

MOZNEWS

MOZAMBIQUE OUTREACH NEWS
1 SEPTEMBER 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 has probably been our busiest month so far in Mozambique - and the most wonderful for us as a family. Our family increased by one member, we purchased property, our new Christians graduated en masse, our leaders had a new baby girl and named her after Jay, we had a great feast celebration feast for the church, completed construction on more widows' houses, had our prisoners graduate and receive Bibles and certificates, were visited by special people from overseas, as well as seeing many people saved and healed. Glory to God. What a way to live.

Kate Tucha Cumming

We are the proud new parents of a very special little girl. When we visited Maputo last month, one of the reasons was to pray and ask God seriously about adopting an orphan or abandoned child from the Iris Ministries orphanage at Zimpeto. We asked Him to pick the child that He wanted for us, and He picked a beautiful little girl named Fatucha. She is about 2 years old, and had been abandoned by her mum. We checked up on the requirements of the Mozambican and Australian governments regarding her adoption. She passed all her necessary tests and was flown up to Beira on the Iris Ministries aeroplane on Wednesday 9 August to join our family. Now we are praying that everything will go through legally so that she can become an official family member - the papers are in the courts now. (Of course we have included photos of the most beautiful girl in the world on our photos page.)

Jay Rebeca Luis

Our leaders, Christina and Luis, had a baby girl - the natural way. They named her after Mama Jay. Jay visited Christina in hospital and commented that hospitals are not quite the same here in Beira as where we come from. There was no loo paper in the bathroom, or water, but plenty of blood everywhere. But as she reminded me, they don't even have a proper toilet at home, so this was a step up for Christina. Unfortunately Luis was not allowed to be with her at the birth of the baby, as is the custom in local hospitals.

Land Purchase

In Mozambique, it is possible to purchase land from someone, only to find out that the person never actually owned the block at all. He just thought he did. With that in mind, we purchased a block of land this month, right on the main road into town. Even the people from the council were amazed that we could find a block for sale on this road. It was a miracle. We have been looking for land for a long time. When we put the whole issue into the Lord's hands, He kept us from buying other properties. This block is 80 metres by 57 metres, which is a good size for a small church, and is close to where we are presently meeting (still under the trees - and no longer able to accommodate the growing numbers. We preach around a corner and our children have to have their meetings at a different locality altogether). We have over 110 adults in church now and a lot of children. We want to build a small church for 200 adults, which will eventually become our children's church when we are

able to add a second building to seat 500 adults - God willing.

We also acquired another two small adjoining blocks in another area to accommodate leaders while they are being trained, and long term missionaries that come to help in the work. The accommodation will be humble but functional. This land is shaded by mango and coconut trees and will be a wonderful place for them to come back to each evening to relax and pray.

The Great Feast

We had a great celebration feast this month to mark our fourth month as a church. Hundreds came to enjoy the food and the fun. We had games, we had singing and dancing, we had drama, we had food - lots of food, we had preaching, we had souls saved, and we had Jungle Juice. Jungle Juice is the local drink enjoyed on special occasions. It is made from corn flour, sugar and water. Where we come from, we call it glue. Here it is a very special drink - much craved after. We made hundreds of litres of the stuff and it all went. The widows did the cooking, making cakes and biscuits and many delicious dishes with chicken, goat and fish. It was a time when our church could relax and have fun together after the enormous amount of work they have been involved in during the early phase of the church. (See Picture)

Miracles

The Lord is performing some outstanding miracles here, particularly in the prison. We have witnessed many healings of headaches, stomach complaints, conjunctivitis, etc., and I have been getting many 'words of knowledge' about various conditions. One of the prisoners scoffed at us as he saw the healings taking place, and Arone explained to him how the Lord does heal, and if he would like us to pray for him we would do it. We found out that he had been a professional soccer player for Portugal (first grade). He had injured his knee during one of his matches, and had been in great pain ever since. That was thirty years ago. He had been to many doctors and hospitals to try to get relief, but to no avail. So we prayed for him, and although there appeared to be no visible change in his condition at that time, when we returned to the prison the following week he met us at the door and told us that from the moment we left the prison the previous week the pain had ceased. For the first time in thirty years he was pain-free! God had healed him. He gave his testimony in the class, and everyone cheered at God's power. There are other ministries in the prison, and he has been giving his testimony in these classes as well. So we are very grateful to the Lord for this miracle. Eighteen people got saved that day. Others, also, were inspired by this testimony and came forward for prayer. One was a lady who felt sick whenever she prayed. I was sure that this was a demon (more logic than discernment), and told her to kneel and lift her hands in the air and repent of everything she could think of. She did this, and then we prayed for her. The following week she told us that, after we had left (it always seems to be after we leave), she had vomited a lot, and then for the first time ever she was able to pray without feeling sick. She told us that she wants to teach this good news of Jesus everywhere when she gets out of prison. Glory to God.

Widows and Orphans

We continue to support and help widows. When ever we are able, we build or repair houses for them so that they can be safe and dry. We are getting our widows involved in different facets of the Lord's work such as visitation. They have so much to give of themselves.

The photos show Global Care workers in Buzi and Nova Sofala, where your generous giving has enabled Dorcas Ministries to take tonnes of food, and clothes and cooking equipment, to distribute to local widows and orphans. The tides are very dangerous and workers had to wade through crocodile-infested waters to get to and from their boats. Boats were swamped, expensive equipment was lost, but the aid was delivered and the gospel was preached. Many in the small villages gave their lives to Jesus. (See pictures)

Prison Graduation

Our most exciting meeting in Mozambique to date was our Prison Graduation Ceremony. One hundred and thirty people came as we praised and worshipped the Lord. The noise was incredible. We worshipped the Lord for nearly an hour before the amazing power of the Holy Spirit was released over the men and women. All our leaders were present. Sixteen men and women graduated, and were presented with Bibles and New Christian certificates. They were so grateful. The prisoners led in the singing of "Before I came, Jesus was already here" as they waved their new Bibles and certificates in the air, to the applause of all the other inmates. Our team was greatly moved; particularly afterwards as the graduates came to us one by one and told us how their lives had totally changed since they met Jesus here. Many of them said that they just want to live for Jesus now. The leader, Piri Piri, said that now all he wants to do is pray and now he feels so much more power since the Holy

Spirit came to prison. As fast as the prisoners get put in prison, they are getting saved through the meetings. 22 new prisoners arrested last week, 22 saved. (Unfortunately we cannot take pictures inside the prison - there would be some great ones)

Church Graduation

More than 30% of our church have now graduated from the New Christian Classes. We seem to be creating a hunger for the Word of God by making them finish a 10 week foundation course before we give them a certificate and a new Bible. One of the widows told me that she carries her Bible with her wherever she goes because she loves it so much.

Randy Clark at the Iris Conference

Rolland and Heidi Baker had a big conference in Beira with Randy Clark (from Airport church in Toronto) as the main speaker. We were blessed to meet Randy and to be involved with this conference. Pastors were bussed in from the bush and lived, ate, slept and breathed Jesus for the 2 days the conference was here.

Car Raised From The Dead

Yes. It is true. The Mozmobile was resurrected this month. To be resurrected, it first had to die. It did. We've bragged about it before - being divinely delivered from serious trouble. On the 2 August however, the famous little 2 wheel drive, that has carried up to seventeen adults, breathed it's last as it went down into a large mud hole (bogged three times in one week - enough was enough!). At the time Jay was transporting ladies home after the women's meeting. It was a moonless night and at least 50 people gathered around the car, in the dark to try and help her get the car out of the slosh. Of course it was an opportunity to preach the gospel, and so we did - briefly, before the crowd became very uneasy and a little angry (they wanted payment for helping to get the car out). We suddenly had visions of being lynched, so after a very welcome helping hand from Jeff Housen (AOG) in a much bigger and stronger 4x4 - the little digger was towed home where it was confirmed that the engine had drowned from water intake, the head gasket had blown, the alternator was suffering badly and a conrod bent. For those who know nothing of engines - this is not good. In layman's terms, the engine was dead and needed major repair. Not to mention that the con rod part for a 1990, 2 wheel drive, petrol vehicle is not easy to find in Beira, Mozambique. The mechanic suggested we look in South Africa - maybe Zimbabwe. But the Lord already knew this, and one just happened to turn up in Beira. We had the car back on the road within one week, and a man of God blessed us by paying for the repairs. We were astounded at God's grace and our brother's generosity.

So the Mozmobile lives to drive another day. As our people clamber into the back of it, to avoid an hour's walk home after meetings, I don't think they appreciate what a blessing it is for us to have the little car still on the road. Our resurrected Mozmobile.

Ladies Meetings

Jay commenced Womens' church with 35 ladies coming for the first meeting. Francis translated in a capilana (skirt). More in her column.

Water & Electricity - NOT

Again this month in Beira we had no water for 3 days. It meant the boys had to run to a local well and draw some very dubious looking water to bath and wash in. It smelt bad and was full of mud. (Yes we had to wash in it) Meanwhile our AOG friends gave us some filtered water to drink. They have their own well and filter. Electricity also is very unpredictable. It comes on in spurts and then goes off, which is terrible for our electrical equipment. We keep paraffin (kerosene) lanterns and candles at the ready for when ever the power goes off at night time. Our stove burst into flames after just such a surge.

Overseas Visit

We were thoroughly blessed by the whirlwind visit of Joel Skjonsby from Seattle, Washington. He was visiting Iris Ministries in Maputo and felt urged to fly the 1200 km to visit us, to see our work here, so that he could pray for us with more firsthand knowledge of what we do. It was an answer to over one year of prayer for intercessors to visit us here in our home. Since his visit, our work seems to have taken on a new dimension and we know that it is due to the addition of great intercessors like Joel and Mary (also from Seattle), putting their strong prayer hands to our little plough here in Mozambique. Thanks to all our wonderful intercessors. You don't know how much we appreciate you. We pray for you everyday too, that His power comes upon you when you pray and that you are protected, provided for and healthy - body, soul and spirit.

Jay's Column

As you will have already read, we have had a very dramatic month, both in ministry and family . In Maputo, we had an amazing time meeting up with similar people with like visions. God pre-arranged for us to meet with the intercessors that he pre arranged for us, through prayer. So now we are immensely grateful as we now know who is praying for us, meeting at the board room table with God, until the answers are fulfilled. Nothing can be achieved without that.

One of our reasons for going to Maputo was to see if the Lord would bless us with a little girl. He did. We now have the cutest and prettiest addition to our family, Kate (Kathryn). She is a little Mozambican sweetheart who has won our hearts. The adoption process is long and tiresome, and we have only just begun. Kate is nearly two years old by our calculations, is very intelligent, but at this point doesn't speak a great deal, she understands Portuguese and a little English, so I communicate to her in both languages to get the message across. She loves to help around the house with washing up , setting the table etc.. Her personality is a real delight. I have always wanted to adopt a little coloured child (that is not a racist term here). In fact, apart from the call of God on our lives, I had hoped this dream would come to pass when we left for Mozambique. I now enjoy buying little girls clothes.

Hoooooray! We began ladies meetings! Yes it happened. Our Wednesday church service has changed to women's church. At this point I still use an interpreter, but in time I hope not to need one. They are all encouraging me to try without, but there are some issues you cannot discuss without the help of someone who speaks the language fluently. My last head count was around the 40 mark. The preaching has to be very simple and dramatic for them to get the picture. Marriage, and all related issues, seem to be the necessary topics to cover here.

Visitation (or door knocking as it would be in Oz) is on the way. Many of you would not believe that I head that one up, but it is not so difficult here. In fact, it is quite enjoyable, because the people are open to prayer and worship, and literally cry out for help and understanding of the Bible and salvation.

Last week we found ourselves at another pastor's church. He invited the team in to pray. I followed this up by inviting his wife to our womens' meetings, if she was not busy. She came. So did her husband and entire church the following Sunday. So God guides our steps, and visitation is a joy when you know you are in His will, and wait to see how it unfolds.

Finally, the mozmobile, which you have already read about. What my husband didn't tell you was that I had been unfortunate enough to have been bogged down on two previous occasions during the same week. This country can be very wet even in the dry season, and our wheels desperately want to grow into a 4x4 wheel drive, but it is just not happening at the moment. It is an experience that I will never forget - night time, and hoards of people screaming Vie vie(pronounced Vigh) meaning go go, followed by atrage(reverse). No-one takes charge; they all just shout together. So you don't know when to stop or start, then of course they all want money! So the more help, the more it costs. There was the fear in the back of my mind about how much damage had been done to the car . I knew it was in terrible shape. It still needs work, but God blessed, and the major repairs were taken care of by an intercessor friend who came to visit us this month. God always knows who and when at just the right time. So I avoid the jungly back roads now and stick to walking in those areas.

There are many more things I could talk about but there will be room enough next month, and women always have more words to spend than men.

God bless you, thank you for your prayers, faithfulness and gifts.

Jay.

Sum Up

Big month, many pages. We continue to try to do what He tells us to do and go where He tells us to go. We are just very ordinary people, doing an impossible job. The one thing we have on our side is that we have an extraordinary God who handles all the big stuff - like saving people's souls, miracles, changing the nation and things like that. We just do the going.

We are the cups. He is the water. People want the water not the cups. But they need the cups to receive the water. For some unimaginable reason, God has chosen to entrust us humans to take His incredible life changing message of salvation to the people. It still astounds me.

Thanks for all your gifts and prayer. We are very, very grateful. It is an eternal bank into which you are investing. We live to see His kingdom come in Mozambique. I often ask our staff - "Are you ready to die for Him today?". They always say "Yes - ever ready". It's a reality here.

Have a great month.

God bless you

Greg, Jay, Kyal, David and Katie