

# Mozambique Special Update

JANUARY 2008

## Points of Interest

- **Rick and Heather Neufeld** (new missionaries to Mozambique) count-down to their departure for Brazil and Mozambique. Check out [www.rickandheather.blogspot.com](http://www.rickandheather.blogspot.com) and keep them in your prayers.
- **New pre-school building construction** started for the pre-school as well as additional facilities for our community school of over 400 children.
- **Nat Zook returns to the States indefinitely** and plans to marry Salena Brown (Calgary, AB.) who served a six-month short-term in Mozambique. Pray for them as they plan their lives together!
- **Ron and Barb Wayner of Mercy Air** to bring a team of 9 people to assist with building as they launch initial steps toward co-locating with SAM Ministries in Mozambique.
- **University of Saskatchewan Nursing program** to send 6 graduating nurses along with Joanne Gartner (practicum coordinator) and her husband David Gartner to SAM Mozambique starting the end of February until the first part of April.

## Record rainfall wreaks havoc!

**In the last 10 weeks have experienced almost double the rainfall we had the entire year last year!**

Fernando Toalha, our local community leader said, "I have not seen this much rain since I was born here in Mucombeze 48 years ago!"

This is likely exactly the case since many rivers passed the 50 year flood mark causing a significant amount of destruction and inconvenience. Two of the bridges on route to our grade-school were washed away the night of December 26th and many kilometers of road in the country have suddenly turned back into pothole infested mud-tracks!

Our attempts to continue with various building projects ground to a complete halt as our entry road be-



came a swamp and conditions deteriorated to the point where building supplies and access to those supplies have been cut off.

Although the people in our immediate area will experience poor production due to the extreme rains, those in the Zambezi valley area where numerous of our schools are, have lost homes and entire crops. Pray with us as we try to determine how to respond to these urgent overwhelming needs.

## Administrative Capability Improves

Although the heavy late November rains brought building to a stand-still, we have been able to further finish our administrative office (right).

Besides the office improvements, we were able to finish construction of a grain storage facility using the newest adobe block machine...as a test-bed for further construction with this machine.

With the help of Ron Wayner, founder of Mercy Air, we have been able to purchase and equip our wood-



work shop with most of the equipment we need for the building of doors, window frames and furniture for the training center, school and housing.

## Community orphan care programs now caring for over 500 children

The orphan choir to the right walked for 7 hours at one of the hottest times of the year just so they could sing for and celebrate with the pastors and leaders who are the monitors of our training program. These monitors come for regular intensive training and this time they were honored at the closing ceremonies by this group as they sang and danced. It was such an encouragement and blessing to see this group imitate the initiative many of our monitors have demonstrated as they have started program after program in various communities to care for the growing number of orphans. There are now 11 programs with just over 500 children!



Although the mission started out matching the resources these pastors along with their churches and communities raised, the programs have quickly out-grown our ability to match the amount they raise! We, with your help, are now only a small part of the assistance they receive as they stretch themselves to make a difference in the lives of these extremely needy children. Don't be mistaken, the need is huge and the help these orphans receive is far from adequate, but at least they are receiving some help and this in the context of a loving Christian family. As I visited many of these programs this past year, I was both heart-warmed with the efforts of these amazing people and left with heart ache as I tried to come to



terms with the conditions under which these children survive.

A bowl of plain rice cereal is hungrily eaten with not the least complaint! And everyone sings together as they patiently await

their ration for the day. These children (above left and right) are from Mutarara where the recent flooding has washed away the garden started by Pastor Chico and his team of helpers.



To the left is the orphan care group in Dovo, near the Malawi border and below right is the group from Bawe, a community not far from Mutarara on the Zambezi river.

The group in Bawe is blessed to have a young man passionate about serving God and the children and spends

significant time teaching them Bible stories and generally just providing one-on-one care. This group has also started to build two rooms to accommodate some of the children who have no homes. Thank you all for your help as we partner to minister Christ's love.

