

October 2009 - Prayer Points

Those who do not have time to read the stories may get the prayer requests and main points in less than a minute by scanning the portions in bold italics.



The construction site as it looked three months ago – and how it appears today!



Dear Friends:

We have now completed the third month of hospital construction and as you can see from the accompanying photos, progress continues at a rapid pace. **Brackenhurst Baptist Church** from Alberton, South Africa, sent **Lorenzo Broccardo**, a general contractor and member of their congregation, to oversee construction of the hospital roof. Before Lorenzo arrived, **Mike Stolk** from **Antipas Baptist Church** in Pretoria had organized work teams that spent six weeks building the 180 half-trusses which, like a giant erector set, came completely disassembled from the factory in a forty foot shipping container. Once assembly was complete, **Daniel Bothes** from Capetown joined Mike in wrestling the unwieldy frames up on top of the walls with the help of about 20 well-muscled and straining Mozambicans. There the massive trusses remained, reclining slothfully on their sides like an army of insolent, undisciplined delinquents. But

in just two weeks, drilling (literally!) up to 11 hours a day, six days a week, Lorenzo had the trusses all standing in perfect formation like a well-trained precision honor guard. Even without the roof sheeting, the structure now looks like a finished building, though there is a great deal of work yet to be done before it becomes a functional hospital.

The block-layers-turned-brick-masons have also progressed steadily, albeit slowly and painstakingly, and now only five of the original 50 arches await completion. Bricks, arches, gleaming steel trusses, and the hectic pace Mike has been setting are all novelties to the Mozambican building community, and the combined effect has been both gratifying and impressive. Comments from the local population relayed through our workers indicate our neighbors are as awestruck as I am by what is finally happening after long years of waiting.



The rear arches completed



*Lorenzo Broccardo
directs the roofing crew*

Buildings are not erected without money, and we thank God for providing more of that fuel so vital for keeping a construction machine going at full throttle. As mentioned last month, we would have had to stop already had supporters not provided the additional \$44,500 contributed in September for the hospital. In October, we rejoiced to receive a further \$18,000 from various sources! How thankful we are to a munificent God for people whose prayers and generosity are enabling us to carry this phase of construction through to completion. Thank you!

Please thank God with us for continuing to provide the funds and the volunteer expertise without which the work shown in these photographs would not have been accomplished.

In work devotions we finished the gospel of Matthew and as I write are once again in the passion week as recounted by Mark. This Thursday I will be preaching a brief gospel message after work and have invited all those employees to attend who are concerned to know what must be done for Christ's work on the cross to become effective for them. Please pray for a strong turnout and a good message. Three of the unsaved workers now participate regularly in the Saturday Bible classes, and the number of Bibles bought by the construction crew has climbed to 52!

Please thank God with us for indications that His word is at work in the hearts of some of our construction workers, and pray that



Daniel Bothes



Hoisting the trusses

Julie's students, Grace and Benaiah, are racing ahead, Grace finishing the eighth grade and Benaiah the sixth grade. All the kids enjoy many opportunities to be with other MK's in Nampula's burgeoning missionary community. The older four all play musical instruments and often accompany singing in the weekly English worship service for expatriates. Kent has taught Bible lessons for years in the missionary youth fellowship meetings and our church leaders have lately assigned him a place in the church's preaching rotation. This has been a blessing for the church and has provided good experience for Kent.



Nearly rain-proof!

Julie is finding her load much lighter as all but one of her students have graduated from the eighth grade and become my responsibility. While homeschooling is slacking off, however, her ministry as a hostess is gaining momentum. Besides Mike and Hilda Stolk and Daniel Bothes who are helping with construction, **Hester Austin** and three more visitors from South Africa will be joining us later this month. Hester will stay on as a permanent part of our team, running the bookshop and helping with the Fiel ministries. Then next month we look forward to hosting **Barry and Michelle Jamie** with their three little ones as they too consider long-term ministry in Nampula. Julie loves serving people in her home, and I am grateful for a helper so meet for the work God has called us to in Mozambique!

Please pray for God's enabling as I and the older kids try to step up the pace of home schooling. Consistency here is much needed and the lack of it during construction has hurt us considerably. Pray for Julie to have grace in meeting the needs of many guests, and that our guests may have grace as well as they accommodate themselves to a different routine and life style!





As the accompanying photo reveals, the ministry suffered a grievous and totally unexpected setback last week when our trusty Bedford 4x4 off-road military cargo truck was destroyed by fire. A second motorist recently hired to assist Marques with all the hauling was discharging a load of construction debris at the dump and unwisely parked the truck over an area that had been recently burned. As the men were unloading the truck, the wind whipped up, the charred earth flashed

into flame (thanks in part to the “fuel” my workers were dumping onto it), and the truck with its load of highly combustible debris was quickly engulfed in a roaring conflagration. None of the workers were injured, but Marques insists the vehicle is a total loss and cannot be salvaged.

So for the remainder of this job, we must hire a vehicle to do our daily hauling which will be a costly expense we had not counted on. Beyond construction, I have come to depend so much on the truck to support our other ministries that at first I hardly knew how we could carry on. I was soon consoled, however, to discover that the British military remains as infatuated with these rugged off-road trucks as I am. They still buy and then auction off our model in such large quantities that it is probably the cheapest off-road truck in the world. NATO mothballs them for 20 years, then unloads them for under \$10,000 with only 12 to 50 thousand miles of wear. Already via the Internet I have cast a longing eye on several nice looking specimens.



Please beseech God to provide a replacement for our burned out truck so that the present limitations may end and we may quickly and efficiently resume our full ministry.

In closing, we look ahead with sadness to the departure of Mike and Hilda Stolk who will be back in South Africa permanently by the time you receive our next newsletter. Mike has been working mightily to finish this phase of the hospital before his departure 10 December, but it is apparent he will not accomplish all he expected. ***We very much need to line up an experienced volunteer builder for one more month of work picking up where Mike leaves off. We also want to send out a call for a qualified electrician to come wire the entire hospital in the not too distant future.***

Are there any volunteers?

By His grace:
Charles and Julie Woodrow