

Good News For Africa

Jacob and Jaynie Michael – CP 274 Chimoio, Mozambique

March 2013 Newsletter

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Joh 14:1-4 **Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me.** In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I come again, and will receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. And whither I go, you know the way.

Resurrection Day

Oh what a glorious day we will celebrate this March 31. A day that the world doesn't understand, but all of us who are in Christ fully embrace it's miraculous depth. Because we serve a risen and living Savior, our hope is not in vain. Thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ by raising Him from the dead! Preparations are underway for a grand celebration here on Eden Farm. Believers from the Chimoio International Church Fellowship are coming on Saturday, pitching tents, staying the night, and having Sunrise service. He is risen in deed!

Our Time in the States

Our time in the good ole United States of America was enriching and greatly needed! We were met by precious family and began visiting our supporting churches immediately, with precious time with family tucked in between. The Grape Grove Church of Christ agreed to let us stay in their parsonage for the entire five months. What a blessing it was to be so close to family.



Our Family at Cliff Rock



The Joy of turning 3. Izzy Sharpe

All of our children and grand children

were state side this home assignment! We were able to spend Thanksgiving week with part of our family at a special retreat called "Clift Rook" in Kentucky. Christmas was spend with other family members in Ohio. How special those memories are.

We gave and received love while visiting churches in Ohio, Indiana, Illionis, Iowa, New York and Florida. Renewed friendships and made new ones. Thanking God for all your encouragement, hospitality, love, and blessings. Praying for those whom the Lord might direct to serve in Mozambique.

It was a huge pleasure to participate in the annual Grape Grove Church of Christ Christmas Cantata. We do miss singing in our mother tongue. Makes us realize how important it is for the Nationals to hear the word in their mother tongue and to be able to read the word in their own language.

Look What Happened When We Arrived Back To Africa

Our Car

Dave and Leah Preston picked us up at the Johannesburg Airport and we spent some days with them purchasing needed supplies for Mozambique. Our Toyota Surf was left with friends of friends in Johannesburg, South Africa. Someone had thrown a rock from a passing truck when driving one time to Mozambique and we knew that repair was needed prior to our departure. A search to locate it in Zimbabwe had failed. While on home assignment, a hail storm hit Jo-burg and the driver's side door glass as well as the side rearview mirror had been broken. No replacements were found in Jo-burg to our great disappointment.

We departed for Nelspruit, SA to pick up some much appreciated artemisia powder from Mercy Air in White River. We were very blessed to find a windscreen (windshield for you Americans.:-) and a rearview mirror was specially cut, but no door glass. was located. Our car is an import to Moz, but they don't have them in SA. We headed towards Maputo, Mozambique with hope of finding the door window.

Just kilometers from the border we stopped for fuel and were told that we had a major leak by the rear tyre. (tire for you Americans) We hopped down the road to the small town we passed for help. Amazingly this very delapidated garage had a rear bearing and one that fit our foreign make of car. God was watching over us!

Through the border with very little problems, we set our sites on Maputo. Can you imagine our surprise to find the much needed window glass which had been in their original inventory and had been there for 16 years. They don't make them anymore! Our Lord's perfect timing!

Divorce?

We arrived at the farm Friday evening the 9th of February tired, but happy to be home. We were met by our guard and three very happy, but very emaciated watch dogs. The dogs had survived our absence, but two of them, Jazz and Brané were skin and bone. Later we discovered that our house helper, Rabia, had eaten the food purchased for the dogs. Of course our dogs eat freshly cooked cornmeal, rice, and chicken livers. Just what is good for people as well. Rabia and children came to greet us and inform us of happenings while we were away. Dionisio, Rabia's husband and coordinator of our developmental farm, came for an update, as well. Now began the drama that we were to live the next several weeks.

Sunday afternoon we were summoned to the chief's home to attend tribal council, so that we could be informed of the events that occurred in the past couple of months.

Rabia's spoke, a lot, but we noticed that the chief wouldn't let Dionisio defend himself. The charges being brought forward was that Rabia had been insulted by her husband by questioning her fidelity, that he had committed adultery with three women, and he hadn't provided food for their family while we were gone. She wanted a divorce after 3 1/2 years of marriage. Her truth was based on the "enchada." **Rabia, Dionisio, and the police** had travelled to whom we would call a witch doctor.

(Nyanga) She would have to make each statement and then pick up a red hot hoe (enchada) from a fire with her hand without being burnt. If she was able to accomplish this then the statement would be considered true and be presented as proof in front of the tribal court. Rabia was able to pick up the enchada from the fire with her bare hands without being burnt. The local chief accepted her statements as true, therefore not allowing Dionisio to defend himself. Dionisio was asked by the Nyanga if he wanted to take the test of the "enchada", but he refused saying that he was a Christian and it was from Satan and couldn't be accepted as truth. Judgement was passed, Dionisio would have to pay a fine and had two days to gather the huge amount of money. We were asked to keep Rabia during this



*Dionisio and Rabia at
Happier Times*

time, and of course she came with two children and a brother. The chief wouldn't allow Dionisio to stay with us because he didn't want an evil spirit to enter our home.

Two days later before the tribunal once again, Jaynie marched around the hut 7 times, praying that Satan would flee at the name of Jesus, that the walls of deceit would fall and that the minds and hearts, of all involved would be discerning and open to the truth. Dionisio was allowed to explain the situation to a trusted church leader from Nampula who had come to stay with us. The leaders were now hearing Dionisio's defense. Prayers were answered. The fine was still paid, but they would convene the following day. After our dismissal, three witnesses came forward, refuting the adultery charges against Dionisio. The following day Rabia finally confessed that she had made up all the accusations in her head. They were then sent to the district judge in Matsinho. We were requested to attend this session as well. This judge didn't accept the proof of the "enchada" Needless to say this changed everything! Although Rabia still wanted the divorce, all her statements were false. She now had to pay a fine to Dionisio. The Mozambican law states that if one's marriage is registered by the government and the wife wants to leave, she can, but receives no compensation. If on the other hand, they have a traditional marriage or married in the eyes of God, then all goods must be divided equally. Since their marriage wasn't registered, they would have to divide everything equally.

Rabia completely change in less than six months. We are in shock! She was a leader in the local church, Jaynie's best Mozambican friend, and a leader in the community. This definitely is spiritual warfare! Our entire zone of Mombedzi Um was affected as Rabia created discontent in the minds and hearts of past workers, spreading lies of adultery, portraying Dionisio as a poor provider, and stirring trouble with regards to ownership of our farm once again. A community "roast" was held, but God's love prevailed and His truth was shown and we were spared from the Lion's Den. Rabia now says that she is Satan and has denied Christ Jesus and His Church. As the layers of the story are peeled away like an onion, more facts are revealed. Rabia visited four or five Nyanga in our area, witnesses have verified that she bought poison in order to kill Dionisio. She attempted, but God's hand was protecting Dionisio and her plan failed. She put the poison in a cornmeal drink which he consumed and made him extremely sick and even passed out. He went to the hospital for severe burns in his stomach. The church body had prayed for him and we are so very grateful that God spared his life and is recovering well.

Dionisio and Rabia are now divorced and the church is recovering from all that has transpired. One Lord's Day, our church family conducted a prayer walk through our home because Rabia and her family had stayed with us for four days. Jaynie even locked our bedroom door the last night because a would be murderer was under our roof. We praise the Lord for His watchcare and protection.

Getting back to Normal

Jaynie has been working non stop cleaning the house, recovering from rat invasions during our leave and termite damage. It was our pleasure to have two lunch guests in days after we returned, they brought lunch! It was a blessing even in the midst of chaos. We have had seven over night guests since our return. Jaynie has been very busy teaching about God's plants and their benefits to them and also to those we visited with in Beira.

Jacob has been busy making trips to town, towing the LandRover to a machanic's shop to repair the head gasket, planting Moringa trees and coconut trees, and harvesting moringa leaves. We are in the process of creating a drying system for the leaves.

Jacob shares the word most Sundays through sermons, offering meditation, or during communion time.

Bible classes were resumed a week ago Friday. The people are so thirsty for the word. We had three baptisms this past Sunday. The church body is growing as God provides the increase.

Visitors from Nampula and Zimbabwe



*Shamiso & Alfred
Chinyoka*

Sozinho, an evangelist from Nampula whom Jacob had worked with for many years made a surprise visit in February.. He stayed for a couple of days and was instrumental in helping resolve the problem with Dionisio and Rabia.

Alfred and Shamiso Chinyoka from Gweru, Zimbabwe came to visit us for about a week. Alfred was Jacob's Timothy when he preached in Gweru. He is now the Senior Pastor at the Mkoba Church of Christ. They were on holiday and wanted to visit Mozambique for the first time. We also took a trip to Beira so they could enjoy the Indian Ocean. Alfred preached and encouraged the local church in Shona

Visitors are coming!

1. Jordan Bullard will be here June-August of this year to fulfill a three month internship. We are looking forward to his visit. Hopefully his parents will also bless us with a visit during this time.
2. Mike and Leanne Gerber, friends of Scott and Leah Velasquez will be visiting us, Lord willing, sometime this year to see if God can use them here in Mozambique.
3. Paul and Melonie Fudge are hoping to make a return trip to Mozambique some time this year.

Prayer

1. For strength against the spiritual attacks on us and the people we love here in Mozambique.
2. For our health when we get malaria and various other diseases here in Africa.
3. The spiritual lessons gleaned from our recent experience are being well received and those seeing first hand that Satan is the father of lies, will teach them to others.
4. For our support that it will be enough to continue the work here in Mozambique.
5. That others will come to help us and have the same vision to equip the leadership of the churches to carry on with the Lord's work.

Praises

1. For the great reception and warm fellowship of all our supporting friends and churches in the USA, from September until end of January 2013. We are so grateful for your prayers, love, encouragement, and monetary support which is a huge sacrifice for you in these times of difficulties.
2. For keeping this body of believers strong during our leave. And even increasing their numbers
3. Giving thanks in all things, even for the spiritual problems we found after we returned to our home in Mozambique. God will and is using it for good
4. The healthy growth of our Moringa Trees that are ready to be harvested, as well as the other trees previously planted. The cashew and litchi trees are growing, too.

5. Our newest grandson Charles Kristopher Lee Sharpe who will bless us with his presence approximately May 9, 2013. This will be our 14th grandchild. PTL

In His Amazing Love.

Jacob and Jaynie Michael



Always Room for One More