

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

OCTOBER, 2011

Points of Interest **“The only real lasting peace...”**

- 19 graduate from our Leadership training program including the first two women. A fantastic achievement!
- Donated Aircraft hangar on the ship en-route to Mozambique.
- Experienced missionaries Tony and Leila Frank join our team in Mozambique to assist with Leadership Training.

October 4th is the day Mozambique celebrates peace after so many years of war. But the end to armed conflict, although significant, was and is only the first step to the kind of peace our nations need.

As we arrived in Estima, we were met by Tome who is the pastor selected to lead our extension school. After getting things ready and just as Tome was introducing the sessions, the pastor of the church suddenly walked to the front of the church and began re-organizing things. I had a hard time figuring out what he was doing but finally realized that he was trying to excise a bigger more comfortable looking padded office chair from between two iron chairs and get it moved down off the platform to place beside us. He was making such a disturbance that Pastor Tome had to stop speaking and he and his translator just kind of walked off to the side entrance to the



The Administrator of Estima

church. I marveled at how patient he was with this pastor who was clearly disturbing the entire program and who seemed to be doing so merely to re-organize a few chairs that seemed perfectly in place to me.

Suddenly, when everyone stood up and the government administrator of the area walked down the isle and was directed to the big comfortable chair, the penny dropped. The pastor who I thought was just causing a disturbance was preparing for a very important man who he noticed had arrived in his chauffeur-driven vehicle. How glad I was that pastor Tome had

exhibited such patience, but then maybe he too understood what was happening. Having a key government official such as an administrator attend one of our seminars and certificate ceremonies has become more common, but is still a very big honor. And in this case, after he was introduced to great applause, he simply took his seat and remained the entire morning through all our teaching as well as the certificate ceremony. At the end I invited him to share a few words with the gathering. He got up and shared how grateful he was for what we were doing. He said that the work of the government is to assure a peaceful country for its citizens to live productive lives, but he went on to say that his confidence is that the only real lasting peace is that which results from faith in Jesus Christ and as a result, we the church are so critical to the success of the government in every way. He then confessed that he too was a believer and “excited by the commitment the pastors have to study the greatest book in the world.”

Inside this issue:

Talking to God	2
Mobile health team	2
Vocational Training	3
August Christmas	3
An Executive Director	4
Building Progress	4

"We have learned to talk to God about our problems."

The community centre, which will be a real asset to further development in the Cacador community, is a step closer to being finished.



Even now we rejoice in seeing the seeds of the gospel, which the mission has planted in this poor community, take root and flourish. Walls of religiosity built over many years are beginning to crumble.

People are working together for the good of the community, thus making Christianity relevant to their everyday lives. A good example is Mr. Sergio (left) who had a serious drinking problem but who has been alcohol free for over two years now. His wife says they have learned to talk to God about their problems and have learned to be satisfied with the little they have because Jesus brought new meaning into their lives.

We want to thank everyone who has contributed so generously to this project. Our partners from Northern Ireland, the Meadow Baptist Church,

the Fort McMurray Gospel Assembly and the many volunteers that work tirelessly over the week-ends to minister the many needs of the people there.



Mobile Health Team Impacts Community



Many positive reports were received in a recent evaluation of the mobile health clinic's activities in Cacador. The health team commented, "We noticed a big change in the children since we have been helping them. At first they were very shy and hid from us whenever we came. Now they

come out to greet us with ready smiles. We have also noticed changes in their poor hygienic habits and know this will improve their overall health." The team also noted increased willing participation by the community in projects aimed at helping others in need.

As Teresa (right), nurse and leader of the project put it, "This work requires much perseverance, which is certainly the mind set of our team. A doctor who has dedicated much effort to this project put it this way,

"Though we have few resources to work with here, I see more accomplished than I do in my private practice in the inner city." Surely it is better to give than it is to receive.

The team now anticipates introducing new programs focused on women's needs.



A first step in vocational Training

Lynn Lagore

In August we welcomed Rick Cogbill, Todd Green and Ed Hyslip, who came to teach a course on basic automotive repair to some of the mission's key staff and sponsored students. This, in combination with the maintenance facility currently under construction, marks the beginning of the mission's automotive vocational training program.



Theory was taught in a thatched gazebo each morning, and afternoons were spent doing hands-on work. What a blessing it was to have skilled automotive technicians on site to undertake the more challenging tasks and to pass some skills along.

In the words of Jacobo, the mis-

sion's main driver, "The vocational training was awesome. It's helped me a lot to better understand how an engine, the electrics, and brakes work on vehicles. I also learned the importance of regular maintenance. A few weeks ago, two of us who attended the course managed to fix some electrical problems on our truck. This saved the mission a lengthy and costly repair job in town."



Christmas in August is just as fun

Heather Neufeld

Recently, we were privileged to pass out 140 Orphan Care Packs. It took weeks to purchase, sort, prepare the packs for delivery to two different remote villages. After driving for hours, we arrived to a crowd of church and community members singing praise songs and surrounding our truck. Hands



reached out to shake ours, children looked at us curiously, and pastors welcomed us warmly.

Each child in the orphan program received a backpack filled with all sorts of goodies--a plate, water bottle, mosquito net, blanket, toys, school supplies and much more. When the children were

asked what their favorite item was, they replied, "Everything! All of it! It's all my favorite!" For many of these children it was probably the first gift they had ever received and we hope and pray that the real Gift, the Gift of Jesus' Love, will be their experience as they are blessed by the orphan care program.



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SAMM Office Address
3715 - 85 Street N.W.
Edmonton, AB.
Canada, T6K 3R9

Office Phone: 780-408-3268 (Patti Green)
Fax: 780-461-2173
email: sammoff@telus.net

SAMM Field Director
E-mail: dwight@samministries.org



WWW.SAMMINISTRIES.ORG

OUR WEB-SITE IS CURRENTLY UNDER RE-CONSTRUCTION. WE HOPE TO HAVE THE NEW IMPROVED SITE BY DECEMBER 1ST, 2011

SAM Ministries' New Executive Director

In May 2010 SAM Ministries' board and key members and missionaries met to pray and plan strategically for the future of the mission. During these sessions there was a strong sense that it was the right time to seek out an Executive Director who could more actively represent the mission in the absence of the field staff as well as promote the overall work of the mission.

As a result of months of work by a committee tasked with this initiative, a proposal was unanimously passed at our May 2011 AGM to proceed. Following further deliberations, the Board of Directors have appointed Bill



Green as SAM Ministries first Executive Director.

Bill is a veteran of the Edmonton Police Department and long-serving board member of SAM Ministries. Bill's training and life experience along with his faithful service to this mission

uniquely qualifies him to fill this position at this time.

Besides the regular challenging administrative work of the mission, Bill will be available to visit and share about the work with local churches and individuals, as well as corporations and foundations.

Please keep him in your prayers as he launches out on this new adventure.

Progress with key buildings is a priority

Mozambique

At times it feels like we have been building for years, and I guess we have. But each building is critical to the future of the work and in Mozambique it just takes longer to do...a lot longer.

The training center has seen great progress of late and our anticipation is that we will be able to use it for an intensive training time at the end of November. There will be a



lot more work yet to do, but out here we most often have to use less than finished structures.

With the growing involvement of Rick Cogbill who through his exposure to the work here in Mozambique and God's unique work in his life, a mechanic workshop is taking shape. What a blessing it has been to have Rick promoting

the project and helping us to fashion a mechanic training program which will give the workshop a dual role ...helping to maintain the growing number of mission vehicles and using this need as an opportunity to train young men in the trade. Rick's dream is to register a new mission entity called "Mercy Tech Missions" and cooperate with our effort here in Mozambique.

