected by my stepfather as a child. I told him when I understood that Christ loved me, I was able to love him and now we have mended our relationship. If he understands how much Christ loves him, then he can bring that same love to his stepmother. I told him that even when she rejects him he must encourage her”.

This family’s story is one of many that have driven Hands to focus intentionally on the caregivers of our children this year. We know that unless we also bring healing to our care givers, healing will not fully come to our children. We thank God for everything He has done already and trust that He will continue to move among our Care Workers, caregivers and communities.