

THE TROESTERS IN MOZAMBIQUE

August 2010
Dear Friends,

We count it a privilege to be able to serve the Lord here in Mozambique.

God gave us eight young men at one of our last neighborhood Bible studies. The school break freed some of them up to come. We looked at the 10 Commandments and saw that it is impossible to keep any one of them perfectly as God requires. An eye opener for them all. Then we looked at the Ark of the Covenant, God's temporary provision of forgiveness, later to be completely fulfilled in the person of Christ. Pray that the Gospel would be become more and more clear for these hearts that have been blinded by the god of this world.



Our married couples Sunday school class at the Bagamoyo church where we have been working has struggled with numbers, as two of our couples have suffered separations. Our most faithful couple has said several times recently that things have changed in their relationship as the husband has taken steps to change. PTL!

Our Saturday visits out at Bagamoyo have been exciting as we have had the opportunity to speak with two different Muslims. One is Alima, wife of a non-Muslim husband, who has come out to church the last six Sundays. The other is Aidene, husband of a non-Muslim. On our 2nd visit with Aidene we started with Genesis 1:1 and then moved to the 10 Commandments. He, as well, was convinced of his inability to please God as we went down through the list. Our 3rd visit with Aidene was just as exciting and this Saturday we will be going back. Pray for Aidene and his wife Sonha and for us as we move forward with this couple.

There are several changes coming in the near future. Pastor Odenilson and his wife, Luiza, are one of the Brazilian couples who we have teamed up with here in Maputo. They will be taking a 6 month furlough starting the middle of October, at which time we will be taking up their work in Alto Mãé. We will be moving out of our house and into theirs, which is only 7 blocks away from where we live now.

I would like to ask you to begin to fervently pray for our need of a permanent location for this church. They have averaged 40 folks during the last months. Up until this time they have been meeting in the back porch area of a ground level apartment. It gives no real semblance of a church from the outside. God has blessed as folks have been getting saved and saints are growing in the Lord. It is time for us to establish a permanent location for this church. At this moment, a neighbor of the church has offered property less than a block away from where they currently meet for \$120,000. This property is located on a busy street making it visible and accessible. It has several small houses on it, which could be used initially for church activities until we have the resources to build a real auditorium. The folks of this church, together with some Brazilians churches, have already raised \$5,000. This is a great start, but as you can see, we have a long ways to go. If we are going to have any impact on the city we are going to have to make some financial sacrifices and investments. **It is time!** The Muslim are buying up property everywhere. Lord, help **YOUR Church** here in Mozambique, to make an impact for **YOUR**

honor and glory. (The attachment "Possible Land.kmz" takes you to Google Earth and the location of this property located in a "cross-roads" section of the city of Maputo. You will need to download Google Earth for this to work.)

Joanie taught math and English to our neighbors during their short 2 week vacation. So many do not know how to read well. If they cannot read well, they will struggle to read God's Word and will have difficulty in preparation to be able to teach others also (II Tim 2:2, 24). Their math skills are seriously lacking. Young people in the 8th -10th grade do not know simple addition and subtraction, nor the multiplication facts. They get passed along from one grade to the next without learning these things. Very few parents take the initiative or have the capacity to help their children. Few homes have a father present. Now that school classes have started up again, the math tutoring will continue. This week Joanie will begin teaching an evening English class to the folks at the Alto Mãé congregation.

The Project

It is a great struggle for a Mozambican to find a job that pays more \$55 per month, putting them at below poverty level. This salary does not cover their travel expenses to and from work. Pastors need part-time or even full-time jobs to make ends meet once they are in the ministry. I would love to be able to offer them a place to work. One of the men in our Wednesday night Bible study has experience is making shoes. "The Project" is to start up a small shoe and sandal (and anything else made of leather) manufacturing business. There are many details and some risks that lie ahead but we would like to do whatever we can to make something happen. We need to purchase three to four industrial sewing machines and put up a small building. The local city officials have been willing to donate property for this project. What a blessing. Used sewing machines are around \$300. We need bricks, cement, sand, doors and windows, rafters and a roof. The total cost will be around \$15,000. What a great opportunity to get involved. Let us know if you would like more information. By faith we are making plans. One teen from our church has already been offered a job starting out in simple shoe repair.

The work of making disciples is exciting and challenging. Pray for laborers. We really could use a church in the area where some of our folks are coming from by walking 45 minutes one way.

Many thanks for your investments in the work in Mozambique.

Joel and Joanie Troester