

DECEMBER 2013

NEWS FROM THE OLIVER FAMILY

Mission?

OF GOD?

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Gina, outside Chicuque Hospital with Alice Ripanga (Line Manager), Jeremias Fraca (Hospital Administrator and one of the doctors).

The Mission of God... and our last twelve months.

It is one year and one week since we arrived in Maputo Mozambique!

Last Christmas we wrote that Bishop Dinis who heads the Igreja Wesleyana Metodista (IWM) in Mozambique had ensured we received a warm welcome. At that time he anticipated that we would be living in the city centre for around three months and then transfer 30k to the outskirts of what we now know is a huge urban sprawl. As things have turned out, one year later, we are still in the city centre. BUT not for long, We are soon to move 500km north up the coast to Maxixe. The best laid plans of the IMW have not yet come to fruition and the dream of the mobile clinic remains just that. In the coming year Gina will be working at Chicuque United Methodist Hospital and is anticipating developing community outreach work. For more information go to <http://www.chicuque.org/Mobileclinics.html>



Probably, Malcolm will be working as a chaplain within the hospital. There is also talk about Malcolm assisting a Methodist Circuit about 700 km further north near a city called Chimoio. With help of the Methodist Church, UK, the IMW are anticipating building a manse so that we can move and establish a healthcare project with other Methodist partners there. It looks like it will be an exciting and challenging year.

Challenging has been the word for the last twelve months! Sometimes we have wondered if indeed we have been assisting or hindering the mission of God!

- Learning Portuguese remains muito difcil (very difficult) although we can now have basic conversations and even manage up to 2hours conversing with our sympathetic Portuguese tutor.

- The car we bought out from UK has resulted in Malcolm being like the early disciples! They returned to fishing, Malcolm has returned to being a Mechanic...A new Clutch, replacement sump, Trailing arm

bearing later and the car is now running well.

- Sadly we had an accident in South Africa and wrote the 4x4 car off. Praise God, nobody injured! A replacement has just been secured ready for our move to Maxixe.

- Gina has used her time well volunteering at a top hospital, maintaining her clinical skills and learning medical Portuguese

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Grandma Emily has come to visit us... she loves being with the twins....she came with her Woman's Christian fellowship uniform from the United Church of Zambia to join in with the Manyano...spot the difference in style!



MOBILE CLINIC pictured opposite Chipo and Luyando nursery



A dream!

If only there was funding to buy a vehicle like the above! The need for health care particularly in rural areas is great. Gina has been exploring how best with limited resources the church can make its contribution to fulfill this need.

On our arrival a year ago our expectation was that we would be based in Maputo for some while and Gina would be working with others to establish a basic mobile facility. The idea of a caravan or other vehicle was tentatively explored.

The church had made plans to buy into a condominium about 30km from Maputo. They had managed to secure funding to make this possible. We were to move there after three months. Unfortunately due to circumstances beyond the control of the church this did not happen. The property was never finished and we have remained in Maputo.

Now we are moving to work with the Igreja Methodist Unida (UCM)...on loan from the Igreja Metodista Wesleyana (IMW). The UCM began work in Mozambique from the USA. The UMC have churches in most of the country unlike the IMW which has remained predominantly in the south in only two of the eleven provinces. Inhambane province where we will live has been a focus of the UCM since its inception and has both health and education facilities. Gina is looking forward to put into practice the training she received at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine before she left UK.

...and at the end of 2014

After a year the IMW is hoping that we will move to begin some healthcare work another 700km further north in the Chimoio area close to the Zimbabwean border. Here

there are some Zimbabwe Methodist who have settled in Mozambique. They consider their home church is 'Wesleyan' because their church in Zimbabwe was begun by British Missionaries. Like Mozambique, Zimbabwe has churches planted from UK Wesleyan roots and USA United roots.

I wonder what God has in store! Already the IMW have committed themselves to use the money that they were given for housing to build in the Chimoio area. It will be good for all to see a house eventually completed.

Our move to Chimoio will of course be dependent on establishing some suitable healthcare project. We would envisage that this would be in partnership with the United Methodists and perhaps other NGO's. The need for outreach primary healthcare is great. We may never achieve the vehicle pictured above... not in the immediate future anyway..BUT with God's help through prayer great things can be achieved.

Who knows an off shoot may be a closer collaboration between the various churches in the Methodist family!

Outside our new home in Maxixe with the hospital administrator. We expect to move there after Christmas.



For Prayer

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

1. Our transfer to Maxixe

That we may have wisdom to know which area of work to engage with and which to relax

2. The Methodist in Maputo

Over the past 12 months we have overseen the start of a Portuguese speaking congregation. May the young leadership know the strength of God to develop the work they have begun.

3. The IMW with its many dreams

That the leadership will make the right choices to build healthy relationships so that the people resources within congregations can be a blessing to others.

4. The presidential elections in 2014

The current president has done his two terms in office and many people are hoping for change.

6. New work in Nampula

The District have just appointed Revd Arlindo Munduma to be a mission Partner in Nampula. This is dependent on raising funds from within and outside Mozambique

7. Work with other churches

In Mozambique there are different Methodist Churches. The biggest are the United Methodists. (from USA). May be God is calling us to work together as one family?

The last year

some activities of 2013

1. Language learning

Portuguese is the national language and many people speak it..great to communicate in government offices and socially..finding it a real challenge..intensive course followed by weekly lessons recently. Ronga is the language of the heart ...and of the church.. preaching hymns, prayers and liturgy all in Ronga..and church meetings too!

2.English service

This was announced on the notice board outside..but not meeting.. We began to worship again..small but very faithful congregation

3. Portuguese service

Again listed outside the church, but not taking place. We began it at endApril and soon 20 people attending. A welcome innovation for the young business members of the church. The older generation have been cautious in their support.

4. Visiting possible areas of mission

Travelling with the Bishop: Visiting a rural area close to the sea where it was a proposal to build clinic and lodge. Taking a minister to work in the Chimoio area about 1200km north of Muputo.

5. Developing a mission strategy

Being part of a mission unit inaugurated at the Synod in May. Small group who have been evaluating and suggesting possible programs for the church

6. Leading worship and visiting

The normal duties of a Methodist minister have taken me to visit different congregations including some on an idyllic island a two hour boat ride from the shore. Last time we went we showed the Jesus video in the local language.



Just before leaving for the UK with Bishop Dinis Matsolo and Lay leader Carlos Mfumo. Also Andrew who came out from UK to stay.

Projecto Wesleyana

People may struggle financially and life is very hard for most people in Mozambique. Living in the city we see the same faces everyday at the road junctions, asking for a few Metical (Mozambique currency). Some old, some young, sometimes in wheelchairs or escorted if blind. What can be done to assist these and countless others who simply do not have enough for even a simple lifestyle.

In recent months we have been meeting with people some young, others older. People who have a desire for a fairer society who would like to see trade justice. We have a focus at the moment...to assist a very gifted artist who produces all sorts of crafts for sale. Including making clerical stoles for the UK market. Visit <http://www.rainbowturtle.co.uk> for more information. The hope is to develop the group to assist Mozambicans to produce and market their goods and promote trade justice. It seems natural to call the initiative Projecto Wesleyana after John Wesley who began Methodism and in his lifetime during 17th century, promoted justice and helped those needed support.



Visitors

Its a great joy to have had many people visit us over the past year. At the moment Gina's mum is with us. From the end of August to September Andrew stayed. In March we welcomed friends from Northampton Helen and her son Brian. In June friend from Cameroon. The Manager of Rainbow Turtle, Liz visited us in July. You will always be welcome. We understand there is a flight from South Africa to an airport close by Maxixe.



Inhaca Island where the congregation are struggling to build their church. Visitors to the island have plenty of money... most of the indigenous population do not! Our evangelist is paid £75 a month. Cost of living is higher than UK.



SPAR SUPERSTORE

MAPUTO

MOZAMBIQUE

Santa gets everywhere!

For sale at TM7990 (£165)



Gina and Dr Dezi who has been a good friend and support over the last year.



October 14th 2013 Mum Olive's turned 96 ..born in Goodmays essex just before Nelson Mandela! We returned to the UK to celebrate her birthday.



Our car ready to go ...Andr to Maxixe



FAMILY PHOTOS

...in the heat this is not a luxury:



Budding mechanics!



Teacher Lina



Judy, Andrew & twins