

HANDS ON DECK

ISSUE ELEVEN



Hands at Work
AFRICA



“The Care Workers don’t give up, even on the kids who are hard to love. They won’t let them be swept aside. They fight for them.” – Morgan Malster

THE PAST SIX MONTHS

Tommy & Morgan Malster,
International Volunteers (UK & CA)

Tommy and Morgan were married in May 2013, and the first six months of their marriage has been an adventure! Right after getting married they moved from the Hub in South Africa to Kachele in Zambia and also travelled to Malawi and Nigeria. Having seen hope and challenges along the way, they share five highlights from the past six months.

Teams & Visitors: Morgan supported the Zambia RST by hosting many teams and visitors. She was blessed to be with them in the community as many experienced Hands and Africa for the first time. She was especially touched to host Greenfinch Church from the UK and see their connection with the community they support, Chilabula. “They have photos in their church of each Care Worker and child, they pray for each one and they know every name,” Morgan said.

Zambia RST: Tommy supported the RST, spending time with our new RST bookkeeper, Clever. Tommy was encouraged by Clever’s commitment and heart. “His work is in the office but the first time we went to the community he sat with children and told them his story of being an orphan himself.” Tommy also supported Gideon, who will take on supporting the Kabwe Service Centre in bookkeeping. “I had been teaching Gideon about receipts and workbooks, but two weeks ago I sat back and he did everything!”

Kachele Family: The family at Kachele continues to grow deeper and in number. Levy and Prag gave birth to their second daughter, Shalom. Morgan and Tommy were blessed to be a part of the community; from Bible studies to Bring and Shares. Each Thursday, the whole community shares dinner together. Tommy said, “One Thursday, a kid’s camp was happening. We all had a huge bon fire, worshipping and praying together. It was a really special time.”

Malawi: Tommy’s role supporting the Dedza Service Centre took him and Morgan to Malawi for the first time. They were amazed by Symon and Butwell, Dedza Field Coordinators. Morgan said, “Their interaction with the Care Workers went above and beyond. They knew each child and the kids would come running to them. Their hearts were all about holy home visits – they sat and listened to each gogo, each child. They are such a light.”

Nigeria: This was Morgan’s first visit and she saw the dire poverty she had heard about. “It is so broken. I’ve never seen anything like it. But the Care Workers don’t give up, even on the kids who are hard to love. They won’t let them be swept aside. They fight for them.” Peter, Service Centre Coordinator, and his wife Moji have 12 children and young adults living in their home, many who are not their own. This example of compassion has spread to the Service Centre team. “In March there were huge challenges,” Tommy said. “But the team returned from Celebrations, and had an honest discussion full of confession which brought restoration. It’s unbelievable to see the difference now. They teach each other, laugh, and they really love each other.”

Tommy and Morgan’s time away was a blessing for both of them. They felt they grew individually and as a couple, and are thankful for everyone’s prayers and support.

+ CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

Marc Damour
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NURSES FOR AFRICA

Robyn Hunziker,
International Volunteer (AUS),
Hands at Work Elder



Nurses for Africa (NFA), an NGO from the USA, has sent multiple teams each season to serve with Hands for five years. Highly skilled nurses have come to Zambia to serve in our deep rural and isolated communities. Robyn has hosted many NFA teams and seen the benefits and the challenges of bringing a team with a medical focus. "It requires masses

of preparation on both sides of the world," Robyn says. "We, as Hands, are not a medical mission but the appreciation from the communities is huge. Many patients tell us they have not seen a nurse since the last time a NFA team was in their village... last year. These NFA teams have a genuine desire to make a healthy impact. Changes are made through simple, basic medicines, procedures, and referrals to regional clinics and hospitals." The NFA teams work under the authority and watchful eyes of local Zambian nurses from regional clinics in conjunction with Zambia's Department of Health. We encourage all visitors to understand our belief that "we are before we do". Therefore, the week the nurses spend in Africa is both practical, and relational. Early in the week, NFA teams attend community church and meet with a local Zambian nurse to talk about Zambian protocols. For two days, the team goes on Holy Home Visits. For three nights, the nurses sit bagging thousands of pills. For 2 days, a clinic is held where over 300 people are found lined up in the morning on arrival. The Care Workers assist in organising the patients who first visit the NFA nurses at stations with interpreters. Patients then go to a station with Zambian nurses who make diagnoses and write prescriptions. The clinic has a pharmacy table, a deworming station, pre-natal classes, and an eye-glasses

clinic. A fun day is also dedicated to the children at the Care Point, and a Care Worker appreciation day is held. Robyn has witnessed the impact in both the international and African nurses. One Zambian nurse said, "I'm so impressed with the quality care and happy attitude the NFA nurses have. They taught me to smile at patients." One African-American NFA nurse was deeply impacted on a home visit when she met a gogo who had many problems with her legs. The nurse told Robyn that she grew up in a home just like the gogo's. "We went to visit her twice more," Robyn said. "I could see God working in my friend's life. She was deeply moved by the opportunity the Lord had presented her with as she served and loved the gogo. It was so simple yet so profound. That same woman is returning with a team of co-workers ... not as nurses but just to experience the quality of relationship that brings healing to each of us as we engage with the purposes of the heart of God."

We are very thankful for this relationship that God has built with NFA. Though it is different from other interventions within Hands at Work, we know He is in control and has brought us these opportunities for the benefit of our precious Care Workers, the children in their care, and for the growth of their community.





CONSTRUCTING COMMUNITY

Salvador Hunziker,
International Volunteer (AUS)
Facilities & Construction
Coordinator

Having built everything from safe, earthen toilets in the poorest communities, Care Centres in four countries, and designing and building Hands Village (the Hub) in South Africa, Sal is now focused on developing the facilities for our community in Zambia.

God gave a dream to the founders of Hands at Work (George, Carolyn, Sal & Robyn) to build a home base on a farm in Zambia. In 2003 they all ventured to Luanshya. The first property found did not go according to plan. The decision to move out meant they had no idea where to go. Sal tells, "Around that time Whitfield Farm became available and the second we stepped foot on this land God confirmed it to us. His dream was for us to establish a refuge for children in the community. In their home situations, they can't just be kids. It was God's desire for us to hold camps for children. It would also be a Christ-centered Kingdom community where our field guys could find rest."

Today this community is called Kachele, after the tree of the same name at the centre of the land. The

roots of community are growing and a part of the original vision has been realised. Sal, his wife Robyn, and many other volunteers have dedicated their time and passion for the vision by renovating the property at Kachele. Concrete block chicken-stalls have been converted into basic bunk-houses so children from the community can come for a week of respite, learning new skills, and being loved at camp. Other stalls have been renovated to house international volunteers who are committed to serving long-term in Zambia. There is still a long way to go, but Sal knows we must hang on. "What does it take to work out a vision? People, faith, planning, unity, money! We want to remain simple and basic."

Sal and his team are currently in the process of renovating the main farm house to increase usability for accommodating the many international teams who travel to Zambia each year. We are thankful and excited for the many building teams and trades-people that have come in the past and are hoping to come in the future. Sal knows God will fulfill His dream in His own perfect timing. "Kachele has an incredible feel to it. There is something very special about it. What we have is unique. God has put us there."





OPERATIONS UPDATE

Marc Damour,
International Volunteer (CAN)
Project Support Leader

It is special to see what God is doing in our midst. It's important to share these stories and reflect on the amazing thing that we get to be a part of. We see healing in the lives of children through loving, caring relationships like between Vusi and Temakhosi.

TEMAKHOSI

Vusi Mabuza, Regional Support Team (Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe)

Temakhosi is 11, an orphan, and lives in Swaziland. Everyone who meets her sees God's radiating joy in the most unlikely child. Temakhosi has never been able to walk or talk. She has always rolled to move around and made sounds to communicate. Vusi serves on the RST and focuses on supporting the Service Centres and local leaders in South Africa and Swaziland. He first met Temakhosi in 2010, and they instantly became friends. Vusi says, "It touched me in my heart when I saw her rolling and smiling. She lifted her hands up to me with a smile. I prayed she would walk."

In February 2013, Vusi and other members of the RST felt strongly convicted to help Temakhosi. They could not ignore her spirit, the way she squealed and laughed. God was trying to do something through her. The team prayed together, and through giving what they could, made it possible for her to attend therapy in Manzini. Encouraged to also give what he could, Temakhosi's brother then built a set of parallel bars in their front yard for her to practise exercises on.

Today, Temakhosi is a miracle. She can walk on her parallel bars or with support from her grandmother and her Care Worker, Jabulile. She calls to her grandmother across the yard, "gogo", her first word. Vusi has witnessed her transformation. "Really, God has done a miracle in the life of Temakhosi and her family. Keep on praying for her. She has hope that one day she will walk on her own."

A little girl living among the poorest of the poor has become a ray of hope for her community, her family, and for people from all over the world who have fallen in love with her joy. Through her life, God reminds us that the last will be first.



We have sent a huge challenge to our International Offices with the 3 Essential Services proposals for 2014. We ask them to carry the burden for us of raising money and without them, we would not be here. They bear the responsibility for both us and the children here. Please pray for open doors in all of our International Offices as they have dinners and fundraisers and continue advocating.

In Africa, the RST based in South Africa is focused on expansion in Northeast Swaziland. We will have more communication as it develops, but we hope to see the church caring for children there in 2014. The RST is also focused on expansion in Zimbabwe and in November will travel there to work with the Service Centre. In South Africa, the Bushbuck Ridge and Clau Clau Service Centres will be combining into one with a new office in Hazyview. At the Hub, our audit, which started a week ago, is coming to a close and has gone very well.

Continue to pray for our work as we close the year and prepare for next: may we be thankful that we get to see the fruit of what happens in us as a community, in the communities we work in, and in the children we serve when we depend on God and proclaim Jesus as Lord.