

MARCH 2015

NEWS FROM THE OLIVER FAMILY

Mission?

OF GOD?

MALCOLM: malcolmoliver54@gmail.com

Mobile 00258820796116

GINA: shongwe2002@yahoo.com



Igreja Metodista Wesleyana is constructing a house with funds from the British Methodist Church in Cruzamento De Tete (crossroads to Tete) which is 20km from the city of Chimoio and 70km from the Zimbabwe border. In our last news letter we showed pictures of the foundation. This picture below was taken at the beginning of March:



Three moves in three years:

Maputo, Maxixe(Near Inhambane) and Chimoio



The Methodists in Chimoio are keen to set up a project to help some of the numerous orphans that live around the church. They have some robust and modest ideas about providing a place where children can play, provided simple nutritious food be served and families educated by volunteers from the congregation. The number of children without living parents in such a small community is overwhelming.

With this in mind we recently met with old people and grandmas. They look after the children who have often lost both parents due to HIV. They have very little if any worldly wealth.. apart from the responsibility to bring up orphans.. finding food, cloths and meeting their daily needs. They amaze me and I admire them! As we were joined by community leaders, (rather poignantly in the dining room of the manse that is being built) , They were suggesting how church members...also who have little money could perhaps assist.. .Eyes turned towards me and I had to quickly say that I am not allowed by the Methodist Church UK to solicit for funding.

Part of the aim in any project set up would be to educate people about the blessing of volunteering... this is well understood by a small group of wonderful leaders of the local Methodist Society who if the project gets underway, will lead it. We know from experience that the norm is for 'volunteers' to receive 'incentivo'.. incentives to compensate for the commitment they give. One person once said 'there is no volunteering in Mozambique'!



Prayer

On the 6th day of each month in the UK Methodist handbook, people are invited to hold us in their prayers.

Wow God! you are awesome!
Moçambique is blessed!
Golden sands, Coral reefs,
Endless miles of Indian Ocean
Prawns, calamari, fish great and small
Moçambique is blessed!
Mountains, fertile soil,
minerals, gas and fuel
Diversity to enjoy

Yet Gracious God we can be distracted from the wonder of your world
And destroy your creation.
May the new President and ruling party, work with Renamo and other parties for peace with justice.

May leaders have a real desire to change a culture of corruption

May leaders strive to improve healthcare provision in rural areas

May the memories of colonialism and civil war spur Moçambicans to be the best that they can be
So that a wide diversity of language and culture may be celebrated.

May Moçambique put aside the things that destroy environment and peopeso that the abundant mineral wealth be shared for the good of all.

Suggestions for Prayer

1. Our future

Whilst it is good to be with people in Chimoio, Gina needs to be nursing in a way that enables her to maintain and develop the skills and gifting that God has blessed her with.

2.. The orphan project outlined in this newsletter

3. The strengthening of an appropriate relationship with the Methodist Church of Zimbabwe.

4. For resources and availability of funding for swift completion of the property that is being built in Cruzamento.

5. For a good partnership between the many differing Christian organisations endeavouring to work in Moçambique.

A leg in plaster and toothache!

When the lady in the picture (right) was knocked down by a large truck, Malcolm was asked to take her to hospital... she didn't want to go and waited for two days going hoping the pain would go away. Here she is with church members a month later prepared to go back to the hospital for review. I drove 20km each way to collect her we reached Chimoio Hospital at 9am.. She waited and waited for a doctor, but was eventually told she was too late to see one. I took her home again without seeing any medical personal. Thankfully a week later we had more success..we were at the hospital by 7am She was seen late in the afternoon, the plaster removed and grandma returned home greatly relieved.



Having had one tooth removed at Chicupe hospital and another in Zambia, Malcolm was very worried that he was going to end up with no teeth left... and when he got bad toothache thought the worst..especially as it was the last big tooth in his left lower jaw... Although a city, Chimoio does not have a dentist apart from the hospital...And as you can read above the hospital resources are stretched and would probably conclude extraction rather than repair! Only reasonable solution seemed to travel 100km into Mutare Zimbabwe where we were told there was a good dentist. We travelled on the Saturday, but in the end did not see the Dentist until Sunday... Thanks to pain killers and repeated cleaning I was praising God ! Sunday worshipping with Zimbabwe Methodists was very special and I met all sorts of wonderful people. After the English service in Mutare I headed off with the Minister Revd Shatai, into the bush where I preached. It was amazing to see a nearly completed four classroom block, \$14000 had been raised by St Andrews in Mutare, the same amount from the National headquarters in Harare. The locals moulded bricks, dug foundations etc. I sensed real



kingdom work. Revd Shatai, who is a former Methodist District Chair (Bishop) has driven the project and also over the past eight years has helped encourage Methodists in Mozambique. Praise God for his Ministry. Mozambique needs inspirational people like this! It was a really blessed Sunday and I felt very privileged to preach.





The new Manse.... and the roof goes on.



Sarah The women leader shares a vision for centre of orphans with foster mother who lives next to the ministers house.



Three of the orphans

FAMILY PHOTOS



Ready for school



Flower Girls at wedding in Zambia.



Gina drawing water from our well.