

MOZNEWS

MOZAMBIQUE OUTREACH NEWS
1 FEBRUARY 2000

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Another incredible month here in Mozambique Africa.

1 January 2000 - Baptism Service

We kicked off the new millennium with a mighty baptism service at 7.00am where about 40 people gathered on the African coastline to praise the Lord. 25 people who had prayed all night were gloriously baptized. The power of the Holy Spirit came upon many. Some were completely overcome by His presence and we had to have them carried to shore.

One demon manifested violently as soon as the lady's head touched the water. It took 5 men just to hold her as the demon thrashed and growled. It didn't want her to get her life right with the King of Kings. Pastor Anacleto dealt with the demon on the shore while more people obeyed Jesus in baptism. It was a great way to start the new 1000 years.

Witch Doctors

A very popular belief is that one can go to a witch doctor to be healed of infirmities and disease. The witch doctor will call for a dead relative to come and live within the sick person. A demon then enters the person, but the poor person thinks that it is their grandmother who is living in them, and although it brings them untold misery, they are reluctant to give it up because they think that they would be casting out their own grandmother. This is part of the horrific animist beliefs here. Unfortunately it is a very popular belief and has a great hold on many. But that's exactly the area where the Holy Spirit is having a field day when the people are correctly taught.

Ministry

Demons run away

As I entered one church (which is in Dondo -30kms from Beira) a picture of a snake came straight into my mind. So I mentioned politely that God had told me that satan was alive and well in this church through idols and familiar spirits. So I asked those who had idols in their homes to raise their hands - 7 raised their hands including pastors. Incredibly though, only 2 wanted to get rid of their idols. At that point a demon could not handle the heat of the presence of the Holy Spirit and manifested. This poor lady was out of control growling, shaking and hissing in the congregation, so we went down and prayed for her - a loud scream and she was silent.

Then another demon felt the crushing power of Jesus. Growling, groaning, general dog like response. Again prayer and again submission and quiet.

Then I had call for souls - about 20 came forward and began repenting. One lady was getting louder and louder until she too was gripped by a demon which threw her to the ground - not violently - but she had a baby on her chest - it slowly left her and we led her to the Lord in prayer. Praise God - she was free. After

the service I instructed the pastors on familiar spirits and how the church needed some counseling on these demon, familiar spirits. The pastors were amazed at the power of the Holy Spirit particularly at how the demons submit in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

The wonderful thing was - I did virtually nothing. Just preached the good news, presented Jesus, told them to give up their idols - never shouted or raised my voice - just let the Holy Spirit be Himself. I am learning a lot about our friend - the Holy Spirit.

I was treated to some specially prepared African drink and then left.

The Holy Spirit Is Boss

In one meeting, the Holy Spirit just descended in an instant and many people were being healed at the same time. Words of knowledge were flowing with crystal clear accuracy and this resulted in 40 people responding when I asked for people who had been seeking with prayer and fasting for the presence of God. They knelt and as one cried out to God for more of His presence. The hunger for God here is something I have never seen before - anywhere.

Prayer For The Dead

Had to mention the funeral where Anacleto and I told the funeral procession that we wanted to give it one last shot at raising the dead man. Yes we did that. I still laugh when I think of the look on the faces of 100 traffic policemen and women (it was a police funeral - as we laid hands on the top of the coffin and began to pray loudly in tongues expecting a knock to come from within). Unfortunately for our reputations, Timothy a fine Christian policeman was buried and is with the Lord today. And we lived to learn that we have a lot to learn. The police I think appreciated the sentiment and our zeal. I just know that one day the lid will pop open and astound the people - but then only Jesus will get the glory.

Rolland and Heidi Baker's pastors from Dondo rose 2 from the dead last month. God is still the boss.

Prayer And More Prayer

We have upped our corporate staff prayer to 1 hour per day - from 8 am till 9am. 2 leaders have joined us, Luis and Joao. One morning Francis fell back into a chair with fear as we prayed because he saw, for the first time in his life, a huge angel coming towards him.

Just after this Luis was "forced" to the ground, his heart pounding as the Holy Spirit filled the room in an instant. He said that he just felt a great force upon him and he was very scared because he had never felt such power before. The Lord is moving here in Mozambique.

Luis said that he has noticed a major difference in his church now, in authority and also in people flocking to his church, since he began to call on God for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Other churches that we have been to also have mentioned that the meetings are "hot" with the presence of God.

We are soon to be praying corporately for 3 one hour sessions throughout the week days. Prayer will be our main focus in our pastor training.

Ministry Training Centre

We have acquired the use of a ministry training centre in the middle of town which will be used to train our pastors. It is ideal because of its location. It is actually being purchased by AOG Africans and we are subleasing it. There are a few civil obstacles to overcome before we can move in to renovate it and make it ready for pastor training.

Family Arrives At Last

I drove up to Harare on Wednesday and Jay, Kyal and David flew in on the Thursday. It was brilliant to see them again. Harare is dangerous for visitors in foreign cars. 3 missionaries from Beira have recently been robbed by gangs of thieves while in Harare, so we taxied where we could. We stayed at the home of Vic and Nikky Ferreira who have a beautiful home and at times look after missionaries from Mozambique. Vic is in the export business and Nikky is a wonderful intercessor.

Get The Visas Or Return To Aus

Residential visas are not easy to obtain quickly usually - sometimes 2 weeks sometimes not at all, but as I applied, I could tell the lady behind the desk was going to make it hard for me. But she made a quick call to the director who ordered her to process them. So she did. We had them back in 3 days (over a weekend) - so they were actually passed instantly. Praise God. Without those we would have been coming straight back to Australia.

Bumbled In On The Boss

As for our Zimbabwe multi entry visas which normally take one week to process - I got lost in the bowels of Zimbabwe immigration and then accidentally stumbled into an office where the head boss was. He invited me in and asked what I wanted. I told him I needed visas and he said "No problem, I'll do it for you. Just bring them to me". We had those back the same day we applied. Praise the Lord again.

A White Woman's First Impressions Of Africa

God has been really good to me as he led me into Africa gently. Many people are aware that I was actually born in Africa but I remember little about the country. We touched down on African soil in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe. The plane trip had been long but very comfortable. Greg met us at the airport after we had cleared through customs. The most difficult part was that between our two boys and myself we had far too much luggage with no help. It is hard for a mum when your 8 year old child is struggling with bags he cannot carry and you have more than enough of your own plus lolly bags, books etc. Never the less we did manage and fell into the helpful arms of Greg and the cab driver he had hired to help.

Our first destination was to stay in the home of a lovely couple Vic and Nikky who the Lord had miraculously provided for us, until we could get the appropriate paper work completed to make our journey to Beira. Satan had his first shot at me there as I was extremely sick for nearly 24 hours, with a migraine headache, but also continual vomiting. "Welcome to Africa " I could hear him saying. God got the glory in the end as we had met some wonderful faith filled people who heard about the situation and prayed for me and took me to a local hospital. So I rapidly regained my health.

The next few days:

The following few days were clothed in fear as I had been told many people particularly missionaries with Mozambican number plates (which we had) had been held up and as a result, lost all their possessions. Our car was loaded to the brim with gear from Australia that we had successfully transported over by plane (computer equipment and other office associated materials). So we were sitting ducks for any "would be" thieves. But God protected us miraculously and although the boys and I spent many hours all up locked inside a hot car (you could not leave the car unattended in town) ,we were safe.

The next step was to get through the boarder crossing. It was highly likely that all our possession would be unpacked by the guards and searched (more than likely to see if they liked the look of our gear).

We had two gates to pass through the boys and I prayed in the car while Greg did the appropriate paper work again. Finally he returned to the car and we drove through the first gate, more paper work, more praying , handed the guard the documents and were told to drive on! A Miracle! Simply unheard of.

MOZAMBIQUE HERE WE COME

The scenery in Mozambique is simply superb. The mountains are very picturesque and the weather is lovely - hot, but lovely.

In all this I failed to mention we had no air conditioning apart from one small side window on my side and the drivers window with four of us in the front . I absolutely hate the heat, but God was so good, it was comfortable and His grace was and is sufficient for me, thus I coped amazingly well.

Beira:

There are many details I have not been able to mention to avoid dragging things out for you. As we drove into Beira, I found myself stunned. Stunned at the housing or lack thereof. The buildings were dirty by Australian standards and I could not believe that I was going to live here although I was fully prepared for what God wanted from me, I simply had not seen poverty first hand like this before. Greg drove us into our home. By this time I was feeling down. From air conditioning in Brisbane and beautiful green grass and swimming pools to sand, dirt, heat, poor roads and very basic housing by Aussie standards. No shopping centres ladies, no quaint coffee shops, no botanical gardens or manicured lawns. Welcome to Beira, a desolate country crying out for God, so open and in so much need.

God's grace once again came through and within 10 minutes I felt at home. What did it ? The love of the people. Nothing mattered any more. Our home was and is comfortable, my husband has employed some local carpenters (with no power tools) to construct a chest of drawers and two tables for us to use. They are beautiful.

No, water is not regular and electricity is a little unreliable, but everyone is in the same boat and Greg has organised our water storage brilliantly, and we have pedestal fans in each room to cope with the heat.

We have a Home manager who is delightful, a facilitator for Mozambique outreach and a guard. Theft is high and alarm systems don't exist. But we are well looked after by the Mozambicans, who are the sweetest people on earth. They teach us Portuguese and we teach a little English, although Francis our facilitator speaks English well and interprets the preaching for the Mozambicans,

I have a few things from home which make our house warm and reflect who we are. This I feel is essential to anyone planning to be involved in long term missionary work. I did however bring too many clothes and should not have brought jewellery at all as you are asking to be robbed. My camera is a concern for me but I need it to record the work here, so we pray daily for protection of our car, health and possessions.

Our children:

Naturally the boys wanted to play with the children on the property but were discouraged as they could not communicate.

For Kyal , our eldest, this challenge is already being overcome as he is learning the language, and has chosen to use the computer to teach Razao, our home manager how to speak English. His personality is positive and will get him through anything. God bless him.

David is younger, huge in stature compared to the children here, and quieter, but he will get along fine, just a little more in his own time.

We link up with other Aussie missionaries from time to time who are in the same area but work with the AOG . It is truly wonderful to be with people where flavour of church or race is of nil importance.

I appreciate the relationship with God that we all have here as it is vital that we pray daily for direction, health, finance, protection etc. and God really comes through miraculously, and the children see that first hand. David our youngest had a wart come up on his finger, something we battled with in Australia in every way we could. We prayed for it and over night it disappeared. Praise God. When we really have only Him to rely on He comes through to meet our faith.

Kyal's impressions

Kyal is ten years old. He says "living here is like an adventure. It is a strange climate because it is very hot and not as modern as Australia. We have three really good helpers Francis, Razao and Saldeira. They are dark skinned and they are really friendly, like big brothers. I like it here a lot because so many people are friendly and respect us, so we feel welcomed. We can't really understand what they are saying but we are learning Portuguese from Francis and Dad. Many people wouldn't come because of it's hot climate but as a family we are really enjoying it."

David's impressions

David is eight years old. He says" It is very hot and when the electricity goes off you can't get to sleep and we think that the lights are turned off but when the electricity comes back on the lights come back on as well. We went to the lion park, we saw elephants, giraffes, lions, cheetas, a three hundred year old tortoise and every African animal. It is fun in Africa because it is a different culture and we can't have a shower till the water comes on. The people are very strange. Francis'

wife is very beautiful and Francis is a nice man. We take Saldiera dinner at night when he is on guard. Love David"

Schooling

The children start home schooling officially on 31ST January. They are doing their Maths and English by a computer program and will learn most other things as we go daily, ie social studies, language, how to generally survive in a foreign country, and their Christian studies I will teach myself. There is an international school here that is English speaking but it would cost about \$7000 Australian dollars a year to send both children there. It has only 21 students and three teachers. The teachers are paid about \$100 Aussie dollars a month, so the school owner pockets the rest.

What happens next?

The Lord is leading me to teach the women here who Jesus is and who they are in Him, to lift their self images and blossom into who God wants them to be. I am waiting on Him for His timing as to when to start and how best to go about it. First I will get our children established into a daily routine of life. I am here to support my husband in the vision God has given him for the country and to help train Pastors.

Jay

So there it is. Another great month. Particularly wonderful to be together again as a family after 2 ½ months apart. We are having a small break to be together and for the adjustment needed by Jay and boys to the different continent, country, culture, currency and language. As someone described it - "Mozambique is like walking in to a train smash". But the task is great and we are too small - so only our great Lord can fulfill this job of seeing Mozambique come to Jesus Christ.

God Bless you and thanks for your prayer and support,

Greg Cumming