

# ***The Troesters in Mozambique***

**April 2010**

Dear Friends,

God has given us an opportunity to step back from the ministry in Mozambique and at the same time invest in the work in Brazil, while enjoying time with our family.

Six months ago our son-in-law, Ari, (here in Curitiba, Brazil) invited us to come and be a part of his first Biblical Counseling Conference. He had participated in a conference in São Paulo, was helped tremendously and wanted to provide the same help to others. Last Thursday through Sunday we held the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Biblical Counseling Conference at their church. Wednesday night during prayer meeting several testimonies were given on help that was received. PTL! God has been teaching us so much these past 10 years and we are grateful for the opportunity to encourage others. At the heart of what was taught was the need for every Christian to be changing and growing and what that looks like. It is so much easier to talk about it than it is to actually do it.



There is a situation in the church here that gives opportunity to put our faith in the “sufficiency of God’s Word” to the test. A young man at the age of 13 began showing signs of serious “psychological disturbances”. He is now 20 and the situation has only worsened. We are convinced that there is tremendous hope for stability once again, but it is going to take the two ingredients that we often shy away from: time and tremendous spiritual sweat (work to think and live truth). Please lift up the parents (that they would get a completely Biblical view of the problem) and this young man (that he would open his heart to know God better). Pray that Pastor Ari would have wisdom to guide this family into right thinking and living.

We praise the Lord for the opportunity of becoming a part of a II Timothy 2:2 ministry where Pr Ari desires to be a Timothy and learn from others. He desires to train other faithful men so that they in turn can train others. Plans are being made for conferences for the next 5 years.



In the middle of all of this we have also been able to spend time with our daughter, Carolyn, and our grandson, Daniel who is now 20 months old. He is the most precious little sinner that you would ever want to meet, but then I am prejudice. To add to the fun and joy, Kristin and Sharon arrived this last Monday and Carolyn gave birth to her 2<sup>nd</sup>, Samuel, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Nathan is coming but not until the 29<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, I will already be leaving the 22<sup>nd</sup> and will not get to see him. Joanie is staying until May 10<sup>th</sup> to give Carolyn a hand. What a joy to be able to be together with our girls and son-in-law and rehearse what God is doing in each of our lives. We all have challenges to face. We all need to grow and change.

The spiritual battles on the home front in Mozambique continue. We have been working with a church member who has been unfaithful to his wife. Some days he would give the impression that he was

ready to change, but has recently moved out. He needs our prayers for genuine repentance. His wife needs our prayers to keep her hope 100% in the Lord. A 2<sup>nd</sup> concern: One of our most promising teens for leadership began dating an unsaved girl. In spite of her poor character he has become enamored and has been unwilling to follow the Lord in this area. He has admitted before the church that he knows that he is wrong but is willing to suffer the consequences of his actions. We have invested much into this young man. The Enemy will not give up territory without a fight.

After months of constant problems with our car, we decided to move ahead with the purchase of a different one. We are so grateful for a number of churches and individuals who pulled together to make it financially possible! After many challenges in the process of the purchase in South Africa (too many to enumerate) it is now in our garage, waiting to get tuned up for use when we get back.

With the return of Pastor Divino from Brazil we have started a new Sunday school class with married couples. Five couples participate, each one coming with special needs. African culture does not help to build strong families. We are moving upstream when it comes to teaching Biblical principles. Pray that these couples would be willing to forsake tradition where it conflict with God's Word. Our class has been meeting in the shade of the tree in front of the church.



We need God's wisdom as the adolescents that the church started with 6 years ago are now 18-20 years old and have new needs to be addressed.

Our Wednesday night Bible studies with our neighbors have been a blessing for me to review the book of Genesis but from an evangelistic perspective. Several have asked for more studies on Sundays when they are free. Our Sundays are already committed. Lord, please send more laborers for the harvest.

Pedro continues to desire to learn more but has been unwilling to make a break from his old church. Zito is faithful in Pastor Odenilson's church but is interested in an unsaved young lady as well.

The need for our own space and place has increased for the Alto Mãé congregation. Pastor Odenilson and Luiza are doing a great job at heading up this ministry and God is giving growth.

Joanie continues to work with the young ladies (Bible studies, sewing) and has begun teaching English to the ladies, as well as some neighbors. She is writing "people profiles" to include with our prayer letters entitled "Snippets from Mozambique". We want to introduce you to the lives and culture here by way of true short stories. The first one is attached with this e-mail.

Thank you so much for laboring together with us here in Mozambique.

By His grace,

*Joel and Joanie Troester*