



African Outreach Ministries Newsletter

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Johannesburg, South Africa

Vol. 6, Issue 2

2nd Quarter , 2005

RIPPLES

Dear Friends,

I was surprised, then stunned and then so grateful to God. I was standing in a classroom in Mozambique, preparing to teach 10 pastors and 13 Mozambique missionary students at the Operation Mobilization school in Mocuba. There on the tables in front of the students were Portuguese translations of the African version of the EE III course. I had spearheaded and produced this version of EE III back in the mid 1980's. The impact of all the hard work of simplifying and adding culturally relevant proverbs and illustrations was still "rippling" throughout Africa. They told me that it was also translated into their local language of Lomwe. I began to think of all the languages it has been translated into and of how many African men and women who had studied this version of EE III that is user-friendly and relevant to their situation. It was a deeply moving experience.

In Scripture we are told not to grow weary of doing good, but we often do. We sometimes feel that our contributions to the Kingdom are of little or no consequence. But I am convinced more than ever, that on the "Day of Rewards", the "ripples" of our lives will be fully told and explained to us. We will be amazed and humbled that our good deeds, kind words, lessons, and evangelism has affected more people than we could ever dream possible. Even after we pass on, the domino effect will continue in the lives of those we have touched.

Take heart! Our Lord remembers all your efforts and words for His glory. And remember, your "ripples" are still rolling, even into eternity. PTL!

AOM Is Now In 5 Countries



We can all rejoice that AOM is now ministering in five countries, i.e., Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, Malawi and Mozambique. The limits of what we can physically do has been reached. Join us in praying that God will supply the additional team members to continue to expand our ministry in these countries and beyond. God is the Lord of the harvest and He knows the laborers He would choose for AOM.



Allen & Scott with Pastor Robert and his wife





MALAWI - A New Country For AOM

We slowly drove through the potholes, scrapping the bumper as we maneuvered through a huge ditch in the road to the pastor's house. As we drove up the path we found ourselves greeted by 40 people who had been waiting hours for us. After being ushered into a room and offered the only chairs, we began meeting the members of the church. They told us, "Now we are not orphans. We told the people that our leaders would come to visit us. Now they all see the vehicle and know that we are not orphans." That is how we came to know Robert, the pastor, and his new 8-month-old congregation of over 50 adults in Lilongwe, the capitol city of Malawi.

Pastor Timothy Katoka has committed himself and his Chipata (Zambia) church to take the lead in discipling and assisting Robert and this new church. What a joy to see such commitment to missions and to mentoring. Timothy will travel to Lilongwe and will bring Robert to Chipata (a three hour bus trip one way) to build relationships and train the church. Pray for God to continue to nurture this new church and to bless Timothy as he "fathers" Robert and this new group of believers.



Lilongwe church meeting



SOUTH AFRICA BTCL Training

Three teachers are already trained in Giyani, and at least a dozen more are scheduled to be trained in the next few weeks. Two of those teachers are already teaching the first twenty students, and hope to start another twenty very soon. Overall, not at bad start.

One of our main goals during our first year was to identify and begin a ministry that would meet a need in our new host country. What has developed is the beginning of a teacher training program for BTCL (Bible Training Center for Church Leaders).

Our vision for BTCL in South Africa is two-fold. First, we desire to develop and train qualified men and women who want to serve their communities by teaching BTCL. To this end, we have already trained our first three teachers in the Limpopo Province and have two more training sessions planned in the provinces of Mpumalanga and Gauteng. We have a vision that, eventually, BTCL classes will be taught in all of the nine provinces in South Africa.

Our secondary goal in the BTCL program will be to actually teach and train church leaders ourselves. The team hopes that in early 2006, we will begin offering BTCL courses in the Tzaneen area. Be praying that the doors will open to begin this new ministry.

ZAMBIA

Mongu Is Building



"It's a new warehouse," no, "I have heard it is going to be a city meeting hall." For months people around Mongu have been talking about a large and tall steel frame with a tin roof. But today, there is no more confusion. They know it is going to be a church. Back in late September we reported that the steel framework for the new Followers of Christ church building was erected, however, due to the rains, little further progress had been made. But now, the floor slab has been poured, the walls are going up, the window and door frames are ordered, and the newly funded bathrooms and septic system are under construction. We are grateful to the Sugar Creek Church in Houston who has funded most of the building. Once completed, it will seat at least 500 people. The congregation there in Mongu has set a goal of finishing the building by December of this year, a big challenge for them to meet since they are financially responsible for molding the blocks and putting up the walls. We admire them for their faith and dedication. People around Mongu are excited about the new building. We hope and pray that this building will be used for years to come to bless the Lozi people, not only within Mongu itself, but throughout the whole Western Province.



ZIMBABWE - Trials and Victories

The Bad News First

There are shortages of gas, diesel, cooking oil, flour, bread, margarine, all soaps, corn meal and matches. A very poor harvest in many areas caused the government to announce that they would have to import 1.2 million tons of corn, 2/3's of the normal yearly requirement. Added to all this, the national electricity company announced a program to randomly cut off electricity during the day. Those are just some of the physical problems facing the typical Zimbabwean today.

On the spiritual side, Zimbabwe Christian Fellowship's national elder (Fibion Nyevehe) and the national treasurer's wife (Mrs. Mudimba) have been stricken. Fibion suffered a stroke and is slowly recovering, but still has not regained his speech. Mrs. Mudimba has been bedridden for months and is back in the hospital. This is a difficult time for these churches who lean on these two men as pillars of strength. Let our hearts and prayers go out to the Lord for complete healing, strength and protection for these families and wisdom for all the churches.

The Good News

In the face of all these trials, the churches and their leaders are standing and moving forward. The leaders' commitment to their flocks is an inspiration. God has allowed many of the normal props of life to be removed, forcing believers to focus on God as their sole provider and savior. Pray that out of these trials God will produce an ever more glorious Church.



MOZAMBIQUE - Hospitality

As darkness fell after miles and miles of dirt roads, we finally found ourselves in Mocuba, Mozambique. The fatigue we felt quickly disappeared when we saw Antonio's big smile. Rather than staying at the school, Antonio had arranged nice accommodations in a travel trailer parked outside the new home he is building. Maria, his wonderful wife, fed us delicious meals. We felt so welcomed by this godly couple.

At the school we visited last September, we were warmly welcomed back by the second year students, and we were happy to meet those beginning their studies. Antonio had also invited ten pastors and church leaders (all they could accommodate) to attend the classes we taught. Many others wanted to attend, so we were told we would just have to come back.

It was humbling to learn that very few had completed school beyond grade 9 because of years of civil war and lack of opportunity. Even in the town of Mocuba, there had only been a secondary school for two years now! What impressed us most on this trip was that while there exists an overall lack of basic Bible knowledge, each participant had a deep desire to learn and know more. Everyone expressed gratitude for the classes and the newly translated Portuguese materials we left with them, saying it was exactly what their churches needed. Despite the language barriers, we believe that God richly blessed our time with these wonderful people, and we look forward to serving them again in the future.



Training pictures at the Operation Mobilization School for Missions in Mocuba, Mozambique



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Check out our new website:

www.africanoutreachministries.org

Special thanks to Brett Padgett, our webmaster for putting together such a wonderful site.

Prayer Requests

1. ZIMBABWE - **Pastor Fibion Nyevehe** is slowly regaining his strength and some words are returning through speech therapy. Fibion is senior pastor at the Famona church and a national elder. Pray for his complete recovery and for his wife, Tracy, as she cares for the family and oversees the family business. If you would like to send him a word of encouragement, his email is fnyevhe@yahoo.com.
2. ZIMBABWE - **Pastor Francis Mudimba's wife** has been extremely sick and is back in the hospital. Francis is serving as the Binga district evangelist and the national treasurer. Pray for her healing.
3. SOUTH AFRICA - Pray for our June and July **team move to the Tzaneen area**. Moving is always stressful. The Harris children will be entering a new school in mid-July.
4. ZIMBABWE - Major hunger appears to be coming in Zimbabwe. Pray that the churches will continue to stand in their dependence on the Lord for their very lives.
5. Pray for **spiritual and physical protection for the Averys and Harris and all the men and women who serve as leaders** in the churches in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique.

RESPONSE SHEET:

- Enclosed is my pledge of \$ _____ for African Outreach Ministries.
- I pledge to pray for African Outreach Ministries 5 + times a week.
- Please include me on the African Outreach Ministries e-mail list. My e-mail address is _____

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PLEASE DETACH AND MAIL TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.

Thank you for your prayers and your support!