

***Follow-up on the thorn in the flesh:***

The investigation into the letter written against me by a long-time adversary was concluded soon after the last prayer bulletin went out. The allegations were determined to be unfounded, and they have been left to die a natural death. In other words, the government officials have simply dropped the matter without writing up their findings. I am told by friends in the office conducting the investigation that to have a report actually prepared and circulated I would need to pay the responsible person for his efforts. I have not done this as it seems a report paid for by me would cease to have credibility, though supposedly no one else would know about the payment. Also, it too closely resembles the sort of behavior my adversary has fictitiously accused me of. On the other hand, not having an official document of exoneration leaves me unprotected against future allegations which long-time experience suggests I should expect.

***Wisdom and continued help from the Lord is needed as I consider this dilemma that frequently challenges workers in impoverished cultures where bribes are a necessary part of "due process".***

***Medical license:***

Last month I mentioned that for unknown reasons the provincial health director had refused to renew my medical license. Multiple attempts to arrange a meeting with him were unsuccessful. Soon after sending out the prayer request, I was informed that the license had been renewed, and after three months of waiting it is once more in my possession. We may never know why the director refused to renew it or why he changed his mind, but ***thank you for your prayers in removing this obstacle.***

***Visit from the Ziegelmanns:***

During two weeks this month we hosted Jeffrey and Amanda Ziegelmann, a delightful young couple and prospective missionaries from a F.I.R.E. church in Kansas City, Missouri. We had an enjoyable time together with many activities that were profitable for us as well as them. Besides accompanying all our own ministries, they toured the downtown government hospital, walked through two local orphanages, saw the Christian radio station, and joined me in paying a rare visit to Marrere where Grace Missions carried on an immensely rewarding surgical-evangelistic ministry for 8 years.

The Ziegelmann's were impressed with the many opportunities for Christian service in a land where the true gospel of salvation by grace through faith is still barely known, and they left Mozambique longing to return if the Lord wills. ***Please pray that this trip would prove beneficial for the Lord's work in Mozambique and profitable for the Ziegelmanns as they seek His direction for their lives.***

During the Ziegelmann's visit, we outfitted our off-road truck as a troop carrier, its original function in the British army, and drove everyone to the Indian Ocean three hours away for a day at the beach. We were amazed at how brilliant the turquoise water appeared set off as it was by azure sky above and white sandy beaches below, with waving fronds of tropical palm trees framing every view. This was the first time since 1990 that our family had taken a day off to visit the Mozambican beaches, and we realized the fame of their beauty is well warranted.

The hospital at Marrere now operates under the Catholic church which has made impressive improvements to the facility, though they have been unable to supply a surgeon for the modernized surgical block. They warmly encouraged me to return to my old workplace. Touring the province with the Ziegelmanns and seeing the many commendable works being carried on by the Catholics while reflecting on my own

medical uselessness these past nine years quickened my long-time ambition, almost painfully, to adorn the true gospel in this land with similar demonstrations of Christ's compassion for the lost and needy. ***Would you please persevere in your prayers that we would finally capitalize on the opportunities God opened up 9 years ago for establishing an evangelical hospital here in Nampula!***

***Land Rover:***

Last month we bought a 2002 Land Rover to replace our 18 year old model. Though our generous supporters provided more than enough money to pay for a new Land Rover in most parts of the world, exorbitant customs charges on passenger cars make such a vehicle here prohibitively expensive. A mere automobile would have cost almost as much as we paid to build the beautiful 24-bed guest house we live in! To avoid the high tax on passenger cars, I planned to buy the Land Rover we wanted, convert it to a panel truck before importation, and then convert the panel truck to a passenger van once it was in the country. I finally gave up on that, however, as it made the purchase of a new car complicated to the point of becoming a life long mission.

So that brings us to the end of one oft-mentioned prayer request. We are pleased with the vehicle we have purchased and glad for the money left over. ***Thank God with us for an economical vehicle, and pray that we would be wise in the use of the money this purchase has freed up.***

The Land Rover we bought is a twin-cab pickup which still needs to be modified to accommodate 8 passengers. We asked prayer for wisdom about this last month. At that time a body shop in South Africa quoted \$10,000 for the conversion, and we had decided to accept their proposal, but since asking for prayer we found a way to have a less elaborate job done locally for only a few hundred dollars! ***Praise God for answering prayer and helping us discover the plan we are now pursuing.***

***Salome Van Niekerk:***

We are glad for encouraging responses from South African churches as Salome seeks support for long-term work here in Nampula. It looks like she may be able to re-join us before the year is out. ***Please pray that God would continue to prosper her efforts to return to Nampula .***

By the time you receive next month's prayer points, we hope to have traveled to South Africa to visit churches there, purchase supplies for next year's FIEL conference, and have medical check ups. However, it is proving difficult for us to get away from Nampula at this time. Also, we are attempting to purchase a 40 foot sea container for storing building supplies already imported from South Africa. ***Please pray for wisdom and God's direction in planning our South Africa trip and in purchasing a suitable shipping container for local storage.***

By His grace:  
Charles and Julie Woodrow