

AOM UPDATE: Mozambique and Zimbabwe

1. Mozambique: Allen has just returned from Inhambane/Maxixe, Mozambique. Allen went for 18 days to assist the Fuentes in their discipling efforts and to help to re-focus the discipling paradigm to better create self duplicating discipleship-chains. It was a wonderful time and the Fuentes were perfect hosts. God blessed the time with new plans to be more focused in our discipleship training. The Fuentes are working hard and have already developed an amazing network of new disciples and friends. Pray for the Fuentes and the team as we together work to start a Church Planting Movement in the Inhambane Province.

2. Zimbabwe: We report from time to time about the ever deepening chaos that Zimbabwe is slipping into. Now with the unofficial rate of inflation over 10,000%, the government has mandated a severe roll back of prices on all goods. The mandate also included threats of arrest if the store owner refuses to sell goods at the new prices or confiscation of businesses that either refuse to obey or close their doors. Businesses are facing a double blow, i.e., either sell goods at below replacement costs or refuse and be arrested. There were stampedes of people buying the cheaper goods and now most all store shelves are empty. There is no fuel in the country and it is reported that most businesses will be closed down in the next week. So, the end is approaching for some type of change. Pray that God will care for His people who are suffering through this and that the churches will stand together trusting God for their future.

3. Orphan Camp: From July 24th-30th, the River Glen Presbyterian Church will be hosting a camp for 50 orphans from the Bulawayo orphan program AOM sponsors. Allen and Janelle will be assisting them with their logistical needs. With the complete business shutdown that looms, logistics of food, fuel, transport, etc, will be major problems. This wonderful church's members sponsor about 60 orphans. Please pray for the team and the Averys as they work together with the orphan program staff, Cornelius and Soneni, to conduct this camp for the orphans.

ALLEN'S JOURNAL – JUNE 18TH – JULY 4TH

June 18th - Arrived on time in Inhambane after a short 1 hour and 50 minute flight, instead of 14 hours of road travel. I was very tired and not up to my best. I enjoyed speaking to the Fuentes and catching up on the various groups and problems. Got to bed early and was asleep by 9:30 p.m. (unheard of for me!!).

June 19th - Today we went to Susana's group meeting, which meets near the Chicunque Rural Hospital in the northern suburb of Maxixe. Susana was still out shopping when we got there, but was greeted by her younger brother, Graciano. Susana is a teacher, who teaches school in the afternoons. Her husband is finishing a nursing course in Maputo and will return to a job in Chicunque Rural Hospital at the end of this year. The group got going with a prayer by a young man named Elvio. Elvio is 19 years old and has been very faithful to the group. He speaks some English and also Tswa. After Bia led the group in some singing, Graciano led the group in studying the baptism tract. There were a lot of questions and interactions. In the middle of the meeting, Susana came in. She has a very open friendly face. She knew the material and helped others. At the end, Bia asked how they all wanted to respond. The Assemblies of God had baptized some and others had been sprinkled and said that they wanted to be baptized by immersion. Susana said that she had to talk to her family before being baptized because they had baptized her and she thought they needed to be informed about what she wanted to do. The parents are not practicing Catholics, so hopefully, they will give their blessing and be future enquirers. The meeting went very well and if Susana, Graciano and Elvio could be trained as leaders, this group has very good potential.

After a lunch of chicken and vegetables at the Fuentes, Gustavo showed me the various charts on each group. Scott and I had made up a chart by which Gustavo could begin tracking the discipling stages of each member. Eventually, he will turn over the chart to the house church leader and teach him how to track his members. Gustavo had translated the chart into Portuguese. He also expressed his concern over Bernardo, who has missed one Sunday service and seems dishearten. It may come from my asking him to pay for his

Bible, which he did. He may have felt resentment or it could be from something else we do not know about. Time will tell if he is our man of peace in that location.

We discussed that he needed to “stop evangelizing” and concentrate on training up the potential house church leaders, since they were already swamped with new believers. We talked about the fact that individualized training had to be done with each leader so that they could faithfully be able to train others to train others, etc. The training steps, as he had also learned in his Perspectives Course, was (1) model, e.g., giving the gospel presentation, (2) assist the disciple in doing what had been modeled, (3) watch the potential leader do the ministry you showed him, and (4) leave the leader to train others and (5) check on the leader’s progress, i.e., help him to be faithful and accountable as a shepherd and trainer of disciples. We agreed this was what needed to be done, but had to work out “how” to get this done. No small logistical problem.

We discussed the need to start training Joao (from the Tofo village). He and his extended family have a real possibility of being an extremely active church plant if the old Zionist teaches would all be renounced and they would give their whole hearts to the Lord. We will meet with Joao tomorrow at 10 a.m. at the Tofo petrol station on the road near his house. I want to cast a vision of a New Testament church, what Jesus is calling him to be and how they could be the catalyst for scores of rural Tonga churches all through the Tofo and Inhambane areas.

We spent time praying together before they went to check on Benedito, who had accepted Christ but had been on vacation. He works as a nurse at the hospital. When Gustavo helped him to accept Christ, he was able to come to understand that God could forgive him of the killing that happened during the war. They have just returned and said that they not only found him, but he asked for a group to be started at his house that is near the short-cut across to the Inhambane road! I have suggested that Gustavo personally disciple him and do on-the-job training and then help him with several house church sessions and then start a house church that Benedito would lead. Gustavo feels that Benedito has real leadership potential. God is raising up the leaders.

June 20- Today did not go as we planned. On our way over to Tofo to meet Joao, he called and said that he had a problem. His grandmother had died last night and so he was off to the funeral 20 kms away, but could meet us in Inhambane at 9 a.m. on Saturday. We were disappointed, but it was all understandable. We went on to Inhambane and went to the best Internet Café and spent 2 hours trying to read our email. It was so slow that one fellow read his newspaper while waiting for the next page to open up. It could be used as a way to break down terrorists! I treated myself and my battered psyche to a “galao” (Latte) after the experience. Fortunately, cell phone internet is coming and maybe it will be somewhat better.

We also visited Bernardo and he seemed his old self and was cheerful. He still is a baby and does not understand what church is, but he can grow if he is sincere.

After returning to Maxixe, Gustavo cooked in tin foil over a braii the Barracuda they purchased right out of the boat as it came in the day before. It was very good. They found the way to get fresh fish, i.e., meet the boats as they come in at the end of the day. Bia had gotten very sick on a bad fish they had purchased, so they are extra careful now.

At 3 p.m., we went to the Mango Tree meeting where 4 young men gathered for lesson 3 of the T4T. It went very well and they practiced a bit on giving their testimony and promised to witness to someone before Sunday. Several are going to be baptized. I asked Gustavo to challenge them to buy a grape juice so that we could do the Lord’s Supper. When he asked them they talked about it and said they would get juice or the grape power. Saturday I will ask Bernardo to buy some grape juice or power so that we can have the LS there too.

Tonight we went to the bank employee, Margarita, who is a Methodist who wants to be taught. She seems to be a very good Christian, who wants good Bible teaching since she does not know so many of the basics. She is sharing her faith with others and really wants to reach out. Hate to steal from other churches and Fuentes have told her they do not want to teach her fellow church members, but they are wanting to reach the lost and start house churches. She is seriously considering getting baptized.

We leave tomorrow morning at 6 a.m. for Maputo to look for a good 4x4 for Fuentes. We will return tomorrow afternoon. The mechanic is standing by for us and the Bible Society head is going to direct us to a dealer who helps missionaries.

June 21st- Gustavo and I drove down to Maputo to look for either a Pajero Mitsubishi or a Prado Toyota that are 4x4. We found two that were both 1997’s and had less than 90,000 kms. They both fit the budget. A

mechanic is going to look at both vehicles tomorrow and give us his evaluation. The Bible Society vice-chairman helped us find several car lots that had Japanese used car imports. He also arranged the mechanic he knew that was honest.

Tomorrow we will travel back after checking on all the details surrounding the purchase and registering of one of the trucks.

We are both tired and Gustavo has a minor stomach bug. He ate the salad today and that may have set him off.

June 22nd - We traveled back to Inhambane getting back about 10 p.m. We decided on the white Pajero and it will be serviced and checked over again. Gustavo did not want to choose a vehicle that he had not seen and also go through the hassles of importation, etc. It seems like a good vehicle. It seems to be in extremely good condition. Got my parallel Portuguese/English Bible there as well.

June 23rd - Today was a day to remember. First, we took the boat over to Inhambane to meet Joao (of Tofo). He had been to his grandmother's funeral on Thursday and Friday. We met at the Bistro and discussed what the former Zionist church had taught. It seems they were more evangelical than any other Zionist church I have studied or been in contact. They did forbid all the OT prohibited foods, some wore white robes and they had several apostles at the headquarters in Jangamu. But, all in all, they seemed to have a basic understanding of Christ that was not syncretistic. They had no polygamy and no charms were allowed. They had no strings or "charmed" water to use as charms. The big thing we confirmed was that Joao was not the key leader of the disbanded Zionist group, but it was his father and several other unnamed men. His father wanted to speak to us, so a meeting was set up for Wednesday morning. Mohammad will take us there, after the boat ride over. We also asked Joao if there were many Muslims in the rural areas of the Tonga and he said that there were very few. The Muslims were mainly in the town. This was what I expected to be the general case and thankfully so!

The most interesting thing was that we called Mohammed and asked if he was working and if it would be possible for us to come to his home and meet his father and pray for him over the loss of his wife. He said that they were having a celebration to remember his mother and he would like for us to go. So, he picked us up and took us out to his house, which is located across the inlet going up towards the airport. So, it is a rural home and had quite a few Muslims there, so there are pockets of Muslims around the towns. We drove out to his father's home with the Imam who was to do the ceremony! He was a very irritated fellow and Gustavo heard him lie to a man on the phone. It seems everyone has been in lines at the ATMs and he could not get any money because the lines were either too long or the machines had run out of bills. Obviously needed some of the fruit of the Spirit.

When we arrived we found several hundred people awaiting the ceremony and a big meal being prepared of rice, brown beans, salad and meat (all of it tasted very good). We talked with Mohammed's elder brother, who spoke very good English and was an accountant. Got to know the senior Imam and his assistant. When the time for the ceremony came we went in with 30-40 men into a house, after taking off our shoes, and sat on the floor of the main room. About 15 women were in a second smaller room. The Imam began to chant in Arabic (sounded like what you hear over the loud speakers from the mosques) and the men would respond at the appropriate times. This went on for about 15 minutes. Several times they wiped their faces with their hands and while praying many held out their hands as though they were receiving a gift. Then we all went out and had the meal. The assistant Imam made a point of telling us that true Muslims were peace loving, believed in freedom of religion, and any Muslim who killed anyone was not a true Muslim. Perhaps he really believed that is what others taught and lived like in Muslim countries. We did not argue or contradict his statements. After a long time of talking about things with the Imams, Muhammad took the Imams and Gustavo and I to see his father. We all sat outside and before long the father asked about what we were doing and Gustavo started sharing. The father asked about how we thought about God and Gustavo gave a lot of explanations and from what I could understand, he really did a very good job of it. I shared some on the trinity because the father said that he believed that God had three personalities. Which we thought was completely wrong for a Muslim to say. The assistant Imam took some notes of what Gustavo and I said. Finally, I saw that the father was getting upset at our sharing about Jesus being sent by God to die for us, so

we closed the conversation and talked about how we all really want to love God and obey him, so that is why we can share with each other and respect each other because of our common desire to love and obey God. That seemed to calm things down and the father said it is true that he loves God. The whole experience of seeing the Muslim families, men and boys with head coverings and young girls with scarves on, seeing how they worship and speaking with a real Imam and the father were eye openers. I would say it was one of the most unusual days of my career. It was so different from the normal Bantu village experience and their basic animistic theology. Mohammed took us back to town and I could smell beer on his breath. Fuentes said that he had also been drinking when he had come to pick up the team from Tofo. That is really sad to know that he is probably an alcoholic. Fuentes also mentioned tonight that the people make a very cheap, sweet coconut liquor that sells for about \$.75 a gallon!! No wonder there seems to be a tremendous problem of drunkenness. Drunkenness seems to be much worse than in South Africa or Zimbabwe or Zambia.

June 24th- Sunday was a good day. We went to Dr. Luis' house for worship and then proceeded to go to the bay about 300 yards away for the baptisms. Dr. Luis had never gone down to the bay before! Along the way, we found 4 men from the Mango Tree church who had come because one of them was to be baptized. Gustavo baptized them, but had them help immerse each person by holding an arm. He told them that in the future they would be doing the baptisms. It was a nice service. We all went back to Dr. Luis' house and Gustavo taught them concerning the Lord Supper and we all took it. There were 6 adults in the combined meeting not counting us. There is great potential in Dr. Luis as a house church leader and trainer of leaders. In the afternoon, we went to Bernardo's house and had a very nice time there. His wife did not attend because she was fixing us a big special meal. It was stewed meat that was very spicy, rice, and dish of greens made with crabmeat that really was very good. They had also purchased some coconut donuts for dessert. Gustavo did a great job teaching lesson three from the Training Trainers that was Cornelius' story. He had three people repeat the story and practice the memory verse. We showed them how to partake of the Lord Supper and decided with them that packets of grape cool drink would be the most practical thing to buy for the Lord's Supper. Wine and grape juice are both very expensive. Bernardo's brother and his neighbor both want to be baptized. It was a great time of fellowship and bonding for all the people who attended. There were 6 adults and one youth in the combined meeting not counting us.

June 25th- Today was Fuentes day off and it was Mozambique's Independence Day. They went off to Margarit's house for a Bible study and stayed for the lunch that she had invited them for. When they went they found several other people who had been invited. The study, sharing and meal seemed to have gone very well. They left at 9 a.m. and returned about 4 p.m. I stayed at the house, not realizing that we had been invited to come for a meal, and worked on the Strategic Planning Work Sheet, which is below. I also had time to study some Portuguese, so I made good use of the day. We will each fill out the work sheet and then spend at least 4 hours discussing our answers and planning how we can put in place the necessary structures that will help the groups to become the CPM we are praying for. By reading the work sheet, you will be able to discern the areas that have to be addressed. The final filled out work sheet will be sent to the AOM Board and SCBC.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORK SHEET

JUNE 25, 2007

Introduction: The Bougainvillea can grow as a bush or it can climb as a vine. What makes the difference is the structure(s) with which the Bougainvillea has to work. The ministry is only 8 weeks old and has grown beyond our most hopeful estimates. The Fuentes have the gift of evangelism that has been used by God to touch scores of people already. But, already they are overwhelmed with the numbers of people in Maxixe, Inhambane and potentially Tofo. We realize that in its present configuration our ministry can only produce "bush" house churches, i.e., churches that love the Lord and each other, but are not able to disciple its new disciples into functional maturity or plant other house churches with any kind of intentionality. To become "climbing" house churches they need the structures of (1) the discipleship-chain, (2) the house church leader training to be able to grow functioning disciples and intentionally plant house churches that can plant others and (3) a clearer presentation of what Jesus is calling His disciples to be after they accept His salvation. The field situation is never like it is in the books we read. It is messy because not every disciple is fully

committed to the Lord either because of their lack of faith or because of a lack of understanding of what Jesus is calling them to become and do as disciples. The following are areas that the Fuentes and Allen have worked through to ascertain how to turn the present “bush” house groups into “climbing” house churches that can train their new disciples and plant other house churches.

1. What is our present long-range vision of what the CPM will eventually look like in Mozambique?
2. What are the key structural elements that a CPM needs in order to produce healthy fast growing churches?
3. Points to remember when discipling a new believer.
4. What elements does a typical house church meeting have?
5. What elements does a typical house church meeting have on Sunday?
6. Everything must be done in a way to empower disciples and to be re-producible. What things are presently being done that are:
 - Needed but are not re-producible?
 - Not re-producible and should be stopped or done in a different manner?
 - What things are being done or not encouraged that retard discipleship empowerment?
7. An analysis of each group we presently have in view of the key house church structures, their empowerment to do ministry and their ownership of “their” house church.
8. List the present groups in their descending probability of becoming a functioning house church.
9. What must be done generally to start the “discipleship-chain” functioning in each group?
10. Who are the strategically important people out of each group who should be targeted to be discipled one-on-one after having reached an agreement with that disciple that he/she will continue the chain of discipling in his/her house church.
11. What must be done with the key disciples before beginning the one-on-one discipling process?
12. What are the materials that each disciple needs to be discipled to know, to practice and to train others in?
13. How can we start training house church leaders (and everyone who wants to be trained) in lessons such as “Training Trainers” and other lessons on running a church and envisioning how to plant new house churches? Could we begin by meeting leaders from Maxixe, Inhambane and Tofo? Have separate meetings in Maxixe and Tofo? If some leaders cannot attend a regular time for weekly training, could they be individually tutored?
14. Importance of good worship (singing) is vital to the life of a church. How can we work towards a model that will be culturally appreciated, encouraging and deeply honoring to God?
15. How can we keep the vision of middle class house churches in Maxixe and Inhambane? By middle class, we mean from Bernardo (lower middle class) upwards, including nurses, professional people, teachers and business owners.
16. How can we keep a focus on winning whole families and not just extracting people from their families into the house churches?
17. What ministries or activities must we NOT become involved in?
18. What ministries could we do at a later stage that will bless the CPM?

June 26th - In the morning, we had a very discouraging meeting with Susana (she is a really likable person, who is a teacher in Maxixe). Her family has a Catholic background and she said that although she understood about baptism and other things that the Fuentes had taught her, family unity was very important to her and she did not want to confuse her children by obeying. A daughter wants to be a nun and a son has considered being a priest. Gustavo talked to her very gently about doing what Jesus had revealed to her. I too encouraged her. Another lady from the group came by later and Susana repeated to her the situation and how she had been told to do what Jesus was teaching her. So, she needs our prayers and the conviction of the Spirit. God knows what He will do in her life and family. This will be a problem we face repeatedly, i.e., religious and family ties stopping people from change.

In the afternoon, it was good to see how the young man Elvio had been discipled and is so active reaching out to others. He is still in his old church, but is giving himself to help us. Last week Bia led a lady to Christ who was Elvio’s friend. Today Gustavo and I went to disciple the new lady, Lucia. Lucia and her

husband are middle class. Lucia met us and we sat on the veranda and Elvio taught her the first lesson of the Steps to Freedom in Christ. Her husband came out of the house at the beginning of our time and told us that he was home (we had seen a pickup in the yard) because there was no electricity at his company and he was at home typing up documents. Then he excused himself to go and complete his work. Hopefully, we can reach out to him and lead him to Christ and have another middle class house church in Maxixe.

Elvio did a good job teaching. Also, it was refreshing to see how Lucia was so open about her life and her various involvements with ancestors and dreams of the spirit of a dead aunt, etc. In her prayers she repented of all the occult things she had been involved in. She has no real religious background. We were really impressed with her sincerity.

Bia has been really sick today with a virus or food poisoning from an Independence Day meal they had been invited to yesterday. Gustavo has taken Bia to the Chicucque Hospital where one of our disciples is the evening nurse in charge in order to get something to stop the vomiting she has done all day. We were unaware that it was so serious. We prayed for her and then they left. They just got back from Chicucque Hospital and they only gave her paracetamol (sp)!!!! She needed the injection that stops vomiting. Perhaps they do not even have the injection in the hospital! The level of medical care here is "faith building".

Just a note on life in this house, the boat taxi and night driving: The traffic of trucks, cars and motorbikes is constant and does not stop even throughout the night. The position of the house is not conducive to peace and tranquility. The hot water heater in my shower does not work, so I prepare a bucket of warm water each morning to have a splash bath. The toilet still leaks after 3 repair trips by the plumber. The water pump is malfunctioning tonight, so we have no running water. The first night I woke up and smelled smoke and thought the house was on fire. Seemingly, Maxixe has a real problem with smoke most of the time. The days have been very mild and the view of the bay and Inhambane is truly stunning.

When returning to Maxixe on the boat taxi the other day, I was trampled by both men and women forcing their way off the boat. It is their normal pattern of behavior, but since I was an older person and trying to help a mother with a baby in her arms by carrying her small suitcase, I was outraged and so angry I had to still bring it before God the next day. Needless to say, I lost some sanctification over the incident. On a trip last year, one man knocked Janelle aside pushing past her. Sadly to say, I did not love nor like him and had steam coming out of my ears for a day. Satan must have had a good laugh at me over both incidents. If you are wondering, yes I am repentant and am in control of my anger (but, I am sitting in the Maxixe house living room and not in the boat awaiting the next stampede!!).

The Fuentes have seen 4 serious accidents in their 8 weeks. They have all been at night on the road from Inhambane around to Maxixe. Coming back from Maputo, where we found a suitable 4x4 truck for them, we had to repeatedly slow down for trucks that were across the white line. A taxi kept stopping to let off passengers and then passing us (at least 4 times). This would not have been a problem but he would fly by us missing us by mere inches and then cut quickly into our lane. It was very unnerving. Then on the way back at night to Maxixe the other evening, a man ran out of the darkness and crossed in front of us. Fortunately, Gustavo was going only about 50 mph, or we would have hit him. Seems a lot of people are hit on the road around from Inhambane to Maxixe. Such is driving in Africa!

June 27th- What a day!! First, Bia was healed during the night after a terrible day of vomiting. Second, I survived the boat trip without incident. PTL!! We went over to Inhambane to (1) send off email letters and a letter for Scott's Mozambique multi-entry visa and then (2) go to Joao's village to meet his father. The internet experience was about normal, i.e., highly frustrating- slow connections to the point that in the 30 minutes we had to do Internet, I could not open even Jamey's letter for a conference call nor all the other letters except I was able to open Janelle's letter and print it out. Just realize this part of Mozambique is "technically challenged."

I believe all of us have had some concerns about trying to make a CPM series of churches out of the failed Zionist church at Tofo. They would have in place their ideas about what church is with all their traditions and history. So, we went to see what Joao's father wanted to say and if we could move forward or not. We met Joao at the new petrol station that is at his turn off and walked with him to the village (20 minutes in sand).

We were surprised to find not just his father, but also, several former church leaders and a Leader/Apostle from their Zionist headquarters in Jangamo district. We told them who we are; our history and about planting house churches. I mentioned that the only reason we continued to come to their village was that Joao had told us that the Zion church had died and they wanted to re-start something. From their reaction I realized that they were not willing to say it had died, but only that it had some problems. I really felt bad that I have unknowingly put Joao in an embarrassing spot (later walking back to the road, I told him I was sorry that I caused him embarrassment. He did not seem to be bothered by the incident.). It soon became evident that they just wanted us to fund the building of their church, give them materials and Bibles. We said that was not what we were doing which effectively ended the meeting because there was nothing else they wanted. It was good to know where they were, but it was also very sad. On the way back to the road, Joao told us that his father did not want to admit that the old church was dying and he did not want to change. He then made our day by saying, "What can you do to help me and my wife? We want discipleship." Now that made all our efforts worth it. Gustavo immediately said that he would disciple him so that he could reach out to others who wanted to follow Jesus. That really made him happy. It was really the best ending to the whole process. Trying to change the old church as a group would have been almost impossible, but now we had one "man of peace" who was willing to be trained and to train others. We could more easily win Zionists and pagans on a one by one basis and get the discipleship chain started from the very beginning. We were very pleased that the Lord had both protected us from useless labors and that He had kept open the heart of a "man of peace". Joao also told us that the Zionist church would dance and dance until people were possessed by spirits and prophesied. I ask him who was normally possessed and he said the leaders. They could even prophesy for the people to give them money. This is obviously a new method of fund raising that most churches have not used before!! We will have to have real spiritual warfare prayers for all Zionist who accept Christ. The spirits may be continuing to affect them.

In the afternoon, Gustavo and I went to the Mango tree group. Only one man was on time and then Elvio came. Gustavo had Eduardo read his testimony he had written out. It was very well done. He had Elvio present the gospel using the tract and he did a great job. Then Eduardo presented the tract, but struggled. By this time, another man came and he was asked to present the tract. He had no idea, even with intense coaching, how to do it. He will need a lot of help to learn how to witness.

Tonight, we watched several programs on a DVD. One was by Ray Comfort, who has the ministry of pointing out that unless the person is convicted of being a sinner, he will make a weak Christian at best. His use of the 10 commandments and getting the person to verbally say that they have lied therefore they are a liar, etc., and then getting them to answer the question, "If they are a liar, blasphemer, adulterer, etc, how would God judge you? Will you be going to heaven or hell?" really dove-tailed with what we have been teaching about helping a person to understand that they are sinners. Also, it helped me to see that we need to go further and get them to say that they are sinners. His use of the 10 commandments to do this seemed an easy way to concentrate on helping them to realize they are sinners and then to go on and get them to verbalize what God's judgment would have to be on them as sinners. I will be thinking and working on how to incorporate this all into the new tract. Send me any ideas you might have.

June 28th- We spent several hours this morning working on filling out the Strategy Work Sheet. It was good to combine our thoughts and plan on how to change the present situation. Tomorrow afternoon we will spend finishing all the points on the sheet. It was clear to all that we had to select not more than 10 men and women to train one-on-one so that they can then begin the discipling-chain in their house church. The first 8 weeks have been a whirl of activity and people being converted. But, now we can step back and re-focus the direction of the effort.

This afternoon was a time to rejoice in the growth of new Christians. We went to Dr. Luis' house for the normal meeting and found only a child there at first. Then his wife appeared and said that Dr. Luis was still at the hospital. We went back to pick him up (he was in a meeting) and came back with a male nurse, Mario, who has become very interested in New Testament Christianity. Bia stayed behind to hear the story of how after Senhora Luis and Dr. Luis were baptized on Sunday that he became sick on Monday and came home from work. Senhora Luis told him that this was Satan trying to trouble them because they were baptized. She said, let's fast and pray because Christ is stronger than Satan. Dr. Luis felt so much better the next morning that he went back to work at the hospital!! She told Bia that when they (Fuentes) had held the first meeting in

their (Luis') house that she had told her husband that "God was back in their house." She went on to say that now Dr. Luis does not listen to his old music but goes around singing the new Christian songs they have been learning. Is that wonderful, or what!!! God is so faithful. We plant and sow, but it is God who causes the crop to grow and bear fruit. Truly, God has used the Fuentes in a wonderful way and now that their efforts will be more directed towards personal discipling, the results will even be better. These months are so crucial and Satan would love to get everyone involved in good evangelistic efforts that bear less fruit and that stunt the potential growth of the house churches.

Everyone needs to pray that all of us on the field have wisdom in all that we do so that the proper foundations are laid. I am sure that even as we meet tomorrow to fill out the work sheet that we will make mistakes, but it is my prayer that they will not be crucial mistakes that will hamstring the ministry but minor ones that can be corrected as time goes on.

June 29th - I spent 3 hours trying to do all my emails at the Inhambane Internet Café. I had to take the boat taxi over to Inhambane. It costs \$1 for the round trip. There were no nasty incidents; probably the demons realized I was alert to their "games" with me. Can you imagine what it would be like to sit at the base of a glacier and watch it move? Well, that is how the "broadband" Internet moves. It was actually faster than normal but I could still study Portuguese vocabulary while I waited for the pages to open! In the afternoon, the Fuentes and I spent time thinking through the materials and what we needed to teach every disciple. I think we were all frustrated at times trying to communicate with each other. We tend to forget that everyone has a different background as the framework they use to interpret words, expressions, activities and body language. But, we worked at communicating and explaining the 5 or 10% that was not clear to each other. The other factor is that we do not have a perfect set of materials to train up the disciples. We have some very good materials, but they are a bit disjointed. The Training Trainers material seems to be written for a group of unconverted interested people, yet it starts with the vision of multiplying leaders that, to me, is inappropriate for the unconverted. Also, it says in the lesson on baptism, that it should be taught immediately after a person accepts Christ, but you are in a series of lessons that may have baptism being taught before anyone had accepted Christ. Well, we decided to start the Training Trainers material at baptism for the new convert and then put the first 4 lessons later when the subject of being fishers of men is taught. This seems to be more logical for the discipling of the new believer. Every new believer will now be taught (1) the gospel (possibly using tract), (2) at least the first lesson of Steps, (3) then the baptism lesson in the TT material in conjunction with the baptism tract, (4) we will baptize them as soon as true faith and repentance is seen; (5) they will then finish the Steps; (6) then finish all the TT lessons. We left as a later decision how we will use Your New Life in Christ. The New Tribes material that has been condensed into 48 lessons that take a person from creation to Christ will be taught to house church leaders in order for them to teach the lessons to their house churches.

We stopped and decided to finish the Work Sheet on Saturday. After supper, we watched The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe. Such a great movie.

June 30th - Today we all spent about 3 hours finishing the Work Sheet. It is not perfect I am sure, but it will give a benchmark to build on and refine. After lunch, Gustavo and I rushed over to Inhambane by car to send off the banking details for SCBC to wire the money over for the truck. I went to see what email I had. I tried to study Portuguese on the way over. We checked our email and answered letters and had one which I answered from River Pointe about their up coming trip in September. We came back and the Fuentes went to visit a former Muslim who has recently accepted Christ, while I stayed at the house and studied more Portuguese. My 3 hour exam for Level 2 is on Thursday morning. Scott passed his exam on the last day of class, but I needed more time. The old brain cells are working, but they complain a bit. HA! I would actually enjoy learning Portuguese, if there are not any other pressures on me. When they came back we had a light supper and I asked Bia to help me with my 5-minute oral story. I needed some help with pronunciations. We found several errors in the story that she was able to correct for me. Hopefully, we will find time for me to read it over again to her.

July 1st - Sunday was an unusual day. We first went to Dr. Luis' for morning church. We were joined by 4 members of the Mango church. I taught on what "simple church" was by using Acts 2:37-42 as the text. I used it to help them to see another example of a participatory Bible study. They answered questions on what

the early Christians were “devoted” to, i.e., Apostles teaching/Bible, fellowship, breaking bread and prayer. Everyone seemed in high spirits. Dr. Luis shared that on Friday he was able to share with 3 friends at work. He has been consistent in sharing with people about his salvation. We all shared communion for the second time.

After a quick snack, we rushed over to Bernardo’s to make sure everything was ready for the two baptisms only to find that Bernardo had taken his wife to the hospital and his sister and the neighbor were not around to be baptized. We wondered what to do since the internet worker at Tofo, Regina, was coming by “shapa” (taxi) to attend the house church. Finally, since Thelma, a regular attender who is a neighbor, and Bernardo’s young sister was there, the Fuentes decided to teach them the baptism tract. I went to pick up Regina and we all studied through the baptism tract. Thelma was baptized in a Zionist church but said she did not know what she was doing, so she wanted to be baptized properly. Regina was raised in the Assemblies of God Church and said that she had been very faithful and never missed church services. She said that she went out evangelizing when she was in Maputo. After the study, we took her back to Tofo since the taxis were not running very often. When we were almost there Regina told us that she has been living with her boyfriend for 4 years because it is so expensive to get married. He is a Catholic and works at Dino’s Bar in Tofo. I could not believe what I heard, but she represents a tremendous problem in Mozambique. The custom is that if you want to marry, you have to have a huge party that costs a fortune to do. Most couples do not have that kind of money, so they just live together until they have the money saved up. Regina did say that when the wedding was in the church, the members would all chip in and make it much cheaper. So, here was a very knowledgeable Christian young woman who was living with her “boyfriend” and saw no real problem with this and her commitment to Christ. We will have to find out how the churches deal with this problem. It may be that the couples’ families agree for them to live together as man and wife without a ceremony, as what happens when the bride price is paid in other African countries. So, the problem needs some investigation. We ate dinner at Casa Comer (House of Eating) where I had vegetarian spaghetti. It was very good. The owner is the main chef and is French. The road to Tofo just gets worse and worse, with all the potholes. It is school holidays in South Africa and we have seen at least 40 South African vehicles coming into the Inhambane area, going to Tofo and other resorts along the coast with their canoes and camping equipment.

July 2nd - Today was the Fuentes’ day off. I stayed home and studied Portuguese in preparation for the Level 2 test on Thursday morning. The Fuentes went into town to get digital pictures printed, went to the bank and got me more Talk Time, etc. It was a slow day that had rain off and on.

July 3rd - The Fuentes had three scheduled meetings for this day. I let them go on since I still needed to study more Portuguese and they were to meet with Susana who might need some personal encouragement, Aissa, the Muslim lady who had accepted Christ, and then Lucia. Susana was not at home, but came back as they were leaving. She had been at the hospital with a neighbor who had a visitor’s baby die last night at the hospital. At lunch, I took the Fuentes to Manyala Rex restaurant, about 4 miles north of Maxixe. It has cheaper food and is run by a Portuguese couple. Scott and I had gone there quite a few times. The Fuentes made a very good friendship contact with the owner’s wife. In the afternoon, they went out to talk to Aissa about the assurance of salvation. They found that her sister was very happy with her decision. They went on to Lucia’s where Elvio shared with the gathering about baptism. They said that he taught very methodically, which is to be understood, but did a good job. It is great to see Elvio grow in his abilities to disciple people. Lucia had invited several people and obviously is truly happy about accepting Christ. PTL!!! While all this was happening, I was deep in regular and irregular verbs, the past tense, immediate future tense, conditional tense, etc. I am seeing more and more words and concepts, but I also feel like I am drowning. I reviewed my Level 1 book and I could actually understand what it was teaching!! It is all in Portuguese- no Ingles allowed!! Tomorrow we hopefully will meet Day (Dias) at the airport at 9 a.m. I leave for Joburg at 10:30 a.m. It is a two-hour trip instead of 14 hours on the road. Then Gustavo has been invited by the Imam to come and see him at the mosque. So, his day is already looking like an interesting one. This is before the other meetings they have scheduled for the afternoon.

July 4th - I had an uneventful flight back to Joburg and was picked up by Deanne and her son. Deanne and

her husband Sean serve as board members for AOM South Africa and have been so helpful to pick up short-term teams and to keep us when we have to travel to Joburg. I studied some Portuguese that day and went out that night with them to a nice steak house called Steakout. I really enjoyed eating a good steak, some vegetables and salad.

July 5th - I first had a cholesterol test that showed that my cholesterol was in the middle range of normal but my triglycerides had shot up way over normal. I had run out of my cholesterol medicine half way through my trip, but had been taking two fish oil tablets each day. It showed that I could control the cholesterol with diet and fish oil, but the Zocor was needed for the triglycerides.

At 10:30 a.m. I started my 3-hour Portuguese Module Two exam. I am happy to announce that I passed it, but realize how much I need to learn! Then it was off to pick up Janelle at the airport. We decided that driving all the way home was not a good idea since both of us were tired, so I booked us into a 4 star lodge 60 miles from Tzaneen. It was a lovely lodge and the food was excellent.

July 6th - We arrived back in Tzaneen at 1:30 p.m. It is nice to be back home. The only problem we had was Janelle has some really severe lower back pain. We believe that it is muscle spasms that only built in intensity during the 20-hour flight and 5-hour road trip. It is school holidays, so we found our doctor and physical therapist were both out until next Wednesday.

I pray you have enjoyed this journal. The work has just started. In eight weeks wonderful things have happened and many genuine conversions have occurred. Pray for all of us and especially the Fuentes as they live out this ministry day in and day out. The pressures are very real and the hardships are many. They need your prayer and intercession that the Lord will protect them both spiritually and physically. Pray that God will help us to initiate the discipling-chains and that each house church will become independent and reproducing.