

**Oct 2023**

Dear friends,

Our prayer letter is a little overdue, but there is much to give thanks to God for. It is never too late to share such news. Our God a faithful God and as the Apostle John reminds us “Of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.” (John 1:16). In this prayer letter we want to testify to His goodness to us.

### Mozambique, July 2023

UFM missionary Leonardo Moraes and myself travelled to Mozambique on 18th July. Due to the rescheduling of the usual July FIEL conference in Nampula our plans had changed. (In fact, changed for the better). This year instead of conducting one conference in Nampula as planned, we were able to conduct two conferences - one in Maputo, & one in Nampula. We had been put in touch with a fine young Mozambican Pastor, who organised for just over 30 pastors and leaders to partake in the “Equipping Pastors Worldwide” course (Formally PTI). We rented out a large room in a bible college situated centrally in the city and had two full days of teaching. The seminars focused upon how to interpret God’s word, (Leonardo’s lectures), and the life and ministry of a pastor (my lectures). Our time was interactive and at the end of the second day great appreciation was shown as the men sang to us a wonderful African song in their own language. Each person received a book and certificate and we went on our way with joy.



After a 3 hour 40 minute flight to the north of Mozambique (via Tete), we began three days of teaching in the city of Nampula. This year Charles Woodrow was unable to offer his facilities, but kindly put us in touch with key Mozambican leaders. We held our conference at a facility owned by the African Inland Mission. We had three days of intense teaching and discussion and as in the south we provided food for all the men. One of the men was so poor that he said it was a long time since he had eaten a chicken dinner like the one provided. These are some of the questions that the men asked us:

- \* What should the church do when a pastor or church leader has more than one wife when the Bible teaches one wife? (1 Tim 3:1)
- \* Can we lose our salvation as most churches teach that you can?
- \* What do you do when your church mixes Christian beliefs with animistic practices?
- \* I don’t understand the Trinity. Please explain it.



The age range of the men was from 18 to 62, and many were just in their 20s and 30s. It is so encouraging to see the hunger for the Word of God and the desire to learn and to grow. Pastor Ibrahim, a converted Muslim, taught alongside us looking at “Christ in all the Scriptures.” He is being used by God to train other pastors and is hoping that a Bible seminary will soon be set up in Nampula. After three days of teaching Leonardo and I returned home via Nairobi, just about catching our connecting transport with minutes to spare!! The trip was not without its trials. Whilst we were happy to provide teaching, food, books, and small gifts for those who helped us, we were not expecting requests for further help in areas we had hoped would be covered by our African brothers. It didn’t feel right to be asked for money for lifts to the airport or to our

seminars or for a car repair that had happened some months before. However, although it was not easy, God gave wisdom in these matters. We had other trials: Leaving the country in Nampula the police tried to ask Leonardo to give money to leave the country. Although his passport was stamped with the visa he no longer had a tiny receipt to prove payment and so they were looking for extra cash. We held out and thankfully they eventually let Leonardo through to the departure lounge, despite saying that he would not be allowed to leave the country unless he paid! Trials are to be expected in serving the Lord and only serve to bring Him glory in the deliverances He affords.

### **Church News**

Tabor Baptist Church goes back several centuries, the present building being 199 years old. Next year, God, willing, we celebrate our 200th anniversary! We are thankful for what God is doing among us, and grateful to God for the addition of new couples and some younger people. The church is becoming quite international with several from overseas. This adds a positive dimension to our fellowship. At the end of August, Josh Wallis, a young evangelist living in South Wales, came to help us for three weeks. The church was mobilised to conduct two open air meetings, afternoons of street evangelism, and mornings of door-to-door work as well as a three day holiday club on Jonah. There were training sessions on Wednesday nights too, led by Josh. It was a very happy and blessed time and we thank God that seeds were sown in many lives. Please pray for Josh as he is due to have a double hip replacement soon, and together with his wife, is waiting upon God for provisions to prepare for the mission field. Please pray for us at Tabor Baptist Church that we would have a deep walk with God and that we would know more of the love of Christ.



### **Family news.**

We rejoice in the marriage of Maria to Mitch Follett. The wedding celebrations were a time of great joy and never to be forgotten. Please pray for Mitch and Maria as Maria completes two more years of graduate medicine and as they look to the future to know where to settle. We thank God that Amy has now started a graphics communications course at Cardiff Metropolitan University. She is living at home and has begun well. Hannah, our eldest, is expecting! So God, willing by the end of the year we will be grandparents and my mum a great grandma! Sarah is doing well and now living in London with two Jewish friends. Thank you for praying for our girls.



### **Future Plans**

We are conscious that all of our plans are subject to God's will. Please pray for Andrew as he seeks to coordinate EPW conferences in Mozambique for April 2024, possibly in three locations - Dondo, Mocuba and Maputo. Pastor Elias Lima along with 3 African brothers are willing to teach the course. Please pray for the logistics of coordinating this, including the right dates and the right premises to hold conferences. Pray for those organising on the ground in Mozambique and the funds for flights, local transport, food and accommodation for the pastors. This year the Lord provided the full £7000 needed for conferences in May and July. We look to the Lord to provide for next year. Pray too for Jenny's school work, toddlers work and ladies work. She is busy each day of the week and thankful to God for opportunities to teach English too.

Thank you for standing together with us in the work of the gospel. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. Next prayer letter we plan to give an update on the work in Portugal. This is close to our hearts and we are in close contact with our brothers and sisters there. Jander and Rebecca are settling well helping Pastor Elias in Beja, having been sent by the Brazilian church.

Wishing you every blessing in Christ - Andrew and Jenny.