

# HANDS ON DECK

ISSUE NINE



## HOPE IN THE DRC

George Snyman,  
Founder and CEO

George recently travelled to the DRC to spend time with Erick and Angel and the rest of their Likasi Service Centre team. The massive challenges for this country are known to so many of us as we hear stories of war near Goma. Thankfully, they were able to visit all CBOs in the area and George returned to South Africa with stories and updates of the work God is doing in the one of the most broken countries in the world.

In Kambove, you must go through security police and receive a special permit to visit the community. It can take hours and many challenges can prevent receiving this document. We praise God for George and Erick being able to get in! George went to help a woman pumping water and people flocked around him – shocked to see a man pumping water. He met a child who had just been found by Care Workers when they were reassessing the community. By visiting more homes and digging deeper to find the most vulnerable children, they found this boy who would not have survived

otherwise. He was dying of hunger, and yet when George spoke to him he said, “Yes Dada”. George saw so clearly how even while starving, this child who held onto him was hungrier for love than food. When George and Erick visited the CBO, George wanted to meet and talk with each Care Worker. Erick translated as George heard each person’s story. He was overwhelmed by the circumstances of these volunteers, who have experienced pain and devastation and yet give their lives to care for the children of Kambove. George prayed for every single Care Worker and asked God to say something to them that would give them hope. They told him that though they love the children they often feel angry with them. George was able to reassure them that they do not need to feel guilty and that their anger is coming from deep brokenness. He told them that they could have hope in Christ – that He can heal them. Please pray for Kambove and all of the Care Workers there. The children of the community have no hope without these people who are willing to be their mothers and fathers.

In Kikula, Kisunka, Kitabataba and Toyota, George met other starving

children who had been found by Care Workers. Each community was difficult and each CBO has many challenges, but the rays of hope are seen so much clearer when they are surrounded by devastation. In Kikula, 100 children gather in a tiny, hot room each day to praise God with so much joy! In Kisunka, the head teacher is an old man whose son drives him on a bicycle to visit children every day. He walks with his crutch and George said he smiles all the time.

The work in DRC is great – and we pray it will grow fast. We must continue to pray for the team there who only have each other day-to-day. We need to be strong in faith and have hope that will carry over to our brothers and sisters in DRC.



## CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

George Snyman  
Marj & George Miller  
Catherine Clarkson

# HANDS ON DECK



## STORIES OF PARTNERSHIP

Catherine Clarkson,  
International Volunteer (UK),  
Partner Communications

The vision of Hands at Work is to see the local Church in Africa effectively caring for the most vulnerable, and unified in this mission with the Church outside Africa. The second part, just as vital as the first, is Catherine's daily focus. She connects those who use their voice to raise support internationally, with the work being done on the ground. She always encourages our overseas family of supporters to come and see what God is doing in Africa. "People ask me, 'What makes Hands unique?' I tell them that we are committed to seeing transformation happen on both sides – through our international and local family." When people come to Africa, they are a special and necessary part of the transformation in our communities. But they too experience transformation through the people they meet and the places they visit.

### AN ADVOCATE STORY

In September 2010, Todd and Katie Wells served in DR Congo for 7 months, living with Pastor Erick, our Hands at Work Congolese leader. As they returned to Canada, they knew their hearts would never be the same. When they gave birth to their son they named him Jacob Erick Wells, after the pastor whose life had inspired them. They decided to raise funds for

the community of Kitabataba in DR Congo, where children were receiving home visits from Care Workers, but had no food security, access to education, or basic health care. In the beginning it was quite difficult. People who had not been to Africa did not understand the level of urgency. But in His mighty faithfulness, God gave Todd and Katie the strength to persevere, and they secured support for 50 children. In September 2013, Todd and Katie returned to DR Congo and visited Kitabataba where they witnessed the transformation that has happened. They could see the part their support had played, but what impacted them more deeply was seeing the servant hearts of the Care Workers who had become like parents to the 50 children of Nyota Community Based Organisation. They could see Erick's influence everywhere as the Care Workers displayed his same compassion and love. Also, Erick met baby Jacob in Zambia! Todd and Katie and their friends and family are now increasing the number of children they support to 75 children. This commitment requires sacrifice, but it is a sacrifice that is building God's kingdom.

### A CHURCH STORY

In Australia, Daphne has been a friend

of Hands for over 10 years. She has supported our work and been a voice for the children of Africa in her community, even when she was often the sole voice. But her endurance has been honoured by God. Daphne came to Africa to serve with Hands on the Short Team Service Team in July 2013. When she returned to her church in Perth, and having invited George Snyman to speak to her congregation, they began to support a community. Heart City Church is now supporting 25 children in Welverdiend, South Africa, with the hope to increase this number even further in the future. Heart City Church joins the Sunbury group, also from Australia, who support a further 75 children in Welverdiend at Pfunani Community Based Organisation. Heart City Church is now hoping to send their first team in September 2014 to experience Africa as Daphne has. We praise God for her dedication and His work in the hearts of so many people in Australia.

### A BUSINESS STORY

We are often inspired by how one person's story of Africa can create a ripple effect. In the US, Lauren Lee, who works as part of the Hands US International Office, shared her passion for the children of Africa with her friend Bill. Bill works for Microsoft and this company has a program where they will potentially match funding for charities. Lauren encouraged Bill to apply to this matching program and his application was successful! Bill contributed 5,000 USD and Microsoft matched this funding, allowing 10,000 USD to be donated to Hands at Work, specifically to the Malawi Service Centre! This support is an amazing example of how we can each use our influence and voice to advocate for the most vulnerable children. It is amazing to see different community groups, and relationship connections coming together with the blessing of God to further our vision.

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Hands at Work  
AFRICA



Amy, Brooke, Katelyn, Alice and Devon in South Africa

## SEPTEMBER 2013 VOLUNTEER INTAKE

### September 2013 Volunteer Intake

This September we welcomed five volunteers from around the world who have come to serve in Africa! We continue to thank God for calling servants to Hands to come learn, grow, and be beautiful feet. Meet our new family members:

#### Alice Fenning, 18

Stowmarket, Suffolk, UK  
The Forge Community Church  
<http://alicefenning.wordpress.com/>

#### Katelyn Martinetti, 25

Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
Calgary Life Church  
<http://toafricaandback.wordpress.com/>

#### Amy Simpson, 18

Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
Westside King's Church  
<http://amysimpson.wordpress.com/>

#### Devon Van Hoffen, 18

Fenwick, Ontario, Canada  
Bethany Christian Reformed Church

<http://devonvanhoffen.wordpress.com/>

#### Brooke Wilson, 21

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia  
Interactive Church

Follow their journeys through some of their blogs as they serve throughout Africa for the next six weeks: Devon in Zambia, Katelyn, Amy and Alice in Malawi, and Brooke in South Africa! Please pray for each of these volunteers as they meet the most vulnerable children and journey deeper into the heart of God for the poor.



Amy, Brooke, Katelyn, Devon and Alice in Swaziland

## OUR TIME IN CANADA

Marj and George Miller, International Volunteers (CA)

Marj and George recently returned to the Hub in South Africa after a visit back home in Canada. They arrived in Canada just in time for the birth of their ninth grandchild, Abigail, born in the midst of the flood in Calgary, Alberta. Her safe arrival and the Miller's many other testimonies reminded us all of the work God has promised to do – not only in Africa, but around the world.

Marj and George have felt a calling to build a partnership between their friends and family and their community of Parksville for the children of Malawi, a country they have spent time in and is very close to their hearts. They were blessed with opportunities to witness to people they know about what they can do to support these children. In this photo, George was driving his truck filled with returnable bottles to a bottle depot where he trades them in for enough money to support three children in Malawi for the year – collected by men he used to work with. They were able to meet with the Missions Committee at their church, speak at their church one evening, and present during the service of another community church. Support was raised for seven more children in Malawi for a year!

The Millers were also able to attend the Hands Canada Celebrations in Calgary with past and present Hands at Work volunteers, supporters, and friends. They were impacted by the deep sense of family that was present. Some volunteers brought their parents, some their children, and the bond in the Hands Canada family was very evident as people, like the Millers, travelled across provinces to be together. The many inspiring stories from their trip reflect how God goes before each of us with plans much better than we can imagine. Please pray for Marj and George's community of Parksville as they come together to support the most vulnerable children in Malawi. May we thank God for the opportunities we have to travel between Africa and our home countries, and the bond He has created among this family, reminding us we are always together.