

Dear Family and Friends

I started the year with a visit to Mozambique during 8 – 18 January. With summer raging on this side of the globe the climate can be very unfriendly there; I glanced over the minimum/maximum temperatures recorded at the Sabie Game Park and the temperatures varied from 26 - 28°C in the morning and 37 - 42°C in the afternoons.



We prayed for rain at our previous visit to the area and this time we found the place looking like the Garden of Eden, but I also realized why God didn't give Adam a motorcar to move around in because the rain turned the roads into a muddy mess. During the days clouds of flies 'bugged' us and swarms of mosquitoes and small stink bugs reported for night shift. For us it was a challenge, but for the locals it was just 'another day in my life'.

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I was touched to see that the weather did not deter the people from attending church services or evangelistic meetings. At church on Sunday people arrived with big chunks of mud on their bare feet, while they carried their church shoes in their hands.

We had church in a leaky shelter that did not have enough space for all the people – some had to sit out in the rain. I realized that these people are not necessary deeply spiritual, but hungry for Life. At the evening evangelism we showed the Jesus film and the 'Hope' DVD. Many people came and the gospel was preached. I am concerned that mostly women and children came to these outreaches and urged the leaders to make a big effort to minister to the men in their area. All the leaders are men of influence and can reach their whole community for Jesus. Two of the younger leaders, Andrea and Samuel show great promise to become very successful leaders in the future. Please pray for them.



Samuel Siteo



Andrea Mutuki

I want to commend Pastor Johannes Mongwe for interpreting faithfully at most of the conferences that I had in Mozambique. He is a pastor from Mokopane, our home town. He is a huge help, without him the ministry in Mozambique would not be possible. During the film evangelism he did a masterful job of interpreting the 'Hope' DVD (we do not have a Tsonga version) as it showed.



'Hope' DVD



It is a busy time of year when they have to plow and plant their crops during times when it doesn't rain. Some leaders that live far that would normally come to camp out for the Leaders Conference didn't come because of the work in their fields. We decided to have an additional meeting in a different area in the future to reach the others as well.

The Leader's training was very emotional. Some of the leaders shared with me about the state of the church in the area: poor attendance, uncommitted members, shallow lives etc. From this discussion we decided on a curriculum for this year. Because of very little training and experience some of them are very frustrated and others are also despondent about their ministry of shepherding God's flock. Although the training will help these leaders greatly in their task of leading God's flocks, I also know that their needs are more spiritual than physical. Please pray with me for a revival in their hearts and the hearts of all believers in their churches.

We discussed the effects of the war in Mozambique, witchcraft and wrong beliefs and alcohol abuse as causes of poverty in their community. The leaders reflected with tears on their experiences and told how their families were damaged by these things. Sin damages and destroys human lives mentally, spiritually and physically. Man's sinful and arrogant self exultation against God has never produced anything worthwhile, but has brought unhappiness, disorder and ultimately death. It was very triumphant to share on the Bible as God's authentic Book of Hope, God's invitation to a love relationship with Him, God's plan for His people and God's way to preserve civilization.

Samson Nyalungu is still going strong for God. He is well aged but still works his fields with a hoe. He is the most senior leader and a pastor with the most influence in the area. He still remembers Koos' prayer for him a year ago when he was dying. Koos prayed for one more good year and God has raised and kept him. He once again testified about God's greatness and love and expressed his faith in the Bible as God's Word.



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PLEASE PRAY WITH
US FOR EZEKIEL AND
HIS WIFE TABITA.



One of the leaders, Ezekiel, has been sick for a long time and suffers greatly. He has an intestinal disorder that, due to a lack of funds has not been treated successfully so far. He initiated the leader's training a few years ago and helped Koos to meet key people and helped with arrangements prior to 2008, he is a natural leader among his peers. He hasn't been able to attend the meetings during 2008 because of his illness. This time however he came from the hospital in Maputo to attend the training. Although he is sick, his presence and contributions in the discussions made a big impact in the conference. We prayed for him for Godly healing and committed his family (who is suffering with him) to God. Please pray with us for Ezekiel and his wife Tabita.

I encouraged the leaders to persevere in their duty as ministers of God. They all confess to a calling from God and believe that they can make a big impact in the world. They live in a remote and primitive area where they feel isolated and sometimes forgotten by their government. But I believe that God can use them especially in this circumstance to bring in a great harvest and to establish their churches as pillars of spiritual stability in this area for the future.



Thank you to all who contributed towards this outreach. Without the prayers, funds and maize meal the training would not be possible. We also received clothes that were distributed among the leaders from the churches.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
Eph 2:8 -10

God bless you.
David Frew for the IMD Africa team



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