

TROESTERS IN MOZAMBIQUE

APRIL– JUNE 2010

Dear Friends,

We are grateful for the opportunities the Lord allows for us to be involved in His harvest. The harvest is so great and we are so few and so limited in our influence on those around us. Our confidence is in the Lord, that He would do His work.

Our trip to Brazil in April, to welcome our 2nd grandson, was a special treat in several ways. To be there when Samuel arrived and to help out was a privilege. Kristin and Sharon arrived 2 weeks later which gave us time with them as well. Nathan also was able to visit after the girls and I had left, so we were all there but at slightly different times.

For me, the time before Samuel's arrival was full of preparation for what is hoped to be an annual mini Biblical Counseling Conference. Along with several opportunities to preach and make visits, I got to teach a Sunday School class on evangelism and make a visit with a couple from the church to put into practice what was taught. Joanie stayed in Brazil for another 10 days to help Carolyn after I returned to Mozambique.



Upon arrival home, much to my dismay, one of the Muslim sewing guys that I had spent much time with was seriously ill and in the hospital. Rashide's situation was deplorable and he passed away soon after. His death opened the doors for several good conversations with others Muslim sewing guys. The opening of the hearts of the Muslims is most definitely a work that God must do.

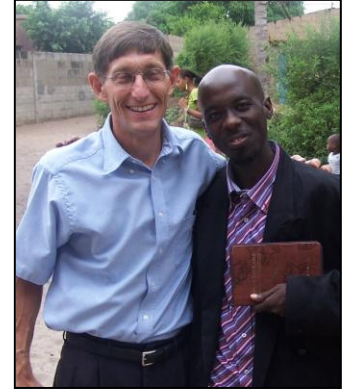
The participation of another neighbor in our Wednesday night studies for the past 5 weeks has been an encouragement. Flávio recently graduated from college and is now looking for a job. He is a thinker and asks good questions. He has started reading the Bible and is almost done with Genesis. A couple of weeks ago he asked if it was really true that one could have the certainty of eternal life. What an opportunity! I am enjoying these studies as they are helping me to better understand the plan of God as He has revealed it down through history.

From among our neighbors there are now 4 teen guys going with Pastor Odenilson to his church in Alto Mãé on Saturdays and Sundays. On Saturdays they play soccer from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm, take showers and then participate in the Saturday night studies and discussions. Silva and Carlitos, our next door neighbors, participate in these activities. They work a bit for us each day by dividing up the yard cleaning. This has opened the doors for a number of conversations about spiritual things. Their father passed away 2 years ago and now their income is dependent on the little their mother makes as a maid.



Please pray for Apolito. He has been dating a Jehovah’s Witness since November and is under conviction, but is struggling to make the break.

Out at Bagamoyo, we have been making evangelistic visits in Dalilton’s neighborhood. For three Saturdays, we had the opportunity to speak with three teenage guys. They are from a “prosperity” type church where the assurance of eternal life is based on your dedication to Christ. Carlos, a teen from our church, and Nathanael, Pastor Divino’s son, have been going along so that they can learn to be more effective in sharing the plan of salvation and Biblical truth. Last Saturday we were able to talk with a lady from a Zionist church that mixes animism with some Bible. We have been invited to return and explain more.



Carlos



Nathanael

On Saturdays, during our visits, Joanie meets with the teen girls for a time of Bible study and to work at drilling math facts and other homework needs. The academic levels are seriously low and the public education is even worse. Less than 50% is a passing grade and in some schools children pass with 25% or lower. On Sunday afternoons, Joanie is teaching English to some teens and adults in Bagamoyo and plans to tutor in English and math with our neighbors during the July break from school.



We cannot thank you enough for your prayers for the ministry here. “We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers...”

By His Grace,

Joel and Joanie