

# MOZNEWS

## MOZAMBIQUE OUTREACH NEWS 1 DECEMBER 2000

**Email: mozoutreach@teledata.mz**

**Issued by Email on request.**

(Make sure you give your email address when you write)

Pictures are sent to those who want them and can receive them in .jpeg format (hotmail won't receive)

**If you want to receive the photos with the news, please let us know. If you don't, please let us know.**

If you don't have email, please forward your postal address to our Australian Postal address below

**Australia: PO Box 500 Rochedale Sth, Qld 4123 AUSTRALIA +61 7 3841 5177**

**Mozambique: CP 1162 Beira, Mozambique AFRICA +258 3 322 981**

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

Support bank account: G and J Cumming - Mozambique Outreach - BSB 734 076 631 063 -  
Westpac Springwood - Brisbane - Australia. Cheques should be made out to "Mozambique  
Outreach" and mailed to PO Box 500 Rochedale Sth, Qld 4123 Australia

**This month we added another leader to our ranks, started construction on our guard's house, baptised 28 people, saw the Holy Spirit move incredibly in the prison, saw 110 people saved, Bibles were distributed, miracles happened, we completed translation on two new courses, fed many widows, commenced video preaching college. God is accelerating His work in Mozambique.**

### Trip Home

I had a good trip back, overnighing in Johannesburg. I spent a day in Maputo at Iris Ministries and finally, 2 full days from when I left Brisbane airport, I flew in to Beira and into the arms of my waiting family. Katie had even forgotten who I was. But not for long! We have had a very busy time since then, starting with handing out the very many presents you all gave while I was in Brisbane. It was like Christmas and I was so excited. The boys, Katie and Jay stayed up till 1.00am as I handed everything out. I got carried away and even handed out all the birthday and Chrissie pressies as well. Sorry!

### It's My Party

On Thursday morning, our church threw a party for me, with praise and worship and drama etc. One of our men even acted the part of me, Senhor Greg. He donned glasses and tried to speak English (Shy luv hoo evry mush (I love you very much)). This was followed by the very important jungle juice which the people really love. Many presents were given to me; two doves, 4 packets of spaghetti, some apples, a cake and 6 bottles of sprite. I am a blessed man. These gifts cost our church people a fortune. We couldn't bear to kill the doves to eat them, so the boys made a cardboard cage. They then upgraded it to a wooden cage with a card-board top. But when we came home from church the following Sunday, our home looked like it had been robbed and 'trashed'. Yes, the two doves had escaped and landed on every shelf item in the house, pulling most of them down. Alas, Jumpy and Flashy are now free birds.

### Can't Stop The Music

The prison, now run by our leader Arone (pronounced Aaron - who incidentally also has a brother Moses), has gone wild in the Holy Spirit. We normally praise the Lord for 10-15 minutes and then go into the message for the week. But three weeks ago things changed. Arone reports that when the scheduled praise and worship time was over, the prisoners wouldn't stop singing. "The power in the room was so strong, you could feel it". He said that for forty-five minutes he tried to stop the prisoners praying and praising. He shouted and even beat the drum, but the Holy Spirit was moving. Arone said he just had to get on his knees and pray. Since then, he has experienced this move amongst the prisoners weekly. In one meeting, 38 of the prisoners gave their hearts to the Lord, bringing the total to 91 saved in prison for the month.

In fact virtually everyone in the whole prison has come to the Lord. It is only the new prisoners who are getting saved. Even the warders stand at the back of the meeting because there is virtually no-one left in the cells to guard; they are all in the meeting praising God. The atmosphere is electric. Many prisoners have been released and now attend our church.

### **Youth Leader Out Of Prison**

Thanks to a generous gift from someone in Australia, our youth leader Manuel has paid his last instalment after over 4 years in prison. He was released this month. We have invited him to be on a part salary with Mozambique Outreach and he tells us he just wants to live the rest of his life for Jesus. Manuel and Judit are both very dedicated to their youth work and are a vital part of our church. They are sending four of our most committed youth away to a big farm near the city of Chimoio in the neighbouring province (200km away) to do an intensive teen missions course for six weeks.

Manual is also running a crack drama team who will be evangelising in the markets, on the streets and in the villages.

### **Baptism**

On my first Sunday back, we baptised another 28 people. You must picture the scene. We are standing next to a 600 litre concrete block tank, that has been filled with muddy water from a distant well - 32 trips. It is a stiflingly hot day and we are under the shade of the mango trees on our Manga block of land. We can hear singing in the distance. It is our youth. The happy voices are getting closer, and soon we see them dancing in their brightly coloured clothes as they come to give their lives further to Jesus by being publicly baptised. As they arrive we sing a few more songs, and then the ladies get ready to be baptised and form a line. The first woman into the water has a demon and severely thrashes around in the water before we cast it out, give her some on-the-spot counselling and then re-baptise her (Not sure if all that is scriptural - I mean about re-baptising, but seems to work fine). I then inform all the people who are lined up that if they have ever visited a witch doctor to go with one of our leaders for prayer and to repent and renounce their activities. Most of the people leave with the leader - witchcraft is a way of life here. After that there was no trouble. We have trained our leaders to baptise people, so they did the work. There were many children being baptised so we did them in tandem - two at a time.

### **New Leader**

We welcome Ordanza Luis to our ranks. He is an experienced man with a background of church leadership. He has good Bible knowledge and is a very strong evangelist. His wife Regina is also a great woman. Though she is completely illiterate, she has a strong Bible knowledge. Her favourite scripture is Acts 9:37 about Dorcas - a woman of good works and charitable deeds. This describes her exactly.

Our motto is that if we build strong foundations, we will end up with a strong building. So we are taking the time and resources to train our leaders well. We place them in very challenging situations and watch them as they succeed, moving on to new levels of their spiritual development

Home group leaders are already training their people to pray for the sick, and consequently our people are very active in preaching the gospel and praying effectively for the sick

### **Profile Of A Leader**

Each month we would like to include a short profile with photos of our leaders and their families so that you can know who they are and learn a little of their background. Many of you have said that you pray for them, and some donate specifically for our leaders. So here is the first of our profiles.

#### **Arone Augusto**

Arone (Aaron) Augusto, now 23 years old, was born in the central Mozambican city of Chimoio in the province of Manica. He has 4 brothers (including one called Moses) and 3 sisters (No Miriams). It is very unusual for a Mozambican to come from a Christian family, but that is exactly the kind of family Arone is from. A third generation Christian, Arone remembers being forced to go to church. But at 10 years old he accepted Jesus as his saviour and 'things changed' for him. From being a shy boy, he became a bold preacher - his first message was on Abraham and God's promises.

He worked hard as a youngster, waking at 4.30am to do his daily duties before walking to school. During the Mozambique civil war he remembers the daily sounds of artillery fire over his house as the war raged around them. He also remembers vividly people walking up the road crying, some having lost limbs - innocent casualties of war.

Arone knew the value of speaking English in a non-English speaking country, and quickly taught himself by reading any English material he could find. At 17 he went to Teen Missions for intensive practical Christian training. The following year he was selected to be a leader there.

In 1996 he worked in an orphanage in Inhambane followed by work with various missionaries. He continued schooling for two years in Mozambique's capital city - Maputo (1200km south of Beira). It was after this that he moved to Beira, working for a company - ZIM trade.

In March of this year, 2000, he was selected as the official translator for CNN news during the floods in Mozambique, and travelled around in a helicopter with the news crew to the affected sites

In late March, Arone joined Mozambique Outreach as one of our senior staff. He says that he has experienced a major spiritual change since joining with us, and is experiencing things he has never experienced before. He enjoys everything he does with us - which includes both oral and written translation. He runs our children's church, teaches New Christian Classes and runs the Foundation Course. He is soon to start teaching a new third level course for us - "Prosperous Living". His most challenging assignment is in the prison. Arone runs the ministry there, which includes preaching, teaching and visitation. This year he saw his first miracle as he prayed for a prisoner. Since then he has seen God heal many people each week. He regularly sees people saved as he preaches - a first for him. This month he saw 38 saved in one meeting. With the Lord's leading, he has taken the prison from a violent, dangerous place to a place with nearly 100% professing faith in God through Jesus.

Arone hopes to study at Bible College and study journalism. His desire is to see a Christian newspaper which reports on what the Lord is doing in Mozambique, and to have the biggest and most effective Children's church in the land.

### **War Again In Mozambique?**

There has been a serious threat of civil war again in Mozambique.

Leader of the Mozambican opposition party (Renamo), Alfonso Dhlakama, has stated that his party will return to the bush and take up arms to win its rightful place in the government.

THIS threat has sparked both outrage and fear in a war-scarred COUNTRY that has doggedly crawled its way out of a 16-year civil war that saw Mozambique classified as the world's poorest nation just eight years ago to the fastest-growing economy on the globe.

Last week we heard of bloody nation-wide demonstrations that saw Renamo mobs seize police stations, government offices, telephone exchanges, and arms and ammunition right across the country. The rioting left 41 dead, an estimated 200 injured, and another 200 demonstrators behind bars.

Later reports say that 45 Renamo prisoners were killed while held in prison, supposedly poisoned.

We are praying for peace here daily, and have intensified our own efforts to see people saved they be called up again for military service.

### **Constipation - Here's a Giggle**

We were amused that people often asked through the translator, "How is your constipation?"

We thought it was a bit of a rude question, or at least unthoughtful. Sometimes we even thought - "How did they know?" However, we found out that the Portuguese word, Constipazao (translated by our guys as constipation) actually refers to a blocked up nose.

### **Jay's Column**

Greg returned from Pastors' conference in Australia with bags jam-packed full of goodies. We all sat around eagerly waiting for the surprises to be revealed; Kyal and David waiting for nintendo games while I was watering at the mouth waiting for some Real Cadbury chocolate. Well, the boys were blessed with their hearts desires - and more! However, after Greg had gorged himself sufficiently in Australia on all the finest foods money could buy, he discovered, on leaving, that he had too much weight in his luggage to fit the choccy bars in. Hell hath no fury like a chocolate-starved Aussie woman in Mozambique. The family is still working on forgiveness in that area.

The boys, however, are happy that their education material still hasn't arrived. I have resigned myself to the fact that God knows, and the boys aren't sweating it out, so why should I!

Just before Greg came home our church enjoyed a bonfire night on the new land. After several hours of laborious work to clear the block, we had a raging fire to dance around. The afternoon had threatened rain, but held off long enough for us to all enjoy ourselves with a time of worship and prayer, followed by short preaching and cooked sweet potatoes. Then it bucketed down. Our members headed for their stick and stone homes, where they remained safe and dry.

I would love to tell you that the food has become exotic and tasty and that we now have an air conditioned 4x4 to negotiate the dirt roads and flooded rural areas, but that has all yet to come. In fact I have become more aware of the racism from the dark skinned people against us "whites" this month as we are seen walking together. This is possibly

highlighted because of Kate, and perhaps is jealousy that one of their own is seen to be blessed more than they. Nowadays one of our church members carries Kate as we walk, which avoids problems. My first new programme is to increase the food and medical distribution to the desperate people, starting with our widows. We have been blessed with a small amount of rice and mealy meal to distribute this week. As you may know, we have a visitation program on Thursdays. This involves going to the little humble houses and “seeing where the people are at” both spiritually and physically; one of my favourite activities. For these people just to have a pastor visit is a huge buzz, and speaks mountains of love. Many of them walk a very long way to get to church and then home again, so it is a pleasure to me to duck into their bamboo huts and sing and pray and help in any way we can. Many of the older generation speak N’dao, a dialect I am not familiar with, but fortunately the team I visit with is able to work with me and translate my Portuguese into whichever dialect is necessary. When I visit the people, in many cases all that is required is a simple prayer. At other times more is required, like transport money to get them to a medical clinic. Whatever the need, we are happy to be able to help. It is our job to bring Jesus to the people.

Mama Amelia, who is about 50 years old but looks absolutely antique, was the mother of Nina who unfortunately we buried earlier in the year. We were seriously worried that Amelia would die shortly afterwards too. We had her blood count taken by a Dorcas aid clinic - 4.8. They told us she more than likely had AIDS, but a test at her age was not worth the cost. Well, we keep an eye on her, but she is still going strong and walks an immense distance to church. To add to this, she doesn’t understand Portuguese, so she would not understand a word at the Sunday church service at all.

Thank you for your help in contributing to another month of success for the people of Mozambique. They desperately need it. We all greatly appreciate your kindness.  
JAY

### **Sum Up**

#### **Rosa’s Encounter With The God Who Can’t Stop Loving**

For those who wonder if their financial gifts or prayers actually make any difference, I just want to close this month’s news with the amazing story of Rosa our housekeeper.

You may remember last month that Rosa’s daughter Zita was close to death - so close that without medical help she would have died within a few hours. When we heard the news of her condition, Jay raced over to Rosa’s house in the village area in the dead of night, and rushed Zita to hospital in the back of the Mozmobile.

Flashing a \$5 note - a lot of money in Moz, she was led through to the doctor. She paid a little more money for an X ray, which revealed a huge cyst the size of a large orange. Immediate operation was necessary, but only after payment - \$35 AUD (about \$18US). This was paid and Zita had the operation, stayed in hospital for a week, and walked out a very healthy and happy young woman. In total it had cost \$50AUD (\$27USD) - an impossible amount for the average Mozambican. But your gift saved her life.

If that was the end of the story, it would have been enough of a blessing, but three weeks ago Zita came to church with her very thankful mother, heard the message of God’s love and gave her heart to Jesus (See picture). But there is still more. Rosa asked us to come back to her small home so she could bless us with jungle juice and a cake, and we, at the same time, would bless her house. So, accompanied by 30 adults from church, we walked through the heavy rain, along the back tracks to Rosa’s home. Once inside the dark unlit home, we sang and then Rosa shared that her whole family had difficulty sleeping because of terrible nightmares and the sound every night of someone walking on the roof when there was no one there. No one ever got a good night’s sleep. So we prayed. We anointed the house with oil and told the devil where he was not staying, and asked the Lord to put a hedge of protection around the house.

The following week another three of her children came to church and got saved. Apparently the change was so dramatic at home after the prayer that there were no more bad dreams at all, and the children were sleeping so soundly that Rosa had to wake them all up in the mornings. Now Zita is on fire for God. She can’t wait for Saturday youth group, and on Sunday mornings she is getting all the family out of home at 8.30am to be at church by 9.30am for prayer. She has completed two new Christian classes and is now a part of the team that preaches in the prison. Her sister has also started new Christian classes. Rosa, who is a widow with ten children, said that her whole household, which has resisted God for so long, is now at church - everyone. She said God has blessed her and answered her prayers. The story for Rosa’s household has only just begun. All this because of \$A50, prayer and a God who cannot help lavishing his love on people.

Yes, your gifts and prayers are making incredible changes in people’s lives. Thank you.

### **God Bless You**

**Greg, Jay, Kyal, David and Katie**