

HANDS *on deck*



“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God” - Matthew 5:8

June 15th 2012

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up – Galatians 6:9

OPERATIONS UPDATE FROM LYNN

NIGERIA: Lynn returned from Nigeria where the challenges we face working in those communities were right in his face. For one meeting, literally the only place to meet was in the foyer of a brothel. There were women everywhere and rats everywhere. The slums of this country look very different than the other countries and communities we work in. Lynn returned safely and made steady progress on this trip.

DRC: Eric has been in Goma, DR Congo where rebel fighting has led to the refugee camps becoming full; and have included some of our children. He reported that it will take more time for people to get back to their homes and many people are visibly unhealthy. Many people's crops have rotted or were stolen by the rebel groups. Please pray for God's grace and healing to come to this area.

ZAMBIA RST: One of our top operation priorities for 2012 is to see the Zambia Regional Support Team (RST) develop. That includes the need for more physical buildings so that our team can start truly living as a Hands community. But beyond that, it also includes developing the structure, roles and people on the team so that they can better support and build capacity in the Service Centres. Currently, Adam Bedford has been working with Levy and James while Alisha was on holiday in Canada. Emily Jantz has been writing stories in Malawi for a month but was back in Zambia with the RST. Weston, Liz, Etienne, Rani and others continue in their various roles developing Agriculture and hospitality at Kachele Farm and supporting our Care Workers in the service centres. The team is growing! Please pray for resources to start constructing homes to really

develop the community at Kachele.



Contributors

Lynn Chotowetz
Catherine Clarkson
Emily Dinhira
Rebecca Howlett
Ashley Humphreys
Manos Para Africa
George Snyman

GEORGE AND CAROLYN IN THE UNITED STATES

“Sometimes you feel like you are hitting the wall in doing your work - as though your message and vision are just not being heard. Not so on this visit. God went before us and put the heart of Hands into the hearts of our American friends”, said George about his recent trip to the US, where he spent time speaking at churches, meeting with new and existing partners, and visiting with the Hands US Family. In Chicago, George and Jed (past Hands at Work volunteer) stayed with a family who are advocates for Hands and it was such an honor. George and Jed met with a leader from Willow Creek Church with a congregation of 20,000 and in a building that looks like an airport. They had coffee with Scott, one of the church's founders, and George was struck by this man who was preceded by his reputation yet so humble. He apologized for the size of the building, explaining how they utilize all the space. George said, “This building means nothing to me - you don't need to apologize. I am not impressed with the building, I am impressed with you as a humble leader.” He felt the Holy Spirit over them as they had coffee and while sharing the work of Hands. Jed said this encounter was a blessing to him to watch leaders just allowing God to show what He wants for us. A great lesson on our Hands motto: “we are before we do.”

Other meetings in the US included an interview with Nancy Turner, a Christian radio personality from Moody Bible College. She told George Hands has changed her life, now she wants to come to Africa. In San Francisco, George and Carolyn stayed with Pastor Sam Shin of Wellspring Church which already sponsors many vulnerable children. They were spoiled by the Hands US friends! On the Sunday George spoke at Wellspring many more people pledged to support children. At a very successful Hands Fundraiser held by Toby (pastor of Christ Church) the church was packed with believers, non believers, and art donated for a silent auction. The second Sunday, George spoke at Christ Church, where we have many new friends. It was a highlight for George that Carolyn could travel with him. It is rare but it makes such a difference for him and he thanks God for that. George reminded us that our work takes time: “Many times it takes years for people to embrace and support the vision. We just need to continue to be faithful in what we do.”



MANOS PARA AFRICA HANDS FOR AFRICA

Team season is upon us and Hands Village and Sanderson Farm are excited to welcome visiting teams from around the world. Hands strongly believes in the value of bringing our global family from countries that often live in cultures of little need to Africa to see the extent of great need that exists here. Our teams constantly teach us that God does amazing things when we come to serve and become the hands and feet of Jesus. They are a blessed reminder of the transformation that can continually occur in all of us as we do this work if we are open to it.

A team from Puerto Rico came and served in South Africa for one month. After two young ladies came as volunteers in 2009, they returned home to begin a two and half year journey of fund raising and trusting in God that this partnership would continue. Their continual prayer and faith has brought them here to South Africa with five others, and is proof of God's work in our lives when we trust that His hand guides us in everything we do.

CONNECTING WITH CHILDREN

“This is a huge step to ensuring our kids are cared for in a way that brings transformation.” Emily Dinhira reported on her time with Robyn, Juliet, Rani, Jackie, Graham (Luanshya) and Mbuzi (Kabwe) in Zambia as they recently completed the third session of the Connecting with Children program. This mentoring program has come very far and continues to equip Hands Hub and RST as well as a group of ten consisting of Field Coordinators, CBO Coordinators, care workers and community school teachers in the Zambia and Zimbabwe Region. This most recent session in May saw breakthroughs with pastors playing in the dirt with children and the community rallying around this opportunity to equip care workers to care for the most vulnerable children. This work is foundational to the vision and mission of Hands and we ask for your continued prayers.

STORIES OF PARTNERSHIP

Hands at Work is not just a catalyst for transformation in Africa, but all across the world. As our vision states, we strive to have the church outside Africa unified with the local church in Africa to effectively care for the most vulnerable children. Catherine Clarkson, whose main role is to connect and report to our international offices and donors internationally reported that Hands at Work has 62 communities across 8 countries in Africa and 47 of those communities are partnered with at least one church, school or business outside of Africa. She then told us three

stories of the transformation happening throughout our global families who are vital in helping us care for the poorest of the poor.

WORLD CHEF'S TOUR AGAINST HUNGER, SOUTH AFRICA



In 2011, the World Chef's Tour Against Hunger came to our communities. Hands volunteers took the chefs, topped in their chef hats, into our communities to further understand the work we do. This visit was to be the beginning of their partnership with us. This year they submitted a successful nomination for Hands to receive free food. Now, 265 of South Africa's most vulnerable children are receiving food because of them! Dry goods worth 10,000 ZAR will be donated each month and this donation will continue for at least a year. This blessing started over a year ago when the chefs visited our communities and God began to transform their hearts; now many children are receiving a nutritious meal each day which contributes to their overall health and well being.

JON, A COLLEGE STUDENT, LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA



Jon volunteered with Hands last year and the experience sewed something deep in him. Back in Ontario he looked for a way to continue serving. He was part of a weekly small group with other student friends and encouraged them to take whatever they had in their wallets each week and put it in a bowl. They then began sacrificing one thing a week - like Subway sandwich or a Starbucks coffee - and that money also went in the bowl. He connected with Hands Canada to find out how the money could be used. Jon and his friends raised \$3,000 and have now put that money towards caring for kids in Malawi. His story reminds us that we can never underestimate what the seeds that God sows into the hearts of volunteers who have come to visit Africa can grow into.

FRIENDSHIPS ACROSS CONTINENTAL AND CULTURAL DIVIDES: CHARLIE & MOLLET

Charlie came to Africa with the Wellspring Church team in 2011. They visited a community in South Africa, called Sensokuhle. Here, Charlie and his wife Grace met a boy named Mollet with a leg condition. Charlie works in medicine and knew this was the type of condition that in the US would be fixed at birth - but Mollet had grown up with it and struggled to even walk. When Charlie's trip ended, his relationship with Mollet did not. Back home, Charlie prayed about this boy and his leg condition. He wrestled with it - he made Mollet's problem his problem - Mollet's story his story. He spent hours on the phone with a doctor in Cape Town who agreed to perform an operation to heal Mollet. Charlie and Grace are funding the travel costs for Mollet and his mother Lillian (a Care Worker at Sensokuhle) to get to and from Cape Town. Charlie's story is special because he took his experience far beyond his time in the community. He was so passionate about Mollet and his story that he took it into his own heart and decided to do something about it.

CHAPEL UPDATE

The Chapel at Hands Village continues to evolve - the concrete for the floor has been poured and set and our maintenance team has been working very hard on it.

This Chapel is being funded solely by those who live and visit Hands Village. A vital part of our work is to quietly be with God. In such a bustling community environment, this Chapel will serve as a place to meet with Him and a symbol of what our family can build together.

MAY VOLUNTEER INTAKE AND COMMUNITY STAY

Every year Hands has three volunteer intakes: one in February, one in May, and one in September. This May brought three ladies from three countries: Nanci from Wellspring Church in San Francisco, U.S., Rebecca from York Street Church of Christ in Ballarat, Australia, and Ashley from Westside King's Church in Calgary, Canada. They spent four weeks in orientation seeing first hand the challenges and triumphs of caring for the most vulnerable children of Africa. An important part of orientation is the community stay, when volunteers spend a few nights in a particular community with a child-headed household. This experience helps them to begin to understand the circumstances these children live in.

“Rebecca and I stayed with an amazing family of five. The head of the household is a 19 year old girl who cares for her three younger siblings, her own daughter, and what seems to be every other child in the neighborhood. Her heart and her home are open to everyone, including us, who she treated like family. This family is one of the most vulnerable in South Africa and yet they gave us their beds and their love. This experience showed me that when we are open to it, God's love will bring us together despite our situations, our language, and our culture.”
-Ashley



FIRST MEAL IN KAPHUNGA VILLAGE

In KaPhunga Village, Swaziland, the first day of feeding for 50 children was celebrated by many including our Puerto Rican Team, Ma Nomsa, Coordinator of ASB Home Based Care and several other Care Workers. This area poses huge challenges with one being the fact that both Care Workers' and children's homes are spread out over an enormous area. On the first day that this service began, children aged 3 to 20 walked as long as an hour to get a meal after school. Thankfully, in August, a second feeding point will be established in order to serve the children who live over an hour drive away. The community and Care Workers have embraced the vision for both care points – please keep them in your prayers.

