

HANDS ON DECK

ISSUE EIGHT



Hands at Work
AFRICA



CLOETE'S IN ZAMBIA

Herman, Charissa, Michael & David Cloete, Hands at Work Volunteers (SA)

"It was a great blessing for us in many ways," Charissa said, "When we arrived at 8 at night everyone came out to greet us and it just felt right away like this was home, like we were going to visit all the cousins."

Michael was very interested in all the things going on at the farm. Oswald taught him everything he knew about bees. He was out of the house at 6am, helping wherever he could on the farm. Michael and David did milking. Pragcidence made the boys make peanut butter. She would just sit and say "more, more." The boys loved it.

Michael would hold Tawonga all day. He loved her and she loved him.

Herman says he could never find Michael or David. He said, "It's a blessing to me to see how you treat my children. In the end I cannot go and serve in the community. You also have a great impact on my children here. I know my children have seen what it means to be a Christian here."

Kristal and Will who were there at the time leading the SALT team asked Michael if one day he would like to join.

Michael said, "yes, next year I want to join the SALT team!" and later told his parents, "I'm coming back with our without you."

"When we went out to the community we played with the children and most of the time I just tickled them," Herman said. "I put my feet on the baakie and one of the boys did the same, and I realised that children needed love. David came back holding the hands of two little girls and I was just blessed by how he handled them. The boys aren't speaking too much about it, but I am sure something touched them."

"It was interesting just to see how people live," he said. "We heard of Stephen Rimos, a vulnerable boy in Mulenga, Zambia, before and we got to go his house to spend some time with him. We could see Mulenga was tough, there was a lot of people drunk around, but it was nice to hear from Blessings and Rueben that Stephen Rimos is much stronger and healthier now. They wanted you to know that too. He was outside playing with his friends, but he started to follow us and wanted to be with us."

Herman said, "You could see that all the children just see Rueben and love him. We watched Rueben playing games with the children and they would

all just run to him."

Charissa and Herman spoke of many more unforgettable meetings, meeting a child who walks 2 hours every morning to school and back home another 2 hours, meeting children who were hungry, a very poor grandmother who was sowing on to her pillow, 'relax, God is in control'.

Reflecting on their time in the community, Charissa remarked, "I didn't know what to tell those we were visiting. I felt that if you tell them 'God loves you' that's not enough. Scripture reads: 'The Lord defends those who suffer, he defends those who are weak.' Although we don't know just how hard things are for those we are serving, we still need to reach to God and give God to these people."

When they were at Kachele Erick was there too, and many more volunteers. They said they enjoyed just getting to spend time with people. "We realised that after we've talked about the normal things, and work, we can start to talk deep," said Charissa.

Herman said, "If I could summarise our time in Zambia, I would say it was a lot of healing, inspiration and it was a good time to just spend with people there. It was a great blessing."

"At the end of our time we had a South African braai in the middle of Zambia," said Charissa, "and it was like God saying to us: 'I will be there, wherever you go.'"

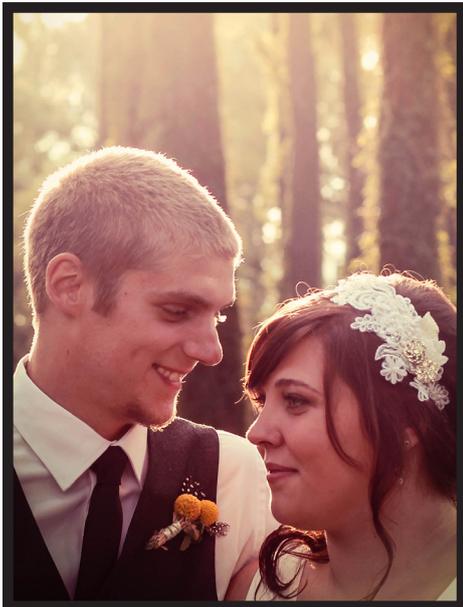


CONTRIBUTORS

in this issue of Hands on Deck

Herman, Chariss,
Michael & David Clouter
David Bentley
Lynn Chotowetz
Tommy & Morgan Malster

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MR. & MRS. MALSTER

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

On May 11th Tommy and Morgan were married in an old stone church 15 minutes or so from the Hands at Work Village in South Africa. Afterwards everyone came together and celebrated back at the HUB. "It was a beautiful day, better than we could have ever expected," Morgan said. What made it even more memorable to the couple was the display of true community and family that was shown on the day. Their visiting friends and family were blown away by the generosity, willingness, love and true excitement to share in this special day shown by the community. "Everyone came together to make our day perfect, a little piece of each of you went into our wedding and we are forever grateful for that," the couple shared. After their wedding Tommy and Morgan spent 10 days in Zanzibar. It was exactly what they needed to unwind from a very busy season.

What's next for the newly weds? Tommy and Morgan are in Zambia until the end of the year. They will be staying at Kachele Village and supporting the work being done there. It is a bittersweet change for them, "We are sad to say goodbye to our family in South Africa, but excited to say hello to the family in Zambia". While in Zambia Tommy will support the Regional Support Team bookkeeper and continue to provide support to the Service Centres. Morgan will continue her role on the communications team as well as help out with visiting teams. They are both looking forward to being a part of the growing work in Zambia.



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FAREWELL TO BENTLEY

David Bentley, International Volunteer (UK),

It was sad to say good-bye to our dear Hands family member David Bentley. Bentley has sacrificially served Hands since February 2010. He was most often seen under the bonnet of someone's car, but also spent time out travelling to and serving in whatever way was needed in our various Hands communities in South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia and Nigeria. We will miss his dedicated and serving heart.



OPERATIONS UPDATE WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON NIGERIA

Lynn Chotowetz,
International Volunteer (CA),
Africa Operations Director

