



SAM Ministries

Loving God and Loving people so they have a chance to Love God and Love people

JULY, 2008

The Power of Presence

Mozambique

Points of Interest

- *Blind boy receives the amazing gift of a brail-ler which will enable him to further his studies.*
- *The aircraft engine fund received a donation of \$40,000.00 from generous donors!!*
- *Earl & Ruth return from Brazil after an amazing visit*

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The many short term visitors we have had again over the past few months made a difference just because they took the time



and made the effort to **BE** here.

One of the visitors from South Africa, after seeing our house, said it looks like Dwight and Lynn plan to be here for a while! And he was right, we have been in Mozambique for just over 15 years and, Lord willing, plan to be here as long as God grants us the health

and strength. **And the reason we plan to be here is simply because we believe it takes time...the investment of a life...to make a difference in the lives of others.** Jesus was and is our model.

Jesus, upon leaving, promised His enduring presence to His disciples. His presence in our lives

is what empowers us to persist in being present in the lives of others who represent desperate needs and hurts.

Years ago an experiment was conducted to measure people's capacity to endure pain. How long could a bare-footed person stand in a bucket of ice water? It was discovered that when there was someone else present offering encouragement and support, the person could tolerate pain twice as long as when no one else was present.

People need you and I to be present, and to cultivate Christ's presence in our lives!

Returning to give thanks

Brazil

Our recent visit to Brazil held some wonderful surprises. A number of people that were blessed by Mount Horeb, returned to give thanks. What a delight it was to meet Luciane again, she was just a young girl when we visited her mother for the first time. They lived in a plastic covered, cardboard

shack with a dirt floor. We didn't recognize her, but she said she would never forget us, because of the help they received many years ago. It was the first of twenty-one simple homes we built for poor families. Three others returned to say thanks.



Building People and Buildings

Mozambique



Pastor Ricardo and I were headed 120 km North of the mission to find beans to buy in for our feeding program and stopped to have lunch with Paulo Escova, our monitor in Honde. As I shared our joy at finally having a grader show up to grade our entry road and level the training center site, Paul said, "Pastor, although it is good that we are now building the (training) center, **the center has already been built!** We, those who have now almost completed our training ARE the center."

What amazing insight! I have always believed it is people we need to build, not buildings. But anyone involved in building people eventually faces the reality that it is not an either/or, it is a both/and! We have to build BOTH people AND buildings because people need buildings.

As we struggle to finish the building of the mission house so we can make room for our new missionaries, we are trying to finish the pre-school (pg.4) and start on the training center.

And in the meantime we hang taraulins and clear office space and try to come up with creative ways to host our intensive training time next week. We are ex-

cited that 11 of our first students will complete their "Diploma in Biblical Studies" after around 6 years in-service training! Our prayer is that these 11 will continue to change the world the way the first 11 disciples did!

Lynn and I (and I think I more) were so blessed to have Earl Trekofski here with us for about 2 months. He did so many things I don't have time or the talent to do and besides being a huge encourager, he also shared his wealth of wisdom. We are so grateful.



Prairie nursing students share God's love in Mozambique



In June, a team of LPN students from Prairie's PCAAT program joined us once again for their year end practicum. During their 3 weeks with the mission they spent time delivering food to orphan homes, teaching health in primary schools and women's classes, visiting the sick in their homes and helping provide good nursing care

at the mission's health posts. They also took a few days to "submerge" into the local culture by spending entire days in the homes of local people, helping families with chores such as washing clothes at the river, hauling containers of water home on their heads, pounding corn and sweeping dirt yards. They got a true taste of the challenges of life as a rural Mozambican, but they also had an incredible opportunity to share God's love in both word and deed!

An Expanded Vision Takes Shape

Earl & Ruth Trekofski



We tagged along with the Mount Horeb volunteers on their weekly trip into the countryside (to Cacador) where they have been offering assistance to some very poor families. That two-hour trip in a VW van, over dirt roads full of pot-holes and ruts left there from the last heavy downpour, was enough to do us for a while. We marvel at the dedication and commitment of our workers involved in both the agricultural and educational development project there. Plans are to

build a multi-purpose structure that can be used for a church, a school, and other community events. The gardens are marvellous and soon they will be providing vegetables for the surrounding areas. People in the community are amazed at how so much can be done, if there is a will. We are excited about what the future holds for this community, especially when God is in it.

We had a fruitful visit and many positive things happened. We saw God's grace at work brining about restoration and unity. He is faithful and waits for us to become pliable in His hands so He can fulfil His purpose in our lives. As we listened to the vision God has given our team at Mount Horeb, besides ensuring the continuation and ongoing development of the work in Itaperucu, God has

burdened the team for this community of Cacador.

In the words of Beбето (our director), "Mount Horeb has grown into a mature tree with deep roots and has produced fruit that has fallen into new communities. The seed in that fruit is now germinating and starting to grow into another fruitful tree which will bless many."

Please pray with us as we stretch further to impact this needy community.



Equipped to reach further!

By Rick & Heather Neufeld

The past couple of months have been busy at Mount Horeb. The mission celebrated its 24th Birthday in Itaperucu, and had a big pizza party to mark the day! During the first part of July the school children are busy finishing up their term work, and writing exams, in preparation for the two week winter Holiday later in the month.

Recently we were able to spend an afternoon at the mission's farm with a grade 1 class on a field trip. We had a wonderful time; it was so encouraging to see teachers taking such an active role with their students. We were also able to spend July 1st (which happened to be one of our volunteering days) in the kitchen making a Canadian themed lunch for the staff and

younger students. Everyone was thrilled with the pizza buns, ceasar salad and watermelon!

Perhaps the biggest news around the mission these days is the recent arrival of the "new" Toyota 'jeep'! Early in June, the mission's truck was hit by a motorcycle driving on the wrong side of the road. By the grace of God no one was killed, but the truck was pretty much finished. The mission had been planning to sell the truck to purchase 4x4 model capable of reaching the rural communities even when the roads were washed out with rain. Just last week MH was able to purchase this Toyota after a gentleman in our community offered to pay the same price



for the truck the dealership had been willing to give.. BEFORE the accident! God is Good! The 4x4 is in great condition and will be a huge help in reaching the rural communities more often. Please pray for this ministry as the hearts of these people are so open.

(Also please pray with us about the remaining finances needed for this vehicle)

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Pre-school Building receives beautiful face-lift



Others have also helped with this as well and an amazing artist came up with one of the South African teams and this is the result.

Although we need skilled help, one of the challenges is providing the housing and logistic back-up for teams who could come to help. Lord willing we can schedule another building team some time soon. (hint, hint :)

Even without its roof and window frames, it looks beautiful. The pre-school building that we have been re-building for the past year is now ready for its roof and the materials are on site, we just need HELP! A very generous donation from Canada through Abundant Life Fellowship in Grunthal, MB. gave us the courage to launch this re-build.



Rick & Heather Neufeld

“Va pentear um Macaco”



While probably not the most useful thing we have learned since arriving in Brazil-“Go Brush a Monkey!” is certainly one of the funniest! Even though we are learning much faster than we ever thought possible, we are very aware of how much effort and time it takes our brains to keep up with even simple conversations. One struggle for us is Church services. We understand very little of what is said in

church- it is hard to ask the pastor to stop, repeat and speak slower! Please pray for us as we continue to learn and develop our Portuguese language skills. We have also been encouraged by volunteering at Mount Horeb - in the kitchen, with maintenance, soccer clubs and even with their rural outreach teams.

One verse that has been an encouragement to us lately is Psalm 93:4, which we saw on a plaque while visiting Iguacu Falls. “Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, The LORD on High is mighty.” How wonderful to know that our Savior is Lord of all. We have been blessed by our time in Brazil, and can hardly believe how

close we are to getting to Mozambique. It will be so hard to leave here, and all the friends we have made, but our hearts long to be in Mozambique where God has called us. We leave here on August 18th, and arrive the following day in South Africa. Please pray for travel safety and that we will be able to adjust to yet another culture without too much difficulty.

