

MOZNEWS

MOZAMBIQUE OUTREACH NEWS

1 MAY 2000

Issued by Email on request.

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

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Hi again from the wonderful land of Mozambique.

Headlines: God still moving strongly. Devil still on the run. People saved. People healed. Families restored. Poor fed. Naked clothed. Homeless housed. Glory to God.

Ministry

Our first service for the month began after a night of the heaviest rain I have personally experienced. It was so heavy and continuous that our roof leaked in no less than 8 different spots. We had pots and pans spread throughout the house collecting the water dripping through the ceiling. Both boys' beds were soaked where water had been dripping onto their mosquito nets and running down onto the mattresses. Sunday morning came and it was still bucketing. But about half an hour before we had to leave for church, the rain stopped and the sun came out, so we headed off, only to find that the road that we take to get to the church was knee deep in water and running like a river. Not wanting to risk the Mozmobile in the mud and sand (it is only 2 wheel drive - too many angels required to carry it through), I took off my boots and rolled up my trouser legs, Jay tucked her Stiletto skirt up, and we cheerfully sang "Obrigado, obrigado Senhor por ter me salvado" (Thank you thank you Lord for saving me) the 300 metres to church - wading through who knows what. The boys loved it - nearly too much - as they were completely soaked by the time we got to church. A man selflessly offered to guard the car while we had church. Only 10 adults and a handful of children braved the waters and the weather, but 2 of those were new and gave their hearts to the Lord by the end of the service. Praise Him.

Kyal - Preacher

Our eldest son, Kyal, preached his first message in our midweek meeting. His message was translated into 2 languages - Portuguese and Sena (local Bantu language). He spoke on Joshua and the battle of Jericho, to 93 people and they loved every minute - the message accompanied by acting from David. Kyal's translators faithfully mimicked everyone of his many actions, which included walking around Jericho (a table) 13 times and falling off the walls of the city. He threw in some excellent humour - and his mum and dad were so proud of him, so we've included some piccies. (Picture)

It was another month of people responding to the good news of Jesus. The people are so hungry for God. I have included a list of attendance and salvations below.

Services

Wednesday	23 March 2000	Francis House Blessing	About 100 people - 20 saved
Sunday	26 March 2000	50 people	3 saved
Wednesday	29 March 2000	78 people	2 saved
Sunday	2 April 2000	7 people	2 saved
Wednesday	5 April 2000	93 people	3 saved
Sunday	9 April 2000	125 people	9 saved
Wednesday	12 April 2000	103 people	1 saved
Sunday	16 April 2000	110 people	12 saved
Wednesday	19 April 2000	95 people	6 saved
Friday	21 April 2000	150 people	16 saved
Sunday	23 April 2000	120 people	0 saved
Wednesday	26 April 2000	110 people	7 saved
Sunday	30 April 2000	93 people	0 saved

Miracles

The Lord is confirming His Word through signs and wonders. We found out, rather belatedly, that in December last year Luis and Christina's son had been healed of bow legs, a condition which had made it impossible for him to walk properly or play with the other children. Apparently as soon as we laid hands on him his legs were healed, and to this day he continues to run and play and live a normal life - all praise to the Lord. (Picture)

In one of our mid-week meetings, a lady with turned-in feet, who also could not walk properly, came for prayer. She left the service and was completely healed on the way home, and walked some 5 kilometres to tell Luis and Christina that she had been completely healed.

Another person, Ordanza, had a dream that if he brought his wife to us to be prayed for, she would be healed. Regina had been suffering with excruciating abdominal pains for 4 days. She finally made it to our place after shuffling all the way from her village area. She slumped into a chair in obvious agony. We prayed for her for about 5 minutes. Nothing appeared to happen so I gave Ordanza some money to take her to the hospital. But as they left the house and got some distance down the road, she was totally healed. Glory to God. Only He can get the credit for these wonderful healings.

Two men with what seemed in every way like malaria with very high fevers, came for prayer. Again it appeared that nothing happened; however as they were going home they were both healed.

Another lady was instantly healed of back trouble which had caused her great pain if she bent or sat down. She was delighted when she could bend and crouch and do all the things that she could previously not do. (Picture)

Another lady had a massive bruise on her ankle. As Mama Jay prayed for her, the pain ceased - though the bruise seemed to remain, and she was able to walk on it

It is really quite incredible to witness the conditions that the average Mozambican lives under. As Anita from Dorcas Aid says - "People around the world saw pictures of the floods and sent money when they saw the terrible conditions the people were living in. What they don't realise is that this is what it is like all the time in Mozambique - flood or no flood".

Following is a report from Dorcas regarding funds that we were able to pass on to them this month for flood victims.

Progress Report
Dorcas Aid Mozambique
April 21, 2000
To Mozambique Outreach

Thank you for your financial contribution to the relief work amongst the victims in the Buzi, Guara-Guara areas. What follows is just a brief summary of the work done with your funds.

1. Seeds

- 26 tons of seeds - 13 tons of maize (matuba) and 13 tons of cowpea were purchased from Zimbabwe through World Relief agency at the purchase price of \$21 000 US dollars. The seed delivery was 7 days late due to documentation problems with Customs. We received the truck on Friday, April 14, 2000.
- Method of Transport - the 26 ton load was given to 3 transporters to deliver by road to Buzi Town on Friday, April 14, 2000. In the end, a total of 8 vehicles were required to complete this 20 ton road. A combination of boat and tractor-trailer was used to deliver the 6 tons to Guara-Guara. Because of poor road conditions, the trucks experienced extreme difficulty in arriving at Buzi. Three days as well as tractors were needed to complete this exercise. In the process, we also aged noticeably. Further difficulties were experienced with the Department of Agriculture's personnel that had to work over a weekend to accept the seeds into their store.
- Distribution - 20 tons (10 tons of maize and 10 tons of cowpea) were delivered to the agricultural store in Buzi, over a period of 3 days (as the trucks became unstuck), for distribution through the churches in the area.
- Distribution - 6 tons (3 tons of maize and 3 tons of cowpea) were delivered to the churches in Guara-Guara and stored in a tent for distribution the next day.

- Progress - the Department of Agriculture, in co-operation with the churches (27 churches) in Buzi town, are in the process of distributing the seeds in a zone 15 kms from Buzi (opposite side of the river) with tractors-trailers and local women to carry the bags to isolated areas.
- Progress - through one of the churches in Guara-Guara, the United Church of Christ, they have set up a distribution system through a total of 17 churches. Each portion (10 kgs of maize seeds) of the seeds were shared between a church member and a poor family in their area. The distribution was completed on Wednesday, April 19, 2000. A complete list of all recipients is available should it be required.
- Transport Costs - The cost of transporters was a total of \$1000 US dollars, which included the tractor rental and fuel charges. Labour charges for loading and off loading came to a total of \$50 US.

2. Food

• Relief Parcel (US\$ 10-00)

The following items have been selected for a relief parcel to the flood victims in Buzi. The items were to be placed and transported in a 10-liter water bucket. All the items on the list were obtainable here in Beira.

Oil, sugar, rice, maize, sardines, beans, tea, biscuits, salt, plastic bucket, bleach, soap, matches, candle, vegetable or fruit

We value your input in making a difference in Mozambique. Due to technical problems with the downloading of our digital camera, we are unable to send any photos at this time. We will send them at a later stage.

Regards,
JJ Simonis

Again thanks to all who gave to the flood victims here. Your gifts saved lives and souls. Now that's a great investment.

New Staff

Our newest staff member is Arone Augustus who speaks fluently in 5 languages. He is 23, handsome and a bachelor. He was brought up in a Christian home - very unusual for Mozambique. He is gifted in most things and studies after hours to get his grade 12 level at school. He is an extreme blessing to us and consequently we are working him very hard.

New Christians Classes and Youth

We began New Christians classes this month. Our first one was attended by 5 people. Arone is taking them on a Monday afternoon. At the end of a 12 week course, the successful students get a certificate and a Bible.

We also started our first youth meeting on Saturday afternoon. Arone is leading this group as well. We have about 15 youth.

Zimbabwe

It is a little concerning that only 300km away, Zimbabwe is having its own hard time. White land owners are being forced off their land; some have been killed. The black against white problem is very real in these countries unfortunately. We have had our prayer team focus on Zimbabwe this month.

Widows

We have begun investigating helping widows in a more active way. There are many here in Mozambique. There are a few photos of just a few widows that we have come across on visitations showing the conditions that we found them living in. Jay has shared the gospel with these beautiful ladies and each has received Christ. They are coming along to church regularly. (Pictures)

Jay's Column

I can't believe another month has gone by so fast. Life in Africa is never dull! We had a month of torrential down pour, causing us to nearly "swim our way to church". Because our church is currently "open air", it makes for an interesting service in wet conditions; but rain, hail or shine - we still meet to worship.

I began visitations this month, training Luis to show the people the salvation message in diagram form. It has also been an invaluable opportunity for me to meet people in their own homes and make contact with other people whom God brings across our path. Kyal and David have both been on the visitation run with me and enjoyed being involved.

For those who have asked about the food here, we still eat rice, rice, rice and more rice. But when we get tired of that, for a change we have rice. Meals no longer carry quite the same excitement that they once did. But our bellies are full and the boys are happy.

Thank you so much to the COC school for having an ice-cream fund-raiser. Bibles will be purchased in the local dialect and handed out to the people. There are few greater investments than putting the Word of God into peoples hands, where it can change lives.

Final note

God is real - everywhere. For me He is more noticeably real, in this country which is still largely unclouded by worldly things, where people live from meal to meal, where death by disease is a far too common thing. So we are seeing Him in a far different way than we have ever seen Him before, and having to trust Him for a lot more than we have ever had to trust Him for before. But then - we can only give Him the glory because we are helpless without Him.

**Again we thank you for your prayer and support.
Greg, Jay, Kyal and David**