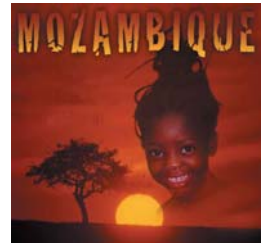


MOZNEWS

MOZAMBIQUE OUTREACH NEWS



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AFRICA

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As I write to you this month I am listening to the song "History Makers" by the music group Delirious.

What does it take to be a person who makes history for God? Whether an Australian, a South African, a Brazilian or a Mozambican, surely the answer is: a person who has a passion for God and His word – "Go and make disciples of the nations..", and has the courage to obey- regardless of the circumstances.

I would like to honour those many such people associated with this ministry who have become history makers, and whose record belongs in Hebrews 11 with the other heroes of faith.

Welcome To Mark Hands

Mozambique Outreach welcomes Mark Hands from Gravestain & Associates to the team.

Mark is consulting to Mozambique Outreach to help with some of the new developments and initiatives, helping to achieve our large goals and raise revenue.

Construction Team Returns



Despite unseasonal rain, a sand delivery knocking over a newly constructed wall, the attempted theft of all the door frames, a theft of a teacher's desk and other assorted setbacks, the

boys from Gold Coast have accomplished what they set out to do – to make ready the next 3 classrooms for the school.

With a disciple at their side, praying, eating, working and ministering together, the building took shape over 4 weeks.

5 New Church Plants For ITM

Mozambique Outreach helps with the sponsorship of 5 ITM students – trained by the Assembly Of God Australia in Beira (run by Jeff & Robbie Housen – pictured). Here is their latest report:



Our first reports from our new

church plants this year are very encouraging.

Joao has just returned from visiting 4 of the 5 new church plants, below are the statistics for them after 2 months;

New Converts.....174

Sunday AM Attendances.....127

Sunday School.....91

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2 of the Churches have started youth on Saturdays and have 34 youth attending.

Mozambican Money Madness

Money, bucks, geld, dinheiro, nzuruku – the stuff that allegedly makes the world go round but doesn't really. Have you ever wondered about what it's like working with money in the world's fourth poorest country? Surely just the same as at home? Forget it!

The national currency here is the Metical. The plural is Meticais. It surely is unique stuff.

The first time you change money, you recoil in horror. I can't take that stuff! What if I touch my nose or scratch my ear after handling it? I'll surely die of disease. And don't get cute grabbing money out of someone's hand. You

might each be left with only half – many of the notes are half torn off already. Have you ever stopped to ponder for a moment who might have handled the money in your hand before you? Did the thought fill you with a mild revulsion? Yes? Think carefully before you visit Mozambique.

The next thing that strikes you is the thickness of the wad of notes. I'm rich! I'm a millionaire! So you feel until you fill up your car's tank and it comes to just over one million Meticais. After some months, you note that as you look in the mirror, your eyes seem to have gotten rounder. You speculate if that is because of looking at all those zeroes all the time. Naaahhhh, can't be.

Wad weight and size determines that one should purchase pants with large pockets. Or a wallet of substantial size. It is recommended that one does not sniff inside a wallet after many months of use.

Dumbbell, you might think. Use your card. Back home, we used credit cards, garage cards, Makro cards, whatever cards. And what a great idea that is. In Pemba? Forget it! Try asking and all you'll get is a sort of glazed look in their eye. You expect me to give you something in exchange for a piece of plastic? *Não dá!* Well, at least that is changing somewhat. Pemba has gotten a

few auto bank tellers. At these magnificent but strangely out of place machines, one can draw up to 3,000,000 Meticaïs per day on your VISA card. 3,000,000 Meticaïs? Wow! Well, no, that's only about R1,000 or US\$125. But exciting things are happening.

Another implication is that of the monthly budget. Because everything is cash, it's very easy to lose track of what you've spent. We've found it best to exchange all the money we need for the month. We then count it out into wads of 1,000,000 Mt, each secured by a rubber band. In this way one can avoid counting heaps of bills over and over. The fans don't blow the notes all over the room, either.

Next we sort it into zip-lock bags – each bag has that money's allocation written on it, e.g. "food." As the month progresses, we use the money from each bag, and *pronto* – we can easily see by how much the budget was short! Bets divides the food money into weekly groups. That way it's easier to see where you are on a weekly basis.

Setting up our budget in the first instance is somewhat challenging. We are supported in Rand. Our house rent is in dollars. The rest is in Meticaïs. The exchange rates keep fluctuating. The price of some goods here are dependent on South African prices (usually about 3 times the South African price). The

exciting thing is that one never can know what the Rand / Dollar exchange rate is going to be next month (especially recently!), or the Rand / Metical rate, or the Dollar / Metical.

Another exciting aspect is the use of money here. You buy something for 15,000 at the market and hand over a 20,000 Mt note. The man just stares at you. You say, I need change, please. He looks shocked – it seems as if he had never thought that someone would ever want change. Despite the fact that he's been in business for years. You give the goods back, and ask for your money back. This galvanizes him into action. He says wait and disappears into the depths of the market. After what seems an age he returns with the change. Next week the same thing happens with the same man.

Now this one can understand. He is a poor fellow, selling some old tomatoes. But then you go to a shop, or use a ferry, and the same happens. Except usually the shop owners don't go running off to get change. I once waited one-and-a-half hours for R30 change after buying third party insurance. Eventually you realize that you sometimes simply have to accept the no-change losses.

There's never a dull moment in Mozambique. Well, no, that's not really true – only when you wait for the change.

Love,
Hendrik & Bets Vermooten
Pemba

Praise the Lord for these young men and women, please continue to pray for them; safety, health and the work.

In Sena they have a difficulty with water, as they have to go to the river which is over 1Km away. Also so far this year 7 people have been killed by crocodiles in that area.

Our first year students have just finished their evangelism course, so next Saturday will be their first day of putting into practice what they have learned.

Until next month God Bless you
Greg, Jay and family

HOT News from Quelimane (Kill-a- marny)

Last weekend arsonists decided to set fire to the Central Market, at night. Concerned for the loss of his livelihood one of the store owners went to raise the Fire Brigade, who are a short distance away down the same road. Only to find that the Fire Engine had no fuel and its battery was flat ! In determination he got them to push the vehicle to the scene of the fire. However it then turned out they didn't have enough water to fully extinguish the flames. The part left to smoulder caught light again after they had left. What a shambles !

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