

July Prayer Points

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

CONFERÊNCIA FIEL

Dear Friends,

With the FIEL Conference a few days away and countless details each clamoring for his undivided attention, my dad has asked me (Kent) to prepare this month's prayer points. Much has happened since January's bulletin and Dad desires to detail these events more fully after the chaos of the coming weeks has subsided. In writing this letter, I hope to briefly touch on the highlights of the past months and to urgently request your fervent prayer (James 5:16b) on behalf of the conference taking place July 20-23.

So far, the most important development in our family life has been college preparation. In his last update, Dad wrote that he and I would be in the States for two weeks in March considering institutes in the Kentucky-Tennessee-Georgia region. Leaving Sarah, Andrew, Gracie, and our colleague Hester Austin in Nampula, the rest of the family trekked the 2200 km (1300 mi) to South Africa where Dad and I caught a plane to Nashville. Five tours, many interviews, and a couple of essays later, we returned to Johannesburg, suitcases bursting with school catalogues, financial calendars, and free T-shirts.

Having prayed for months that the Lord would guide this decision, we carefully weighed each possibility and settled on Covenant College in Georgia. For my part, I considered education from a Reformed perspective worth the extra money we would have to pay.

Dad agreed. At last, three years behind but not one too late, I have now enrolled for August of this year.



*Painting the outside walls
of the hospital*

We remained in South Africa for a month and a half as Dad scurried around the Gauteng Province purchasing construction material needed to make the hospital habitable before the FIEL conference. Dad's plan to house the pastors from out of town in the new building would promote fellowship among the men and be cost effective for the mission that would otherwise have to gather a small fortune to book rooms in even the cheapest hotels in Nampula. However, the rooms still required a good coat of paint; tiles on the dusty, concrete floors; electric lighting; plumbing; and 60+ makeshift beds

before we could expect to comfortably accommodate the Lord's laborers. Most of these items had to be bought in South Africa and imported to Mozambique, an arduous task in itself.

Meanwhile our family endured its longest separation yet. Watching as delays devoured the remaining weeks left until the conference and contemplating all the construction work still to be done, Dad had double reason to wish us back in Nampula. Finally, after two and a half months away, we pulled into our driveway in the early morning of May 16th and proceeded to rouse a drowsy family from their beds. Thereafter, no one felt very sleepy.



Sinks and toilets imported from South Africa being installed in the hospital



The outside of the hospital, painted and with security lights in place

Dad lost no time tackling the imposing projects before him. On the construction front, there are now nine large rooms in the hospital suitably equipped for lodging the pastors who are coming from all ten of Mozambique's provinces. In the last month, Dad has juggled construction and conference work. Because both demand almost full time attention, he oversees Grace Missions projects during the day and has sacrificed the evening hours to tend to the FIEL program. That he hardly sleeps is not something Dad would include in his letters. However, as the one writing this month's report and the one who can testify to Dad's desk lamp burning away the hours of darkness, I feel entitled to share this bit of family information. I've often considered compiling a book-length volume titled *A Day in the Life of Charles Woodrow*.

Please pray for the Lord's special undergirding of Dad during this stressful and physically draining time. Pray that he will continue to manifest the character of Christ before pastors and employees, Mozambicans and foreign volunteers while operating at a less than optimum physical level.

While there are many responsibilities that lie heavily on Dad, the Lord has raised up many brethren who have come along side to help in this year's conference. Of course, we continue to thank the Lord for ***Hester Austin*** who is managing all aspects of book selling at the conference. Also an indispensable part of this year's team are ***Ron and SouVonna Miller*** from Heritage Baptist Church in Owensboro, Kentucky. Mrs. Miller's administrative skills have been quickly put to use in registering the nearly 300 pastors attending this conference while Mr. Miller's carpentry and ability with a table saw has produced three much-needed



A tailor hired to prepare bedding for the pastors



Pastors arriving at the SIL compound where the FIEL conference is held.

bookshelves for the almost unmanageable number of pamphlets on display in the bookstore. Our family is especially grateful for Mr. Miller's optimistic, encouraging, and humorous disposition during a naturally tense time. *Community Bible Church* in Nashville has sent out a team of six who have offered their services in the kitchen and in operating the sound system among other things.

Please pray that the Lord would bless the efforts of these individuals and their desire to serve Mozambique's pastors.



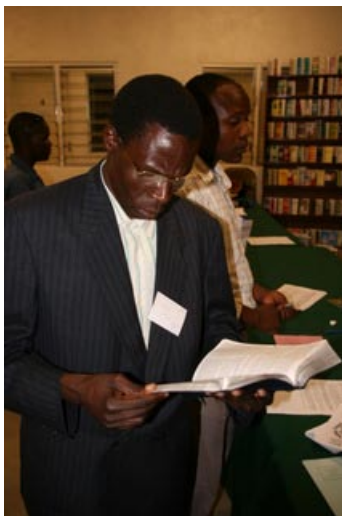
Solano Portela of São Paulo, Brazil; one of the speakers this year

Portela of Brazil and Pr. Joe Sahl of Ft. Worth could kindle in the Mozambican bride of Christ a love for her Bridegroom, a passion for His truth, a richer understanding of His work of salvation, and a zeal for seeing His name exalted in the earth.

The theme for this year's FIEL Conference is "The Five Pillars of Faith": by grace alone, through faith alone, the Scripture alone, in Christ alone, to God alone be the glory. These precious truths that form the foundation of the Christian faith are sorely lacking in Mozambique where many Protestant churches preach a works salvation. What will be proclaimed here in Nampula in the next week has the potential of setting the Mozambican church ablaze in the fires of a much needed revival. The Lord willing, the sermons of *Pr. Solano*



Joe Sahl of Ft. Worth, Texas; our second speaker



A pastor at last year's conference perusing a coveted study Bible

This is an important week in the history of FIEL in Mozambique and possibly in the history of the Mozambican church. Please pray that the Lord would act powerfully in the days to come, burdening the speakers with anointed messages and opening the hearts and minds of the men present to receive the Word with gladness.

These conferences have never run glitch-free. Rather, as Dad confided to me yesterday, he prepares for *anything* to go wrong. As we've learned from experience, if there isn't a plan B, plan A is sure to get derailed. And yet for all the times it seemed a shadow gathered around us, it was only the protective shadow of the Lord's wings. The conference has

often been the scene of near disasters turned into marvelous deliverances.

Because of the immense significance of the work to be done in the coming week, you can imagine that the devil is avidly seeking to frustrate whatever plans he can. Already we've encountered what would seem to be infernal opposition but the Lord has thrown down these obstacles thus far. There are thousands of details to attend to (from transportation to meals to sound set up to lodging to the book room to...), each of which contribute to a the overall label of "a good conference," and the devil might use any of these to undermine the effectiveness of message. Our desire is to free the pastors from any concern save one for the Word.

Dad's special request: Please pray that all the details of the conference would come together to result in the edification and relaxation of the pastors and the magnification of the Lord.

From July 20-23, hundreds of insignificant clay vessels will be about a task far too wonderful for them in themselves to accomplish--the glorification of the Father through the spread of the true knowledge of the Son. Such a work can only be accomplished through the presence of the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. In Luke 11:13, Christ promises that the Father will freely pour out more of His Spirit for His children who ask. Children of God, please pray that He will flood Nampula with His Spirit, the essential ingredient that none of these clay vessels can supply.

Dear friends, Mozambique pleads for your prayers this week. Her pastors, often spiritually malnourished themselves, are few and spread thin between many underfed congregations. Her church is riddled with heresy and ritual. So much of her land is suffering in spiritual darkness and poverty. This week in Nampula the richest morsel of the Bread of Life will be presented to the pastors and a fire will be brought from lands



that know the light of truth. Pray that God will multiply the loaves so all Mozambique may feast on the goodness of the Lord. Pray that He will fan the flame, as He did for so many of our nations years ago, and catch this corner of Africa ablaze in His truth. Please pray for Mozambique!

In Him, to whom belongs all power and glory,

Kent