

Prayer Points

June 2007

By Charles Woodrow

We have much to thank God for in this report. As the prayers of many have ascended to God, may He receive multiplied thanksgiving as well.

First, we received from Community Bible Church in Nashville, Tennessee an unexpected **gift of \$9,000 toward buying a new Land Rover**. With what we already had, this should be more than enough to proceed with purchasing the vehicle we want. Also this month I finally heard from the company in England that makes Land Rover conversions and it appears the changes we were hoping for can be accomplished. The conversion we are requesting not only renders the Land Rover more useful as a cargo vehicle, but most importantly enables us to import it at the low customs rate reserved for trucks. The customs charge on family cars in Mozambique doubles the cost of the vehicle which would have made this model (a 130 Land Rover) unattainable and unjustifiable. Though we are in communication with the converters, they have not quoted us a price, so we still haven't reached the end of the matter. But we think it is within sight. **Praise God with us for much progress this month toward replacing our old Land Rover with a new model having the alterations we have dreamed about!**

Second, we received from Trinity Baptist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana an unexpected **gift of \$14,000 toward purchasing the Reformed Evangelical bookroom** we operate downtown. This is the only Christian bookstore we know of in northern Mozambique. Added to the funds another church has already collected, we now have enough to negotiate with the owner of the bookroom who 18 months ago was asking \$35,000. This excellent location on the main street of downtown Nampula, second largest city in the nation with over 400,000 inhabitants, would be a valuable asset from the investment considerations alone. **Pray that the owner will still want to sell and will not raise his price above what we can pay.**

Third, Toronto Fellowship Church in Toronto, Ontario had sacrificially collected \$20,000 over the past 12 months to be used for the ministry here in Nampula but was unable to get it to us because government regulations prohibited them from sending money out of the country except to Canadian charities overseen by Canadians. All their inquiries about getting the gift to us appeared to indicate this was not going to be possible, which would have been a great disappointment to them and to us! However, there is one Canadian aid organization in Nampula, and the mission statement of their charter specifically includes supporting local medical projects such as ours. This month we finally were able to reach the director of that organization in Canada who said they would be happy to serve as the legal conduit for getting this contribution to us. He still has to consult with their lawyer and accountant however. **Pray that this avenue will remain open and that the \$20,000 will soon be available for use.**

In just three paragraphs we have mentioned gifts of \$9,000, \$14,000, and \$20,000. One might get the impression that we are always surfeiting in money, but that is not the case. If it were, we would have replaced our 18 year old Land Rover long ago. **This has been an extraordinary month for us – praise God for opening the windows of heaven and pouring out a blessing such that there is hardly room enough to receive it!** And thank you for those prayers that surely played a large part in what we have experienced these past four weeks.

We are of course still praying for the \$800,000 needed for building the surgical center. **Pray especially that our friend who is seeking to re-drill his natural gas borehole will meet with success.** Having been unable to secure funds for drilling from ground level, he is negotiating with gas companies that are pumping from deposits adjacent to

his own about drilling laterally from their boreholes into his area. Please join us and him in praying that God would enable him to use this potentially immense natural resource for promoting the Lord's work in various places around the world.

The soccer ministry under Andrew and Juvêncio continues to go well. For the past two weeks one of the fellows has participated in two of my weekly Bible classes and last week he and another friend came to the Sunday service. His name is Bonamar, and Andrew spends a good deal of time with him. Now Sarah Beth and Grace are mobilizing to start a crafts club for the neighborhood girls. ***Pray that these two ministries to the local youth will be blessed by the Lord. Pray that Bonamar may be quickened in the inner man, truly seek the Lord, and so find Him.***

I wrote about the orphan Maria two months ago. She emerged from a time of serious stumbling stronger than she had ever been before, in her gratitude to God literally kissing the rod used in chastening her. Since then she has been an ardent evangelist to her friends and has won the affection of her young Muslim neighbor Sara, so much so that Sara's mother has forbidden her to come to church any more in an effort to stifle the effect Maria was having. However, Sara still comes regularly to Maria's home to ask about her faith in Christ. The other day she came in while Maria was praying, which caused her to inquire how to pray like a Christian (Muslims pray rote prayers in Arabic). Maria said you should begin by praising God for who He is. She asked how to do that, so Maria gave her some phrases from some of the psalms she has memorized. Then Maria said she should humbly confess her sins and really mean it. Sara asked how you say it in a way that is really humble, so Maria gave her more choice expressions from the psalms as examples. Then, Maria said, she could bring her requests before the Lord, but said before asking for things for herself she ought to request things that would glorify and exalt the Lord and then gave examples. She concluded by instructing her to pray in Jesus' name. Sara wanted to know why you pray in Jesus' name when it is God you are addressing. So she explained about Christ as our mediator and what His death on the cross accomplished for sinners. It seems clear that God is using Maria in this young girl's life. ***Sara wants to worship with us on Sundays. Pray that God would bless this relationship, continue to make Maria a winsome testimony for Him, and open the doors for Sara to attend our services.***

Last month we asked you to pray for Lucas and his Muslim wife Isobel. The Lord continues to uphold him after the problems mentioned last month. Since that report, his wife continued coming to Sunday worship, a first for her as we said before, but then for three Sundays Lucas was out of action with a lingering case of malaria that kept him at home in bed while Isobel tended him. We are disappointed by that turn of events, but he is fully recovered now. Next Sunday will be a revealing time. Pray that the need Isobel saw for God's help in her home will continue to press upon her. She shut down her cabanga (moonshine) operation and Lucas says she is still encouraging regular Bible reading and prayer at home. If he doesn't do it, she reminds him.

God also manifested His kindness to them in a special way just this week. Lucas got a job with the government five months ago, which in itself is an extraordinary blessing here where joblessness must be around 80%. However, getting a job takes one only half way to gainful employment. The government usually requires months or even years to complete the paperwork necessary to start your salary. I went four years without being paid when I worked in the government hospital, others in our church have gone longer before getting their first pay check. A year's wait is considered short; no government employee in our congregation has been paid sooner. However, just this week after only five months Lucas received his first paycheck which was a windfall that covered the previous four months as well. Hopefully Isobel is paying attention and is suitably impressed that the God of the Bible does reward those who seek to please Him. ***Continue to lift Lucas and his Muslim wife Isobel before the Lord, asking that this may be a time when Lucas is strengthened in Christ and Isobel is saved.***

In a couple of weeks we will begin gearing up for this year's Fiel Conference and the follow-on week-long training seminar to be held the last week of July and first week of August. Church leaders come from all of Mozambique's ten provinces and from 30 to 40 different denominations to attend these meetings. Our speakers this year will be Jim Elliff from the States, Paulo Brasil from Brazil, and Errol Hulse from England. The theme is Redemption Accomplished and Applied. Please ***pray for Karl Peterson and myself as we make preparations. Pray that God would give us good attendance and use these meetings to deepen the Mozambican church's understanding of God and His word.***

Until next month:
Charles