

MOZNEWS

MOZAMBIQUE OUTREACH NEWS

1 JUNE 2000

Issued by Email on request.

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

Pictures are sent to those who can receive them in .jpeg format

Email: mozoutreach@teledata.mz

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

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(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

Ministry

This month has been yet another month of growth and we are still seeing people saved and many healed.

We prayed for an older lady for a stomach complaint. As I prayed for her, she went stiff and began to shake. Her eyes seemed to be locked - on nothing - in a horrible stare. Realising that it was a demon, we continued to pray for her and then when the demon had slowly left her, we were able to lead her to the Lord. She renounced her trust and visits to witch doctors and experiences with ancestral spirits (demons). Then the Lord gave us a very clear word of knowledge of when she was a girl of 5 and how that He had held her hand even then as she ran with her 7 year old sister through a field of grass. She began to weep (quite uncommon even among the ladies) and we later found out that all of her brothers and sisters were dead but this picture was exactly what had happened when she was a little girl. Praise the Lord. Now she has cut off the witch doctor bands from her arms and she is coming regularly to church. The darkness in her countenance is has turned into joy and life.

New Christian Classes

These classes are continuing to grow, swelling to 14 committed people. We are very excited about them because the people know virtually nothing about God and the Bible when they start. They are growing so much. Many walk for one hour just to get to class. After the 10 lessons, each student gets a certificate and a brand new Bible (Portuguese).

Widows

This month, we have been able to repair some widows' homes which were destroyed in the cyclone. Volunteer builders from our church trekked through thick undergrowth to village areas carrying bags of cement, bamboo, rocks, thatching, nails, doors and locks to rebuild these homes. How they were living in those blown over houses with caved in roofs, I don't know. They resembled piles of rubbish more than houses. However, thanks to the Lord and your giving, we have been able to put these ladies and their children into newish homes, dry, warm and safe. (Pictures)

James 1:27 "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

Prison

One place to try and avoid in Mozambique, is prison. The Beira prison is particularly frightening both from the outside and the inside. Because it is in the middle of town, one can look up and see the inmates with their arms and legs hanging out from between the bars in the windows. They shout out as you walk pass. Sometimes we are glad we only have limited Portuguese at this stage. I don't know that I want to know what they are shouting at us. The people inside are stuffed in , and the place is like a rats' den. (Picture)

However, we began new Christian classes in the Beira prison this month. We were invited to visit a young lady who is an inmate there, and we have started her on the Foundation Course that we are teaching in church. She is very excited about the lessons.

We are starting a weekly Bible Course in the prison in June - open to all the inmates who want to attend.

There is a joy in this type of ministry that comes from fulfilling a certain scripture:

Matthew 25 '... I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Children's Church

The "neighbourhood" children continue to astound us. They sit on mats in the hot sun for 2 hours and don't seem to mind as they absorb the Word of God from Arone. (Kyal and David help, teach, sing and act). Each Wednesday service they recite their memory verses and sing to the delight of all the youth and adults. Our children are extremely important to us. In just 5 or so years they will be our youth, in just 10 or so years they will be the young men and women of Beira, and not long after that the leaders of the country. We are trying to prepare them to become righteous leaders in the coming years. (Picture)

Mozchildren's News - by Arone Augusto

God said: "Come on children, Listen to me I'll teach you the fear of the Lord" Psalm 34:11.

Of course that is what is happening during children's church in Manga at Francis' place under the trees. The lessons started (3) three weeks ago and the children are responding to the lessons according to Psalm 34:11.

The first lesson was on the 7th of May where 104 children attended. The teacher that day was Kyal (10) and he was marvellous, teaching them about Daniel in the Lions den. The Children's News Network (CNN) interviewed him.

CNN: Why did you teach about Daniel in the lions' den?

Kyal : Teaching Daniel in the lions den was for the children to learn how to pray to God and obey Him as Daniel did.

CNN: How did you feel teaching the children?

K: It was excellent because the children were obedient and attentive to the teaching.

CNN: Do you think the children responded to your teaching?

K: Yes because they were very interested in what I was saying. My main aim was for them to know that God wants obedient children and He listens to our prayers.

CNN: Just to finish would you like to say anything?

K: Sure, to tell you that the children are eager to learn and we need to consider them.

Arone Augusto is our children's church leader and has a group of over 100 children each week in his class

Locusts And Wild Honey

Someone said that the locusts that John the Baptist ate were not real locusts. I think the argument was - "How could anyone actually believe that people eat grasshoppers?"

Unfortunately, that preacher had never been to Mozambique during "grasshopper season". For the last three weeks up until now, there have been tens of thousands of grasshoppers fluttering around light bulbs all over Beira and no doubt all the districts. The children hang around the lights and collect all the little critters that they can catch and put them in bags. Then they take them home and roast them over a charcoal oven., pop them into a cup and snack on them all day long. I was offered some but politely declined as I had just eaten lunch (That's my story and I am sticking to it).

Here's how they are eaten. 1. One takes one of the roasted insects from the cup. 2. The legs and antennae are peeled off - like peeling a prawn. (The wings have already been roasted off, but if you are fortunate there is sometimes a trace) 3. Pop back the head, open mouth and savour the delicacy for a few moments in the cheek or under the tongue, chew and then swallow.

Everyone loves them here. In fact someone told me that they actually packet and sell a variety that has been dipped in honey.

As for other eating habits: We took some marshmallows out to the AOG training headquarters for the students to toast over the fire (our favourite camping delicacy). However the guys hardly knew what to do with them and politely ate them with sheepish smiles. On the other hand, they get very excited about catching rats, putting them on skewers and roasting them and then eating them. Poor Julia(AOG Missionary) was offered some to eat. Unaware of what it was, she happily gobbled it down. She was very surprised to find that rat's cheek tastes a lot like well, like nothing else on earth except rat's cheek.

Jay's Column

What would we do without email. Many people, friends and family write and it really helps to keep everyone in touch with the world. This month we have evangelist **BJ Heimstad** returning to Moz from Norway, which will be a real blessing. He has a large church in Norway and evangelizes in Pakistan as well as running an orphanage in Nairobi - Kenya. He ran a Pastors' seminar here when the boys and I first arrived and it was lovely to get to know him. He has a terrific sense of humour as well as a similar desire to see Beira and Mozambique changed for God.

We also received a few parcels in the mail. Yes the post is getting through, albeit snail mail. Thank you to those who have used the "regular" system. Beira still has to catch up to what the rest of the world classes as "regular". At the post office, instead of having all the post boxes running in numerical order, they have them wherever they want them, so it takes quite a while to search for our box number as it could be anywhere.

Now that I am in complete command of the "Mozmobile", I zip all about the place, making many trips to the post office (just in case). It is worth the anticipation just to go there. We even received a box of Cadbury chocolate eggs in one parcel, that one of our sympathetic friends sent us for Easter. You have no idea how good Cadbury chocolate can taste!

Kyal and David, our two sons are loving it here. They enjoy the company of the Mozambican children and are picking up the language very well. We have noticed a big change in them. Instead of competing with other children (as can tend to happen, and we parents tend to encourage), they are taking the African children under their wings and encouraging them and helping them. This stood out beautifully when we took our staff and families down to the beach one public holiday.

These beautiful local children had never seen the ocean, so the boys enjoyed sharing the new experience with them.

The church is growing which is wonderful, particularly the children's church which numbers between 70 and 110. The little ones are proving to be extremely good at memorising verses and they love the challenges that Arone gives them. Kyal and David also help look after the growing crowd.

The tithes in Mozambican churches do not offer a reason to quit your well paying job in Australia, the land flowing with milk and money, and move here, but we are supplementing the gold mine with our own, and purchasing wooden benches for the adult congregation to sit on. They think the new seats are brilliant and are proud of "their" church. A beautifully hand crafted sign, made by Brian, a carpenter from Oz who is with the AOG, is in the process of being painted and will give the church and the people a sense of their own "Mozambique Outreach" identity.

We made a decision this month to cut our preaching translators down to one. So now we only have the English and Portuguese. This has cut our service time down considerably and sharpens the preaching. It is necessary here in the preaching, to be dramatic with plenty of movement, to paint the message. This is also a lot easier with only the one interpreter. I have found I am not having to dodge and weave about two extra people on the "stage".

Many who have supported us have received official letters of thanks. I would also personally like to thank those of you who have been so faithful in giving as the Lord has laid it on your heart. We have been able to use some of the finance as a form of sponsorship for our Bible College students, which they have immensely appreciated.

It has enabled them to study without worrying about their next meal.

God bless you all

Looking forward to an exciting (cool) June,

Jay

Sign Off

With the amount of poverty we see everyday, I find that it is necessary to come aside from it and refocus - particularly on the vision of prayer for transformation of this nation. I think that it is natural to want to try and meet every need, (there is ALWAYS a hand stretched out asking for something). Many missionaries are called to spend their whole time and effort doing this. Some stagger under the weight of the responsibility of trying to help everyone. And there are many organisations, Christian and non Christian sending and distributing aid.

Our focus is to dig a little deeper and pray the country back to health. Only Jesus can transform this country. For us the answer is prayer, and preaching and demonstrating the good news of Jesus. We are helping as many as we can in a practical way - in our circle of influence. Also we are finding that people are coming to us for healing, and after prayer many are going away healed. This certainly saves on medical costs - thanks to our Divine doctor Jesus. We do however have to send some to the hospitals. We still haven't personally seen the dead raised, though that has happened a few times just 30km away in Dondo. It is coming for us. It's a strange thought, but to see a dead person raised, one has to pray for a corpse.

Once again, thank you for your prayer and support - a special thanks to our intercessors - we really do literally feel your prayers - you truly are wonderful, selfless people. Please know that you are sharing in an amazing harvest of an amazing people in an amazing country.

Thanks to those who have obeyed Jesus in giving. Your dollars are being converted into eternal treasures - individuals and families turned from poverty and hopelessness, into successful, joyful men, women and children of God - committed to serving the Master, bringing this country to Jesus.

God Bless you abundantly,
Greg, Jay, Kyal and David