

# MOZNEWS

## MOZAMBIQUE OUTREACH NEWS

1 JULY 2000

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**Another brilliant month in Mozambique Africa. It was a month of crusades, pastors' conferences and international ministry coming to Beira. We stepped out past our comfort level on many occasions but felt His hand supporting us each time we did. People's lives continue to be the biggest impact of our work here, and for that we are grateful to our God.**

### Praying for the Dead

Death here is nearly as common as malaria, which is as common as the cold.

In Australia, and no doubt most 'westernised' countries, if somebody dies it is usually a shock, and we genuinely ask "What could possibly have gone wrong?", and it usually occurs only after the hospitals and doctors have done their very best and used the latest equipment and medicines available.

On the other hand, Mozambique has a very high mortality rate and the highest infant mortality rate in Africa (135 babies out of every one thousand die before they reach one year old)

Here, it's as though someone dies every other day, and it has become so common that even we have begun to get used to it. We are amazed that many 28 - 30 year olds finally succumb to malaria after having suffered from it many, many times throughout their lives.

Unfortunately, the daughter of one of our church family members died from what Jay thinks was an ectopic pregnancy - very painful and of course lethal. She was 20 years old. Therefore, as Jesus' "anointed ones" (Christians), we had occasion to pray for a dead person. It was very overcast and miserable, I had a cold, our two children had colds, and suddenly all of our faith-filled believers thought we had gone "loco" when we told them that it would save on funeral costs and stop the mourning if we simply raised the girl from the dead. (It was a perfect opportunity for God to get all the glory). We drove to the village area where the body was. She had been dead for over 24 hours. Pastor Anacleto had turned up to give a lesson to the college students, and ended up on a field trip (practical lesson).

When we arrived at the home, just like Jesus, we requested that the 15 or so mourners leave the house. Jay and I were with Anacleto and Luis, our trainee leader (to show him how it is done so that he can teach others 2 Tim 2:2). I laid hands on Nina's forehead (cold as ice) and, began to pray for her with great gusto between coughs and sniffles (mine). Jay was in full form, commanding death to leave and calling life back into Nina's body. At one point I said "I think she's breathing" but alas, it was my zealous hand on her forehead, moving it to and fro which tricked me. Finally after half an hour, I preached a little sermon to God in prayer - "Where is the God of Elijah?" and we prayed for Nina again. (All of this was happening with the sound of saw and hammer in the background, as the church members were outside building a coffin out of the front door and bed of the deceased).

Then we gave the father some money for the cloth to cover the body and went home.

So we have prayed for the dead twice now. Both times the bodies have been buried, the individuals themselves walking the streets of gold most likely very happy that we had not succeeded in "bringing 'em back".

However, as Jay said on the way home in the car; "This does not discourage me. It makes me want to pray for more dead people. One of these days that body will begin to twitch and shake and come back to life, and God will be glorified"

A very positive side to this prayer for the dead was that Nina's father gave up drinking and came to church and gave his heart to the Lord as a result of our going and praying for his daughter. Glory to God.

### **Prison Ministry**

We started prison ministry this month in the surliest looking prison that I have seen. We went in with a team of 5 from our church plus Arone and myself. After a couple of good gospel songs in Sena which the prisoners sang along to wholeheartedly, I preached on salvation (the first of 10 messages). The Holy Spirit moved, and a total of 42 people (35 men and 7 women) committed their lives to Jesus. It was an amazing sight as these men and women, despite their criminal past, presented themselves so humbly to the Lord. We took down their names and addresses (same address for all). We then finished with a song that the prisoners initiated - "When Jesus passed through here - everything changed - sadness left and happiness came"

The following week our class swelled to 82 and a further 47 gave their hearts to the Lord.

In our third meeting, with a church team that has increased to 14, I spoke on the subject of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We had a class of 101 prisoners, including 37 new people. The Holy Spirit moved powerfully, healing many of the prisoners of headaches and conjunctivitis. Many were baptised in the Holy Spirit, many speaking in tongues. Glory to Him. The prison has 500 prisoners, over one fifth of them attending our lesson on Tuesday afternoons.

Sadly as I listen to their stories, I realise that many should not even be in the prison. In many cases a person is innocently imprisoned because someone else is paying bribes to keep him there. Stealing a chicken carries a 5 year sentence.

Another problem is determining at what point the term actually starts. Their term starts after judgement, but judgement may be years after they begin their time in prison, due to the loss of documents etc. or how much they can afford to pay. Their time spent in prison before their judgement isn't taken into account. For example, a person may be in prison 4 years before his case comes before the judge. Then the judge will sentence him to 5 years for that particular crime - giving him a total of 9 years in prison. The 4 years that he has already spent there means nothing. His 5 years starts from the day the judge passes sentence.

A young man from another district came to Beira, was arrested, and to this day his family does not know where he is. So we are praying for them to receive God's help in these difficult situations. (See Picture)

### **New Christian Classes**

Arone's new Christian Classes have grown to 21 on Mondays and 10 on Saturdays. We presented our first certificates of completion of this course this month along with new Bibles. (See Picture)

### **Crusade**

Bjornan Heimstad - international evangelist from Norway - hit Beira with some powerful gospel messages translated into Portuguese and Sena. He preached at the Manga football grounds and the crowd grew each night. The people were nearly 100% responsive to the gospel of Jesus and came forward to write their names and addresses down on special salvation slips. We have since organised 6 local pastors to do follow up visitations. Along with our team we are in the process of following up over 800 people who responded. This task was not a simple one as people don't have what we consider a real address. There are road numbers for the big main roads, and then it's a matter of asking people on the way, 'Do you know where Isabella Felipe lives?' - "Oh yes, she lives near the third coconut tree on the left after the creek with four rocks".

The Holy Spirit helped us by leading us to key people who knew others.

They have since come to church and received salvation. (See Picture)

### **Visiting Ministry**

We had the privilege of having Guy Chevereau for dinner while he was here at an Iris Ministry pastors' conference. Guy is from the airport church in Toronto, and was visiting Roland and Heidi Baker in Maputo. Many from COC would remember Guy when he came to speak in Brisbane last year. Unfortunately he lost his voice when he arrived in Beira. Beira has that effect on some people.

### **Baptism**

We had a wonderful baptism in the surf on the day before Mozambique's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence. We 'bussed' the people down to the beach from the district area of Manga. The Lord had provided a quiet surf. Despite it being mid winter, the water was not too cold and 17 people who have been recently saved in our church were gloriously baptised amid the singing of the other church members on the shore. We had only one demon manifest this time, but as usual it submitted to the power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name and we re-baptised this lady after she renounced her visits to the

witch doctor. The local fishermen seemed undaunted by the proceedings, and continued their net fishing a few feet behind us as the people were baptised. (See Picture).

We felt a great sense of the fulfilment of Matthew 28:19 (The great commission) as we baptised the people. We have preached the gospel here, seen them born again and baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and seen many of these beautiful people complete the 10 week new Christians classes and receive Bibles. We are thankful to the Lord for His goodness.

### **Widows**

We completed another widow's home this month and were able to feed some others. We managed to help one young widow whose baby was so undernourished that it would have died without intervention.

An older widow had a blood count of an incredible 4.8. According to the doctor it was amazing that she was even still walking. He said that most likely she has aids. Many people seem to have this disease here. We were able to buy some tablets for her and some food, and our church people are continuing to look after her.

We helped other widows by delivering large bags of rice from district area farms. (See Picture)

### **Jay's Column**

Wow, what a month! BJ our Norwegian evangelist and friend came, preached and left. Our faithful church members headed for the villages, visiting all the people whose names we had as contacts from the crusade. We have seen many new faces come to our meetings, and understand that several other local churches have found the same results.

Winter finally arrived in Beira, which has been a welcome relief. We still use the fans at night time, but we get to wear jackets and jeans a bit more, which is great.

This month I actually attempted some Portuguese preaching. Or a few lines at least. One night I had difficulty sleeping, so I stayed up and read the Portuguese dictionary. The people here are very patient and help me through, but slowly I am finding the language easier to grasp, although most times you cannot do a direct English/ Portuguese translation. There are far fewer Portuguese words to English.

To date I have held off from having ladies meetings as I do not have a female interpreter, and it is not the same with a male, but with God's help I plan to start in the next few weeks, Just me and the women, a dictionary, and a Portuguese /English Bible..

Kyal and David are really going well, both mixing with the local children and managing to communicate effectively. In fact people say that Kyal speaks Portuguese more than all of us, which is not surprising, but doesn't help the ego either. So we are all trying harder.

Well David Hogan, we followed in your footsteps, yes we laid hands on the dead - stone-cold dead, and prayed. After half an hour of effective fervent prayer in a tiny bamboo and rock room, with a candle burning, the young 20 year old did not get up. We returned home to listen to some of David Hogan's teaching on the subject, so we are ready to try again: but our primary purpose, though, is to keep people alive.

Speaking of this, we managed to save the life of a severely malnourished baby, Manuel. He is one year old and looked like a skinned rabbit. Now his mother has powdered milk to feed him, and will eventually get government help for a while. She has a smile on her face and hope in her heart. While it is only one little life, it is one that we will never forget.

We have also been able to assist Amelia, the mother of the poor girl we buried. At the moment she is on vitamins to build up her strength, and she too has hope in her life. To be able to minister the love of God to these people in such a way is a blessing. We have organised two of our church members to train for a week or two with our friends at Dorcas in the nursing arena. Then the Mozambicans will be able to pray first for their infirm friends and families. Those who don't get immediate relief can obtain simple medical aid. The malaria season is almost gone now, so the death toll in Beira is dropping. As I type, a mosquito landed on my arm, as if to say "That's what you think". Unfortunately I missed it. **Jay**

### **Sum Up**

The months seem to rush by, and so much seems to happen each month. Jay and I agree that this is the biggest adventure that our children have ever experienced. Every week they see people getting saved and healed.

We are continually grateful for our Heavenly Father's leading. Sometimes we think that He is moving so quickly that we cannot keep up, and sometimes we think that He is not moving fast enough. But then we stop and reflect on what He is doing and realise that He is creating a strong, deep work here - that will last a long time.

Thank you for your prayers. Without them we cannot hope to operate effectively and meet the people's needs. Thank you also for your financial support . It is giving us the physical ammunition (Bibles, medicine, building blocks, etc.) to impact people's lives.

God bless you.

Greg Jay, Kyal and David