

May 2020

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## Dear Hands at Work Family and Friends,

The story you are about to read reflects the care, activities, and access to services usually provided at Care Points across Africa. In the current season of the Coronavirus (COVID -19) pandemic, those services look different and are largely focused on daily access to food, and in ensuring safety for the most vulnerable children. Whilst adhering to government restrictions, our care for the most vulnerable will not stop. This is especially important in a season where our children face increased levels of vulnerability.

Within Zambia, Blessings and the Kitwe local office team are committed to continuing to care for the most vulnerable children they serve. On a weekly rotation, members of the local office team visit the seven communities in their region, standing alongside local Care Workers as they provide children with their daily meal whilst ensuring proper hygiene and hand-washing standards are being adhered to.

At many of our Care Points, Care Workers are arriving as early as 6am, to begin preparing food for the children. Two or three additional Care Workers arrive shortly afterwards to help lovingly but swiftly serve the children their meal, wash dishes and help ensure the children adhere to social distancing requirements, ensuring that no more than 20 people are at the Care Point at any given time. Care Workers are being vigilant with the children's attendance, and making sure they know which children come each day. Care Workers are then able to follow up any children not in attendance during Holy Home Visits.

In keeping with government regulations, those Care Workers preparing food have received their bi-annual certification and daily wear protective equipment including a mask, gloves, an apron and hat while preparing, cooking and serving food to the children.

Currently, Blessings and his team have arranged for the local health authorities to share with Care Workers from each Community Based Organisation around COVID-19. The goal is to dispel myths and help them to understand the precautions needed to keep themselves, the children they serve and their community safe.

All of these measures are to ensure the most vulnerable children continue to receive care in this season.

## Please stand with us in prayer

Pray for each child who attends the Care Point. Pray that they would feel loved and cared for despite the limited time they are able to spend with Care Workers.

Pray for the Care Workers who continue to experience fear in this time. Pray that the Kitwe local office team would be able to speak words of encouragement and assurance in this season.

Pray against the false teachings, rumours and mis-advice being circulated within our communities. Pray against those who are taking advantage of the situation for personal gain and mistreating and misinforming the most vulnerable within the communities.

Pray that Blessings and his team would be able to bring Jesus in everything they are doing, speaking truth into situations and testifying of God's goodness.



Hands at Work  
AFRICA



Report on  
**Chibote  
Community, Zambia**

January to March 2020

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA (US) *in partnership with*  
The Bridge Church

## BUTEMWE

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION

Children currently supported: **150**



Free to simply  
be a child

“Tragedy and difficulty have been at the heart of Innocent’s\* life. Although only nine years old, he has already suffered great loss after his father sadly passed away after battling a long illness. Struggling already to provide for her large family, Innocent’s mother was devastated when her husband died and wondered how she was going to provide the basic necessities for Innocent and his five brothers and sisters. Whilst making a meagre wage by collecting firewood from the bush in order to sell and earn money to support them all, it is not nearly enough to provide for the whole family. She has the additional burden of caring for her new grandchild, who was born to her eldest daughter. Suffering from mental illness and seizures, and unaware of the location of the child’s father, her eldest daughter is unable to assume responsibility for her child, so Innocent’s mother has shouldered this task instead.

The family came to the loving attention of the Care Workers during Innocent’s

father’s long illness. Led by the guiding hand of God, the Care Workers made regular Holy Home Visits to the household where they provided encouragement and support and got to know Innocent and his siblings. When Innocent’s father died, the Care Workers, acting with Christ-led compassion and understanding, invited Innocent and three of his siblings to the Life Centre. Today, they all receive a hot, nutritious meal every day, alongside basic health care and access to education.

The Care Workers are able to guide Innocent and his siblings with wise and loving advice and care, providing an example in physical activities such as hand-washing and cleaning the home, but also by encouraging them spiritually, that they may feel the hand of God guiding them through life and offering them hope in the Lord Jesus. Now, freed to simply be a child and play and bond with his peers, Innocent enjoys playing football and running around, and loves attending the community primary school, where he is in grade 3. He looks forward to being a doctor when he grows up.

\*name has been changed