

**Construction to resume:**

After five years with no construction taking place, I hope to resume work next month, completing the evangelistic pavilion on the hospital site and building the hospital maintenance shop and a guest cottage. Though we are far from having enough money to finish the hospital, we have not been without funds for building. However, there has never been enough money to simply hire the job out to a private contractor, nor did I have time to oversee the work myself until now. **1) Please pray that building permits will be granted expeditiously. These can take months to process even though they consume only an hour of the official's time. 2) Pray that God would provide a capable foreman, thus freeing me from having to be continually at the work site. 3) Pray as well that we would find a good civil engineer to inspect the work every few days to insure no mistakes are made.**

**Salome to return:**

The guest cottage was originally planned for much later in construction, but since Salome will be returning to take over the administrative work of the FIEL ministries here in Mozambique, we have decided to move it forward so she can have her own place to live in while still enjoying the benefits of the compound. Even as I write Salome is in the air en route to Nampula. **4) We continue to thank God for the relief her assistance will provide. 5) Pray that God will enable the FIEL ministries to surge ahead with the time she will be able to give them, 6) and that she may be able to process the paperwork involved in seeking grants from philanthropic organizations if that is how God intends to provide the remaining funds for the medical work.**

**Recent trip to South Africa:**

The November and December prayer points were not sent out before now as my time was fully consumed making a trip to South Africa to order the building supplies needed for the upcoming constructions. These will reach Nampula by sea in about two months.

While in South Africa Julie and I also submitted to long-neglected medical checkups. After many studies and 27 appointments (!) we were basically given a clean bill of health, which was reassuring to both of us.

In South Africa we ordered supplies for the FIEL ministries, including a large marquee tent that can accommodate up to 400 people for the plenary sessions of the annual FIEL church workers' conference. The large tent was needed as attendance has already exceeded the maximum capacity (180) of the auditorium we normally use at the conference site.

While Julie and I were getting our check-ups, the "new" Land Rover spent three weeks in various shops submitting itself to alterations needed to make it a suitable family car that accommodates 8 people (the original design was a twin-cab pick up). We are very pleased with the excellent work done and the reasonable rates charged – less than half what we would have paid in some shops. Even before the modifications the vehicle was a great blessing. We had never made a trip across the wilderness of Mozambique in such comfort and with such speed!

However, though it is a great improvement, it still is not a new car. On the return trip the water pump went out in the middle of the wilderness well after dark five hours from home. By the time we noticed the temperature gage, the needle was already off the dial and the engine had badly overheated. A passing trucker took our driver to Nampula

who returned 24 hours later in our Bedford truck with a water pump which we installed in the middle of the night. However, the head gasket was blown and the car still could not be driven the remaining five hours of our journey, so we towed it using a lance our resourceful motorist had manufactured while in town. That took another eight hours and by the time we reached home our motorist/mechanic had been up over 40 hours without sleep, with Kent and I faring only a little better.

The reason for pressing on so urgently was that a heavily laden vehicle stranded in the remote wilderness is a ripe target for bandits. Village bandits can strip and carry off everything from a car or truck almost in minutes while the owner stands helplessly by, if he is not shot at the start. We thank God that though our route takes us hundreds of miles between gas stations and towns, and while we were in one of the remote areas of Mozambique more than an hour from the nearest town, the car broke down just one mile from a large camp of highway construction workers. The camp was lit up like a ball field and there were guards posted all round the fenced-in, electrified perimeter. The trucker told us about it, so we hobbled the remaining mile without coolant and parked the vehicle directly under the lights of the compound in between two guard posts, though the guards would not let us come into the camp itself.

Now that our car and goods are safely home, we will open up the engine and see how extensive the damage is. **7) Please thank God with us for a most successful trip to South Africa 8) and for His presence watching over us as we encountered our small share of trials that are an inevitable part of life in Africa. 9) Pray too that the Land Rover will soon be operational again without needing costly repairs.**

**Upcoming Missions Conference:**

We enjoyed good fellowship with our church friends in South Africa, many of whom went far out of their way to help us in our endeavors. Five times I was able to preach on missions and present our work in the four churches we visited.

From 23-27 January I will be preaching at the Kabwata Baptist Church missions conference in Lusaka, Zambia. That is Conrad Mbewe's church and the home of some of Africa's finest preachers. We routinely call on them as speakers for our FIEL conferences here in Nampula. As the congregation is accustomed to excellent messages, I feel the responsibility I have accepted. **10) Please pray that God would undertake for me in the preparation and the delivery of these five messages.**

By His grace:  
Charles and Julie Woodrow