

# March Prayer Points 5

*Those who do not have time to read the stories may still get the main points in less than three minutes by scanning the red print and looking at the photos.*

Dear Friends:

This installment on seven church members concludes the presentation of key people God has brought into our church.

**Aquiles Junior** – Aquiles is one of Arnaldo's four children, now completing his training as a dentist. Aquiles grew up as best friends with our son Kent and is practically our adopted child. He speaks English, Portuguese, Makua, and Kimwane (like Swahili) fluently, and is our most eloquent member in preaching and public praying. He is one of those seven church members with a large store of memorized scripture, and I find his teaching always sound and practical. He says that as a child he read all the books Editora Fiel sent his father over the three years he was on their Pastors' Library Program. Aquiles has a wealth of excel-



*Aquiles with sisters Ismaela and Ancha*

lent material to support his Bible preaching. Because of his knowledge of sound Christian literature, Aquiles served the mission for many years in our bookshop before entering dental school.

**Saquina Quinhas** – The young men in our church no doubt trembled as they watched Gustavo grow old without gaining a godly wife. But God was gracious to Aquiles. **A year ago He brought to Nampula an excellent young woman from Maputo who had been transformed under Bila's Bible teaching. She came to visit the Bilas and to everyone's delight, stayed on and on. She and Aquiles fell in love, and for months Aquiles has hardly been able to contain his happiness.** Because Aquiles has more than a year left in school before he will begin earning a paycheck, he and Saquina cannot make definite plans for their future, but we all assume it will be together.



**Saquina took my course in systematic theology at the conclusion of the last Fiel Conference. She made the fourth highest score among the 121 church leaders who have taken the course over the years. As far as we are concerned, God scoured the nation to find an excellent woman for Aquiles and then brought her to him from 1300 miles away. We are immensely thankful for His abundant kindness!**

**Calton Julian** – Calton is a serious, deeply committed 20-year-old Christian intellectual, delivered through Jeremias' efforts several years ago from an international health and wealth sect. He is distinguished by his scholastic



abilities – a year ago he made the highest score of all applicants on his college admission test. He attends university full time, takes a half load of courses (sometimes more) by Internet from the International College of Reformed Theology based out of the U.S., does admin work and Bible teaching for a local Christian orphanage and lately for Missão Ekklesia as well, participates in the reading circles Bila has organized, yet never seems to be taxed with all his intellectual endeavors.

Because of the ease with which he handles so much brainwork, I asked him to help me set up the next Fiel Conference, a huge task that even I can barely accomplish despite decades of formal education and much experience. Like the founder of the orphanage and like Bila, I thought if anyone in Nampula could one day cope with the administrative work I have to do, perhaps it would be Calton.

I warned Calton that he would have to scale back his other commitments to find time to help prepare for the conference, but he blithely assured me he has yet to discover his full potential and will do all the work without pay and without diminishing his other endeavors. Unless I am greatly mistaken, Calton will finally learn his limit once preparations for the conference get underway!

As might be expected, after moving to our church, it was not long before Calton memorized our 48-page catechism of scripture verses which he seemed to do effortlessly (and which earned him \$180, or six weeks' wages in this country, in our financial aid program). Despite being young in age and in the faith, he took the systematic theology course at the first opportunity and holds the fifth highest score of the 121 seasoned church leaders who have run the same academic gauntlet.

Calton likes to sing and is our other composer of church music. He and Jeremias organized a singing group comprised of church members and girls from the orphanage where Calton works. Their group is now producing a CD of 11 Christian songs Calton, Jeremias, and a third composer have written. The same threesome founded the evangelistic organization mentioned previously, and Calton participates regularly in our rotations for preaching and leading worship.



*Jeremias and Calton, our two composers*

**Xavier Tianeque** – Xavier is a very friendly fellow, a member of the local royal family (African “king of Nampula”), and is deeply committed to the Lord, to righteousness, and to separation from the world. He has a reputation for being polemical and loves to debate Christian issues – perhaps too much. But I appreciate his earnestness about the things of God. Like Gustavo, he has manifested his commitment to follow





Christ by remaining single into his forties because he will marry only a virtuous woman who knows and loves the Lord and such women are rare in Nampula. He also will not work for an unbeliever, refuses to study in the government schools or universities, and has a hard time understanding Christians who lack the same scruples.

Xavier will do anything to promote Jesus Christ. He cheerfully serves in the bookstore and regularly engages our customers in evangelistic conversations. For more than a year he has “dated” a woman living in Brazil who he first met by evangelizing her over the Internet! Later he disciplesd her, and then had the unusual opportunity of

traveling to Brazil to meet her. She has reciprocated with two visits to Nampula, and we are all waiting to see where the relationship will lead. Wisely, both are proceeding with care.

For well over a year, Xavier has traveled hours every Saturday over primitive roads to reach a couple of remote areas where he and missionary Hester Austin have faithfully and at considerable personal cost ministered to Christians cut off from good Bible teaching. Xavier diligently prepares hours of lessons every week for the work in the bush, and until recently was active in teaching in our own pulpit as well. Three years ago, he became the first Mozambican to begin studying via Internet at the International College of Reformed Theology, which we learned about through one of our Fiel conference speakers who is a faculty member. Thanks to Xavier’s trail-blazing enthusiasm, today there are perhaps 15-20 church leaders in Nampula benefitting from the same program.

**Ancha Aquiles** – Ancha is Arnaldo’s lovely 22-year-old-daughter. For most of her life she was a student in Julie’s Sunday school class, but for the past several years



she has been the teacher. The three church leaders regularly cycle through the Sunday school rotation so we can know the children and they us, as do all the pulpit preachers. We want to discourage the idea that teaching children is women’s work when it is primarily the men’s responsibility. But the favorite teacher by unanimous decision? Ancha!

**Leo and Ismaela Rodrigues** – These are our newlyweds – in 21 years the only couple that has met and married in the church! Ismaela is Arnaldo’s youngest child

and Leo is a well-off agricultural inspector for the government. Unfortunately, we lost Leo a year ago when he was assigned to a city two hours away, and with his recent marriage to Ismaela we have lost yet another cherished part of our little congregation!



**It is remarkable that with 27% urban unemployment and stiff competition for the few openings in government universities, God has faithfully provided for His children in our congregation. For years, God has blessed every one of our adult male church members with either a job or a place in university, except for Jeremias who is still in high school despite his age and Xavier who has his own business. Surely the odds of something like that happening by chance are small. The down side of this blessing is that because jobs in the city are rare, when our members get hired they routinely are assigned to distant locations requiring a move. So while we rejoice in our congregation's 100% employment rate, we lament the fact that this very blessing prevents us from retaining many of our members over the years, and the church remains perpetually small!**

This ends the installments on the church planting work, but there is more ministry still to describe in coming installments. Perhaps the most striking feature of these reports on the church is that despite the small size of our congregation, we have been so greatly blessed by those whom God has both saved and left in the church.

Please pray for us, for:

- Greater effectiveness in evangelism
- Winsomeness in reaching the lost
- The salvation of Arnaldo's wife Mussite
- Godly wives for Gustavo and Xavier
- A vigorous program for reaching and strengthening our own young people.

Thank you for standing with us in prayer, and to our financial supporters, thank you for your faithful contributions to this ministry.

By His grace,  
Charles and Julie

Gifts to this ministry can be sent to: Grace Missions, c/o Faith Community Church,  
723 South D. Street, Oxnard, CA 93030