

MOZNEWS

MOZAMBIQUE OUTREACH NEWS

1 APRIL 2000

Issued by Email on request.

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(Letters and small packages up to 30cm x 20cm x 10cm)

Hi again from Mozambique. We have experienced yet another month of God moving amongst the people here. David Livingstone who trudged through these African countries on foot - enduring 35 fevers in one particular year, sleeping in 30cm of water each night for 6 months as he trekked inland through the marshes; and attempting to communicate the gospel in the different dialects to different village chiefs with little response, said that one day, every gospel message would reap souls in Africa. I think of that as we preach and watch the hunger in the hearts of these people for God, and the response as people surge forward to be saved in our meetings. David Livingstone - you were right. One sows, another reaps - but we all share in the great harvest.

Disaster Relief

The thing that consumed most of our attention this month was the devastating effects of cyclones that battered the Mozambique coastline - following severe floods in Southern Mozambique where the capital Maputo was ravaged by flood waters. This disaster was prophesied about 6 months earlier and played itself out according to the prophecy. Here is an account told by Rolland and Heidi Baker from Iris Ministries, which is based in Maputo (the capital), where flooding was the worst in the early stages.

Excerpt from Iris Ministries Newsletter - Maputo

The weekly "Lowvelder" in South Africa began an 8-page report with this: "Field specialists say the world remains unaware of the scale of suffering that lies ahead for the Mozambican people and millions could die of starvation and disease." This is one of the worst disasters relief agencies have ever seen. "We are shocked and can't believe the magnitude of the destruction and suffering we are seeing. It is daunting," said Brian Jones of the British International Rescue Dogs (BIRD).

Cyclones are not unusual during the rainy season in this part of the world, but to have three of them in quick succession is a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence. The many dams that should have controlled the flooding needed five times their reservoir capacity to be effective. Most years are quite dry, and Mozambique's rivers serve to sustain life. But with this much rain, the rivers overran their banks and moved across the countryside in six-foot waves, destroying crops, tearing up roads and putting whole towns under water.

A malaria epidemic has begun -- ninety percent of the villagers around the center have tested positive. At Zimpeto where we live fifty children are down with malaria right now.

Cholera, a disease spread by contaminated water, is fast turning the capital city of Maputo into a death trap as health officials struggle to contain the disease. A whole range of diseases is expected to break out across the country as people begin to starve. The UN World Food Program says that 650,000 people will need to be fed with emergency aid over the next six months. Tuberculosis, measles, typhoid and malaria could lead to

large scale deaths as immune systems are weakened by malnutrition and AIDS.

Relief workers in the refugee camps are often themselves stranded and suffering without food and clean water. Large amounts of medical supplies have been airlifted to Maputo, but because of bureaucracy and corruption much is not reaching the field yet where it is most needed. Tens of thousands of victims who have been exposed to contaminated water and the elements for weeks should be vaccinated, but the necessary supplies and equipment are not available. Doctors and nurses working in the most desperate camps are expected to carry on with little or nothing. All over the camps children are contracting severe eye infections from insects breeding in the water, yet antibiotic eye ointments are scarce. Without cooking fuel, the people try to eat raw corn maize and get sick. Locals were seen eating out of a bloated dead cow... Some aid workers may even be sent home for their own mental well-being, in spite of the need, so great is their stress.

We are now feeding and trying to take care of some 12,000 people in various camps, both in Maputo and north near the Limpopo River flooding. Yet the need still towers above our capacity and stretches out far into the future, pointing us in the only direction we can move: more faith in Jesus!

Last Thursday Heidi and our Dr. John Colby flew to Chibuto by helicopter to look for flood orphans and bring them back to our center. Chibuto is the airfield nearest the worst flooding of the Limpopo River, and air rescue teams have been bringing survivors there for the last several weeks. Soon after her arrival another cyclone passed by, and for three days she was stranded in the rain along with everyone else in her camp as all aircraft were grounded.

And so she began to minister to the weak, sick, starving people huddling under tarps and other bits of shelter. She began in their own local tribal dialect, Changaan, and they immediately perked up with smiles. Heidi preached her heart out, and 2,000 people came to Jesus. Soon the camp was singing and dancing -- and many sobbed on their faces for their sins and the sins of the nation.

Finally, on the third day we were able to send a plane in to get Heidi, but it was a miracle. The runway was so muddy that only one other plane tried to land, and it broke its landing gear. Two hundred people were trying to get out on this one small plane, but the pilot took off with Heidi and John, and now they are back safe with intense accounts of conditions at the camp.

Gifts to Iris Ministries can be made through us or directly.

Part Of the Action

We found ourselves in amongst an overwhelming response from the world in relation to relief for victims of people affected by the floods and cyclones. Beira became the base for 400 US troops along with helicopters, boats, container ships and planes. Unfortunately the government here tried to handle the whole relief effort, causing a great amount of confusion, with a lot of aid not getting to the people.

We have been working together with Dorcas Aid International to help deliver food to the affected areas near us. This is an organisation which delivers aid, hand in hand with preaching the gospel. Every food parcel is AT LEAST accompanied by a tract in the local dialect. But a gospel message is always preached and then a team goes into the bush around where the aid is dropped, to preach the good news to local villagers. They have seen souls come in to his kingdom through this very simple approach of bread in one hand, the gospel in the other.

The only access so far has been by helicopter and boat. Despite being new here, we have been entrusted with tens of thousands of dollars to assist.

To add to the problems there are many crocodiles in the waters.

In one community, all that remained as the waters receded was one goat and a cow. Getting aid to the communities is easier now. But getting it to the people who need it most is increasingly difficult. Theft or even worse, food locked up and not distributed, are problems.

There are many people with malaria with no money for simple life saving drugs. An old women sat shaking in the advanced stages of malaria - for the sake of 10,000MT (65cents US) to get medicine.

One lady was discovered who, because her family had run out of food, walked 120km (2 days from 4am till 7pm each day) to Tica with 10,000 MT (65 cents US) in her pocket for a bus ride to Beira. She came to Dorcas Aid who apologized profusely to her for not getting her a mercy bucket sooner. She was given one. She said that she was one of many who were in the same predicament.

Particular thanks to the very big donations from Christian Outreach Centre - Brisbane, Global Care, Vietnam Outreach and Ulf Eckman's ministry in Upsala, Sweden. Each gift literally saved lives.

The money was spent on

1. "Mercy buckets" - These are buckets with emergency items to help a family facing starvation.
2. Buying seed for crops was vital because a crop had to be planted before the end of March or they would have missed the sowing period. No crops - no food.
3. Building materials to rebuild and get people back into suitable housing
4. Implements for farming, cooking. Soap to help against skin disease. Clothing
5. Medical Aid. Dorcas clinics are seeing patients and administering medical relief for : malaria, upper respiratory diseases (bronchitis, pneumonia, etc.), skin infections and wounds, diarrhoea
6. Wells

The fact that we are helping in the aid is a huge door for us now and in the future to come in and preach the gospel.

Thanks for all your help in this crisis.

Ministry

"House Blessing" Meeting

We held a house blessing meeting for our facilitator Francis N'Sona. The Lord moved strongly amongst the neighbours and friends. 20 people responded to the good news of Jesus, kneeling in the dirt to receive the King of kings. One lady had a demon that manifested - speaking in English to me "No, no, no, no, no, no, you don't have the power" I responded "Oh yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes I do - His name is Jesus and you are coming out". There was a brief struggle and then we were able to lead the lady in renouncing many things that she had been involved with in her life such as witch doctors and ancestral spirit worship. Amazingly, it was confirmed later that this woman did not know a single word of English. (Picture)

Another lady claims that since she has come to Jesus, her household has been at peace from nightmares. Before this her children would whimper throughout the night. Now their home is peaceful..

Prayer Meetings

This month we added to our morning hour of prayer by introducing our Midday hour of prayer. This has been one of the most powerful prayer experiences of our lives.

During our first midday prayer meeting, as we were praising the Lord, a thunderstorm suddenly came up outside. As Keith Robinson often says - "The devil always overplays his hand" When this occurred we were expecting big things.

In the middle of the meeting, one of the ladies we are teaching in the Bible College course began to shake vigorously and then broke out in tongues. This went on quite loudly for 10 to 15 minutes. We were very excited about this because we have never instructed her yet about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, nor has she ever heard of it before, nor has she ever heard of speaking in tongues. The Holy Spirit just did it as on the day of Pentecost (without consulting us). It surely was a sign and a wonder to everyone in the meeting. The embarrassing thing was that Jay and I had decided to delay teaching on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit until this woman knew a little more about God - but obviously this was not God's plan. He just did bypass surgery on the woman. We were the ones He bypassed. Praise Him.

These meetings are so charged with the Holy Spirit's presence that when new people come to pray with us, they often end up shaking vigorously, on their knees crying out to God or slain in the Spirit. This task of taking Mozambique for Jesus is far too big for us without His help. It is such an overwhelming job that we rely on Him for everything, and He seems to be always there in great power in these meetings of prayer. Our aim is to have around the clock prayer and the intercessors are starting to come.

First Church Service

Our first church service was held in the open air. People sat on mats and leant against trees. There were 25 adults and as many children. The Lord again moved powerfully. People were slain in the Spirit, one man was healed of an eye condition and 2 men came to Jesus. Thankyou Lord. (Picture)

Mid Week Service

Our second service, on Wednesday, increased in numbers to 78 including the children. Jay preached, another 3 people coming to Jesus with a further 2 recommitting their lives to Jesus. (Picture)

Bible College

This month we also began our Bible College. We have started with 2 students, a husband and wife, Luis and Christina, who are very receptive to what we are teaching. Our day officially begins at 8am for one hour of staff prayer. This is followed by ministry training. We have 3 sessions with small breaks between each until our midday pray meeting. We have 4 Bible College Trainers. All lessons by Jay and myself must be translated into Portuguese or Sena by Francis. (Picture)

Jay's Column

This month saw the beginning of stepping into God's call for the boys and myself. At first glance Beira is not a place that the average Australian would choose to live and it is certainly nowhere near my dream home. However, when God calls someone to a particular place, much like Jonah, one is faced with the choice of running away or following the call. I have spent considerable time telling God that I did not want to be here, but found my prayers were much more effective when I began to pray "God help me to change my emotions towards the vision that You have called us to." Faithful as the Lord is, within about 2 days I felt more comfortable in the country and am ready to move forward with the vision.

The first challenge that I faced was driving the car. With the pot holes, the traffic police, the column shift gears and a city with no street directory, street signs or house numbers, driving was not an easy task for me to undertake. I was also increasingly aware that by refusing to conquer the problem, I was putting greater pressure on Greg. So this month I took the plunge, buckled up and risked the life of my passengers and took to the streets of Beira; and as one might expect it was not nearly as daunting as I had feared.

This month we also began our Bible College. We are fortunate to have 2 students who are extremely hungry for the Word and very teachable. As we go on, we find more people are coming to us to enquire about the training, but we are only accepting those who we feel the Lord is calling to be future nation changers. In this country, many people simply approach us because we are white and they think that we will give them money. Therefore it is necessary to be very discerning in this area.

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter we have also begun 2 one hour prayer meetings, 5 days a week. Both of our sons join us in these meetings. Kyal our eldest is becoming a fervent pray -er; and he too spends long periods of time speaking in tongues.

The boys are settling in well. They have made friends among other missionaries here and are also in contact with their Australian school friends by email. I am still working on organising their education material.

The Beira postal system has proved to be challenging. We had our first parcel in our hands nearly 4 weeks after it had been posted. It contained an intercessory prayer book, a music CD and some reading material for the boys. We were told we had to pay postage for it and duty at our end, and that they would not allow us to collect it until customs came to the post office to view the contents. They would not allow us to collect it. Ironically we brought in half a ton of personal effects in boxes across the border when we first arrived and it didn't even raise an eyebrow. Fortunately in the end they did release it and we had the fun of working out who was going to open it.

Greg posted a letter in Beira on 29th Dec which arrived safely in Brisbane on 5th March - just over 2 months.

Praise God for email !

“These are a few of my favourite things” - Mary Poppins

Things we miss

1. A shower - hot or cold when ever we want it
 2. To drink water straight from the tap without having to boil or filter it
 3. To watch a bit of television - even the news. A game of rugby would be good (Greg)
 4. To make a phone call to a close friend and speak to someone in our own language
 5. Our rendezvous at our coffee shop in Brisbane.
 6. A good place to eat out
 7. Cleanliness and beautiful views
 8. Going to the craft and clothing stores (Jay)
- etc, etc, etc

We are thankful however of the great things that God is doing here.

Thanks again for your continued prayer and support. Our numbers of strong people of prayer are increasing.

Many people are being affected for Jesus.

One thing never ceases to affect me and that is the sight of someone wholeheartedly receiving Jesus, their tears as the full impact of the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus impacts their heart, and the changed life that results. In the accompanying pictures, the lady seen repenting was dirty and wore ragged clothes on this day that she received Jesus into her heart. At the second service she had made herself beautiful for Jesus, her Saviour.

God Bless you,

Greg, Jay, Kyal and David