

MOZNEWS

MOZAMBIQUE OUTREACH NEWS 1 AUGUST 2000

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This month was dominated by souls being saved in every area of ministry. We even had a chance to get a much needed break in Mozambique's capital Maputo.

Prison

God is blessing us in the prison. The group continues to grow, as does the number of people being saved, as does the hunger for God, as do the miracles. We now have one quarter of the total prison coming to our Tuesday lessons. 124 men and women each week come to feed on God's Word. Every week the miracles flow with people claiming to be healed from many ailments as we for all needs at the end of our meeting. In the last 2 weeks over 50 new prisoners have been saved. So far a total of 227 men and women have been saved in the prison (7 weeks). The sound is incredible as our team leads in praise accompanied by a crippled drum player (a prisoner) and people playing rattles and shakers and other humble instruments. The Holy Spirit has a great time.

Forty-four prisoners have been relocated to a prison farm (low security), so we are praying about starting a group there as well.

2 prisoners were released fully this month and came to church on Sunday morning to establish their new life with God. Our church people love them so much. We emphasise that whether we are prisoners, ex prisoners or non prisoners, we are all sinners saved by God's amazing grace. I smile at the ironic fact that these men and women, found their ultimate freedom while in prison.

New Christian Classes

These classes, led by Arone, continue to grow. Saturday and Monday classes number over 20 on each day. Many people are now completing the course and receiving their Bibles and certificates. So far 68 people have commenced the course.

New Leader

A new leader has joined our ranks. His name is Ventura Tomas. Ventura was the founding pastor of the Apostolic faith church in Mozambique and had established 6 churches in the provinces of Sofala and Manica. However, when he was invited to a midweek meeting by a friend and saw the power of God moving in miracles and in salvations, he went and prayed for a month and then came to us and said that he was prepared to leave his ministry in the hands of another man and join Mozambique Outreach, to be fully trained and then released to plant churches throughout Mozambique. He will be starting in Bible College soon.

Maputo

We took a week off to go to Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. Each time I travel there, I am amazed at how much improvement has been made. Only a few years ago, rubbish covered the streets and cholera was epidemic. Now it is clean and the city is thriving. Restaurants line the inner city area.

We stayed at the Iris Ministries orphanage at Zimpeto where we were surrounded almost continuously by the children there. We had a blessed time - relaxing and speaking to other missionaries who have given up their lives - to go where God wants to send them - not necessarily in the ritzier and cleaner parts of the world.

We walked around town and visited some of the sights. Jay and Kyal bartered for pictures and drums etc on the sides of the road. We also visited the Australian consulate. We even got a hot shower. Thank you Jesus. The things we miss.

Maputo is situated on the Rio de Espiritu Santo - River of the Holy Spirit. I thought that that was worth a mention. (See picture)

Orphans

The incidence of AIDS in Mozambique is one of the highest in Africa. It is responsible for the thousands of children being left orphans, while others are the abandoned babies of prostitutes. Children and babies are left at dumps to die. Fortunately there are wonderful Christian organisations that we are involved with, who rescue these little ones and give them a bed, clothes, meals, an education and lots of love. These children learn to pray and seek God. Children as young as 4 and 5 intercede for other children less fortunate than themselves. We are at present considering our future involvement with young orphans. (See picture)

Widows

We continue to assist these amazing women of God who seem to survive under the most unbelievable circumstances - bringing up, housing, clothing, schooling and feeding their children on virtually nothing. When the husband dies, there is no single parent or widows' pension. They have to carry their little ones on their back and go into the rice fields to pick rice or dig dirt off the roads with their hands just to survive. And yet they are so gracious and never ask for anything. They rarely shed a tear and yet I am sure they must feel like it every day. Their life is one continuous struggle, but they still manage to get to two church meetings a week to praise the Lord, and they bring in their tithes from their small crops on top of their heads.

We continue to do our best to help these ladies by rebuilding their homes, supplying medical needs, food, formula milk for their children etc.

We have just put one of our widows, Luisa (pictured) - through a children's church teachers' course. She passed brilliantly, receiving a certificate and now teaches in our Children's Church.

Jay's Column

They say that it is the people who make the difference wherever you are. That's true. We have really been blessed with the most faithful people in our church. We recently had the pleasure of Arone's father visiting us. He told us "the people in your church are united in love". Our aim is to be the friendliest and most welcoming church in Mozambique. So it sounds like with God's help we are on the way.

As you can see by some of the pictures the people are really beginning to worship "in spirit and in truth". That is a very exciting development in an African church. Mostly they are into dramatic dance and drum beat, which alone sounds great, but now they are developing a heart for God as well. We are very proud of them. In answer to prayer, someone from Brisbane sent money for Bibles. We had been discussing recently that we needed to purchase more Bibles for the prison inmates who had almost completed the new Christian classes. These courses are totally voluntary and open to whoever wishes to attend, so while we have a captive audience, they are there because they want to be.

We had a great time in Maputo recently. It is a huge city, a little like an older version of Sydney. There are lots of craft vendors who enjoy bartering. We were fortunate enough to even eat some potato wedges. The coastline of Maputo is very beautiful, and one of the men from the orphanage kindly drove us around for a bit of sight seeing.

Yes, we fell in love with several children. Several of the young girls decided they wanted to braid my hair "African style". I obliged, but oooh it hurt. A once in a life time experience. It took about three days in all with

breaks in between; so in case any of you ladies are thinking of having a go at the new style for fun, be warned - it looks great but takes a lot of patience and pain.

Unfortunately we were robbed on the Thursday night during the church service at Zimpeto. We lost a few sentimental items and cash. But God turned the whole situation around, from a sick pit in the stomach to a blessing. Many of the wonderful missionaries there gave very generously in finance and prayer and I am sure that we gained more than we lost.

Kyal and David loved Maputo and had trouble leaving all the children when it was time to come home to Beira. It was so easy to get attached to them. However they are back into school work now and settling down again. It is good to be back in Beira and to the people we know here.

Next month the ladies meetings begin, so we are all looking forward to that. God bless you all and thank you so much for your prayers and support, without which we couldn't survive.

Jay

Sum Up

Well there it is for another month. Thanks for your very generous support and your very generous prayers. Your gifts are making a tremendous difference. We are working solidly for our Lord, trying to gather what we can before the great and mighty day when He returns. As someone said - "We work as if He is never coming back - we live as though He is coming back tomorrow."

As I sum up this month's news, I am listening to a tape of what has become our catch song here at Mozambique Outreach - "Diving In" by Steven Curtis Chapman.

Briefly the words say - "**My heart is racing and my knees are weak as I walk to the edge. I know there is no turning back once my feet have left the ledge and in the rush I hear a voice that's telling me "It's time to take the leap of faith so here I go"**

CHRS - I'm diving in, I'm going deep In over my head I want to be caught in the rush, lost in the flow - In over my head I want to go - the river's deep, the river's wide - the river's water is alive - So sink or swim I'm diving in

There is a supernatural power in this mighty river's flow. It can bring the dead to life and it can fill an empty soul and give our heart the only thing worth living for. And we may never know the awesome power of the grace of God, until we let ourselves get swept away into this holy flood

So if you take my hand, we'll close our eyes and count to 3 and take the leap of faith.... come on let's go"

CHRS - I'm diving in, I'm going deep In over my head I want to be caught in the rush, lost in the flow - In over my head I want to go - the river's deep, the river's wide - the river's water is alive - So sink or swim I'm diving in

Can I encourage you to take the word that the Lord has spoken to you, to walk to the edge where it is scary, to close your eyes - trust Him with your life and dive in. You will find that He is there to catch you and make you soar to heights where you may never have been before and where you can feel His glory every day.

Until next month,

God Bless you,

Greg, Jay, Kyal and David