

## Prayer Points

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January - March 2008

By Charles Woodrow

After a hiatus of two months, here finally are the January-March prayer points from Nampula:

### **Zambia Mission Conference:**

A sincere thanks to those who prayed in behalf of the missions conference of Kabwata Baptist Church in Lusaka, Zambia. It was a rewarding time, and I believe the Lord undertook in the five messages I was asked to bring. Thank you for your prayers.

I was much encouraged to see up close what God is accomplishing through brother Conrad Mbewe's relatively young church (less than 20 years) comprised almost exclusively of national Christians. With assistance from HeartCry Missionary Society in the U.S., their congregation of 300 members already provides full support for eight missionary pastors in eight Zambian church plants. At this conference they were delighted to increase the number of fully supported missionary pastors to 13! The portion of financial assistance borne by the congregation itself amounts to over \$4000 a month! Beyond this monthly commitment the church contributed \$7500 in a single offering to meet special needs associated with the eight outreaches. All of this is from African Christians who are doing well if they receive a monthly income of \$700! What a privilege to be present with these Christ-loving brethren at their first annual missions conference.

The Evangelical church in Mozambique is decades behind Zambia. Mozambique was dominated by Catholicism during the colonial days and then by Marxism for the next 20 years, until 1995, so in many respects the Evangelical church in Mozambique is just now getting underway. After almost 20 years here, it seems we still have such a long road ahead of us, but I left Zambia impressed with the marvelous things God is accomplishing through mature, godly African brethren whom I hope are a picture of what will one day be happening right here in Mozambique as a result of diligent, prayerful work going on now.

***1) Praise God for the good work being done by Kabwata Baptist Church in Zambia, the encouragement they were to me during the week we spent together, and for answering prayer in allowing me to make a meaningful contribution to their missions program.***

### **Construction:**

Upon returning from Zambia, I hired six men to begin preparations for the next phase of construction on the hospital compound. They are making cement blocks and building a roof for our second container barn which will be used to store construction materials and medical supplies. We now have thirteen 20-foot shipping containers on the property and many supplies under thatch cover not yet in the containers. We are in the process of ordering another one or two container-loads of building materials from South Africa, and hope to be ready to hire the full cohort of construction workers in June. There is a lot that must be accomplished by that date, however.

***2) Please pray that God would help us with the building permits and other legal requirements that must be met to resume construction, 3) that He would provide an experienced foreman to prevent me from becoming the bottle neck that slows progress, and 4) that He would provide funds for us to keep right on building once we finally get started again.***

**Land Rover up and running:**

In the last prayer bulletin I recounted the story of our breakdown in the bush while returning in our "new" Land Rover from a quick trip to South Africa to order building supplies. Thankfully the damage ended up being limited to a blown head gasket, which our mechanic/motorist repaired at a total cost to us of a mere \$20.00. In the States I suppose such a repair would cost at least a \$1000 in labor.

**5) We thank God for seeing us through this difficulty with so little harm done!****Salome:**

We are grateful to report that Salome Van Niekerk has returned for long term work, assisting with the FIEL ministries since January. Besides running the bookstore and shouldering Editora Fiel's monthly book distribution program, she is busy making improvements to an apartment in town that she and two other single women will call home.

**Church and family news:**

It has been some time since I gave a general report on the church work. We gained two new members in February and we have one other participant preparing for baptism. Last Sunday there were 30 adult worshippers present, perhaps the most we have had since starting this church plant in 2001. Last week we had one more participant complete our scripture memory/catechism program, having memorized and kept in memory all the 300+ mini-passages in the catechism. That makes six church participants who have that formidable arsenal of scripture always ready at hand.

The whole family is well and making use of the many opportunities here for Christian service. Julie's Sunday school class for the young children has grown from around five a year ago to over 20. Sarah and Grace are seeing increased participation in the weekly evangelistic crafts club they organized last year, with nine neighborhood girls from outside the church present last weekend. Kent often teaches the missionary youth fellowship and continues to provide leadership and musical accompaniment at worship and youth activities both in the church and the missionary community. The evangelistic soccer ministry Andrew sponsors was suspended in February while improvements and repairs were made to the soccer field, but we hope it will resume in the near future.

I am glad to see the whole family getting involved in bringing the knowledge of Christ to our friends here and will miss the kids' contribution when they begin trickling off to college in a few years.

**6) Please pray with us that God would use the various church and family outreaches to transform the hearts of many friends here in Nampula.**

On a final note, Kent, our oldest, will be taking the SAT in Johannesburg in May, at which time our family will enjoy a three week vacation at the Indian Ocean and sightseeing at one of South Africa's large game parks. We look forward to an exciting time!

By His grace:

Charles and Julie Woodrow