

# SAM Ministries Inc.

## Mozambique Study Bible Report



Loving God and loving people so they have a chance to love God and love people

### Physical Hunger stimulates Spiritual Hunger

As I arrived at the mission base in Mozambique I was inundated with stories of hunger and starvation.

The past three years of drought have resulted in less food stocks each year. Starting in mid-December the food had simply run out and slowly people had begun to starve.

Although some areas have had a somewhat better rain year, others are already projecting another disastrous year! Our immediate area will have some food this year, but "we are already harvesting and eating our food supplies for the next hungry season, so this coming year will be worse," says one of our sustainable agriculture trainers.

As we traveled to 10 different districts via helicopter primarily to visit our leadership schools, I heard story after story describing the challeng-



**In the midst of their hunger, these pastors in Sinjal have started feeding orphans...each only able to give a cup of rice at times.**

ing situation in which our leaders as well as the government leaders were finding themselves.

And yet in the middle of the mess, a constant refrain was, "God has been faithful in the past and we are counting on him now." An administrator who we assisted shared that he had studied to be a priest for 7

years, then studied law for another 4, he returned to Mozambique only to be arrested and jailed for two years "to clean his mind." Following this he was captured by the resistance movement and held for 7 years in a bush camp. "The only thing that brought me through was my faith in God, my Bible and prayer."

### Study Bibles bring smiles... Thank you MGA

The smiles and expressions of gratitude were impressive when the pastors received their study Bibles. But what impressed me far more was to watch one of our leaders who accompanied me during my six week visit who simply did

not put his study Bible down! He carried it everywhere, was reading and studying any time he had a spare moment. He was literally devouring the Word.

What impressed him besides the wonderful maps, cross-

references, dictionary and concordance, was the simple language the Bible was translated in. These were the most sought after in Brazil due to the ease in understanding.

Thank you McMurray Gospel Assembly for your generosity!



Special News

February, 2006

#### Special points of interest:

- Pray for Finiasse, one of our teacher's brothers who was hit by a truck while riding his bicycle to work. He is in a coma in the Chimoio hospital and will die, or at least be horribly disabled, without a miracle!
- Our grade school opened with 135 children and now up to grade 5.
- Water drilling was successful, now we can proceed with training center. Thank you for your prayers
- A Canadian team is preparing to leave June 28th for Mozambique
- Lynn returned from a very productive month in Brazil with Earl and Ruth where she helped out there but also researched resources for Moz.

## Surviving on grass seed and God's Word

As we landed in Sinjal, one man died of Cholera. A Cholera outbreak had started killing people, but due to being cut off from the rest of the country, word had not yet reached the district leadership and there was no medicine or equipment to help contain the outbreak. The Administrator undertook to immediately ensure supplies were sent.

Pastor Pires met us as we landed and although struggling with many concerns about survival and the survival of his fellow pastors and community, he was overjoyed to receive the long awaited study Bible (right).

As we moved to the church for a time of prayer and encouragement from God's Word, he and fellow pastors shared the challenges. The food had run out almost a month ago and now we are surviving on maize chaff, grass seed and immature bananas!

Although a little maize (corn) was available from "unknown" sources (one reads between the lines here since often World Food Program maize often is sold to the highest bidder), it came at an extreme price... \$10.00 USD per 20 litre. A price 5 times that normally available.



## The Sweat and Reward



Pastor Toca (right) assured me that now that he was selected to lead the school in Mutarara, he would learn how to read and write. In three years he has completed grade 7 and now has a study Bible... what a reward for the hard work.

My sweat was not due to the kind of hard work Pastor Toca put in, rather it was due to the 35 plus Celsius temperatures combined with the almost sea-level humidity along the Zambezi river. In Tambara (left) the administrator had studied Bible for 3 years in Cuba and was so excited to receive a Bible.



## "You're not going to ask for it back, are you?"

Although our arrival was well communicated via police radio, we were now in the office of the Guru administrator being asked all manner of questions as to our work and purpose in landing here in a helicopter!

Mercy Air had graciously offered to fly me to our many extension schools in the short time I had, and what a blessing it was. But the administrator was sure she could get something out of this deal! Well I took out a

study Bible and as I showed her I asked if she had a personal faith. She said, "Everyone believes something!" As I left, I noticed she had safely hidden the Bible on her desk under other important documents and when I glanced at it, she asked the above question. I smiled and told her to make sure she studied it. Our two pastors (right) would be visiting her.

