

MOZAMBIQUE OUTREACH NEWSLETTER 1 DECEMBER 1999

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Our first newsletter whilst a little bland in appearance makes up for it in interesting content. The next issue will be a little more appealing to the eye.

A little background:

When I came on my first trip to Mozambique in response to a vision the Lord gave me nearly 10 years ago, I felt Him say this "Get this country ready for my return". Naturally this is a task too big for any man and yet He can empower a man or woman to do His seemingly impossible tasks.

My impression from the Lord is that He is going to move with incredible power by His Spirit through the Mozambique where millions of people will come to know Jesus in a very short period of time - and also just as importantly experience a culture change overnight, from the prevalent witch doctor mentality (and it's culture) to God's culture and the wonders of living with Him.

I flew from Brisbane to Mozambique, Africa on the 31 October. I had no one to meet me at Harare Zimbabwe but the Lord provided a family there who have become a base whenever I travel there. The only major hitch on the journey was the loss of a suitcase which contained Bible, diary, journals, computer programs and books for training pastors. LAM (Mozambique) airlines say that the bag could be anywhere - maybe Europe.

I have been walking very closely to the instructions that I felt the Lord gave me when He said to come here. "Train pastors in Beira". He didn't say for how long. He also said that I would not have to seek them out but rather - He would lead them to me.

Beira is a seaside city, the second largest in Mozambique. It is a major port, but by Australian standards most of the people live in poverty. Little running water, unreliable phone and power (at this stage). Poverty abounds in the town. Petty theft is prevalent. Jesus is needed. It is however a vital city and central to the whole of Mozambique. Imagine hopping into a mini bus with all it's seats already occupied. So you stand as more and more people hop on at each bus stop until you can't move. It's very hot and the sweat is pouring, the smell of hot bodies is increasing. Then when you have an elbow in your side and a woman right in front of your nose, breast feeding her baby and you think that surely it would be impossible to fit another person on the bus, sitting, standing or lying - the driver stops to pick up another 5 passengers. This is a Sharpa - the common form of transport in Mozambique and my present form of transport in Beira.

I met up with an Australian family in Beira, Jeff and Robbie Housen, from AOG world missions. Incredibly they have been called to Beira to train pastors. In fact their whole vision is remarkably similar to ours.

I met with another major ministry (from America) who feel that the Lord is telling them to train pastors in Beira. So I know that I am on the right track.

One of my favourite places is the money changer's shop. As Mozambiquan currency is found no where else in the world, nor changed in any other country - one must convert their money from US dollars to Meticaís - at the rate of 13000 mts per \$1US at the bank or at a higher rate at the money changer's shop. The money changer's shop is a small shop selling paraffin and basic groceries. You walk in and then get guided to a small back room. A slow turning over head fan, dim lighting and an Indian man sitting behind a dirty old desk, make the atmosphere like a Humphrey Bogart movie. Then he reaches for a wad of Meticaís and gladly gives 13500 mts per \$1US. You look side to side as you leave the shop to make sure no one is following, and then head off to buy a drink or a water bucket or some other useful thing to exist here.

Another thing to get used to is what we westerners refer to as Mozambiquan Time. If we ask someone to meet us at 3pm, then they will come at either 5pm, 7 pm, 9am the next morning, or on the Friday of the next week - and that's fine to them.

When I arrived I felt to pray for a man as a "right hand man" to help me with the language, translate for me, have favour with government departments, teach with me, preach with me and train with me.

When I travelled to Maputo, the capital city, to try to find my lost bag, a man came and prophesied over me. It was about Ananias being ordered by the Lord to lay hands on Paul because he had a big job to do for God. When he obeyed and prayed for Paul, scales fell from Paul's eyes.

I met Francis Nsona in a freak meeting at the Riviera Café (Something out of another Bogart movie). After much prayer, I asked if he would join with me, he said that the Lord had given him a dream that night about being blind and a man came up and laid hands on him and the scales fell from his eyes.

He is a translator for diplomats, a teacher at the schools, works with immigration, and Zimbabwean businesses hire him for a large fee for conferences in Beira.

I told him that I could pay a certain amount to retain him and his answer was: "I only live once. I could get a very high paying job in South Africa or Zimbabwe, but I want to be like the disciples - when Jesus called them from their work and told them to follow him and become fishers of men. I know I need money to eat and live and support my family, but I want to serve God for the rest of my life"

And so we have our first Mozambique Outreach staff member. A gem from the Lord - and He led him to me.

I now am praying for 10 Provincial directors (one for each province in Mozambique). I plan to pray with them, train them, pour myself into them, teach a solid Biblical foundation - even though they will already be church leaders and challenge them to trust God to leave their home in and around Beira and move to the Province that they are called to.

In turn they will train and disciple 10 Regional directors.

In turn they will train and disciple 10 local pastors each.

This is a seemingly slow process and yet it represents 1000 very strong, prayer based churches.

Also there is a similar 3 level process for 1000 intercessors to support this movement. God is able.

Our aim is to see this country turn to Jesus. I was advised before I came: "If you are not called - do not come because you will die. However if you are called - come - because there is no where in the world where people are coming to God in response to the gospel like Mozambique." In fact in the last 2 weeks, there have been 2 people raised from the dead by local pastors praying and one woman who was totally blind received her sight. Glory to God.

I am looking to buy a 4 wheel drive soon to be able to get around this very rough country and into the villages which are inaccessible for normal cars. We will open ourselves to other missionaries visiting soon, as we establish ourselves more. Presently we are organizing water tanks to store a few days of water because the supply has been somewhat unreliable. We wash with a scoop and I have learnt to have a complete wash in a cup of water. It can be done and it feels good afterwards when there is no alternative. All water is boiled or purified and you must be selective in where you buy food as it can be a problem if grown in bad soil or water - apparently.

Malaria is a real threat. Cerebral malaria is lethal and mosquitoes are the culprits in spreading these diseases. A mosquito net is a must and repellent or coils essential. Regardless - God is bigger than disease.

My wonderful wife is organizing everything in our Brisbane office such as bank account transfers, necessary documents to get residential papers etc. She is planning to come to live in Beira early next year - a giant sacrifice. Our children also are looking forward to coming and to be home schooled here.

I am hungry to see souls saved in this country. I have been invited to speak in many churches. But my heart is for the millions of people who cover this land in small villages - mud huts with reed thatched roofs - who go to the witch doctors when they have a problem. God willing , we will see the powerful, transforming good news of Jesus preached to every person in this land.

We have a web page nearly completed. The address will be sent to you when it is lodged onto the net.

If you would like a regular copy of this newsletter, please send your email details to our email address at the top of the page. If you do not have email, please send us your postal address and we will forward it to you by post from Australia.

Thank you for your prayer and support.

God bless you greatly

Greg Cumming