

March Prayer Points 8

Dear Friends:

In my previous two reports, I highlighted the Christian literature ministries Grace Missions has conducted for over 14 years, and the more recent indigenous Ekklesia Mission work started by Timóteo Bila. These ministries are vital for helping put a solid, biblical, doctrinal foundation under the Evangelical church in Mozambique.

To further this cause, we have received a generous grant from a Christian enterprise in Nashville, Tennessee that shares our priorities, but it comes with the request that we raise an equal amount of money, \$12,500.00, apart from our usual monthly receipts. This is a challenge grant, or a matching funds grant, the purpose being to match all contributions to the literature/conference ministry up to a total of \$12,500.



Long time supporters know that, except when donors have specifically asked how they can help, I have never requested contributions. This is largely because we have never run out of funds, thanks to the generosity and faithfulness of many friends. It is also because God has established a wonderful record of providing for our needs, great and small, for 24 years without campaigns to raise money. Though I am hesitant to break a tradition that may be from the Lord, I believe in the importance of the literature/conference ministries and resonate with the desire of the Nashville friends to involve even more people in a ministry these donors have generously supported for some years.



The funds will be used to purchase books for Bila's reading circles. We supply these books at no charge, but only to church leaders who read them and come to the discussion groups prepared to talk about their contents.

We will also use this grant to help cover the 50% subsidy on Christian books we sell from our bookstore, one of only two Christian bookstores we know of in the country. We buy books at 40 to 80 percent off from Editora Fiel, a Banner of Truth style ministry in Brazil that translates sound Christian literature into Portuguese and then distributes it throughout the Portuguese-speaking world. To lower the price to what Mozambicans can afford, we sell the books at 50% of what we must pay. We sell the same books at our annual Fiel Conference attended by church leaders from

seven of Mozambique's ten provinces. This literature is a boon to men who usually have no opportunity to obtain Christian books. **We are glad that for many years the literature most readily available to the church in northern Mozambique is excellent grace literature provided through our supporters.**



I also hope to purchase an industrial grade means of printing the theological/church news journal that Bila wants to distribute throughout northern Mozambique. Bila's desire is to include in each issue articles about different Mozambican churches along with excerpts from classics written by the Puritans, Reformation Fathers, and contemporary authors following in the same tradition, as well as articles from a team of Mozambicans applying these truths to the local church scene.



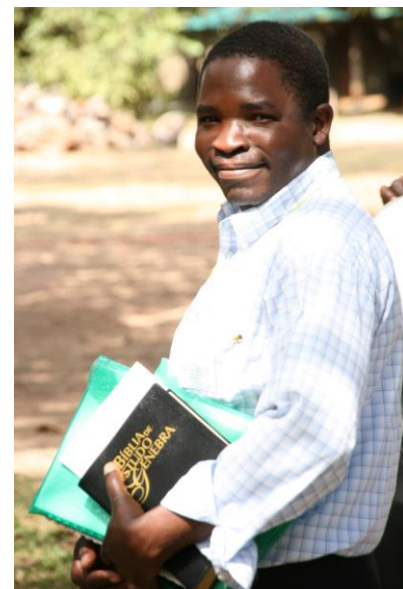
Any funds left over will be used to defray the Fiel Conference and seminar costs for 2014. In recent years, average attendance at our conference has been 330 participants – church leaders with their wives coming from all parts of the country except the southernmost provinces, which now have their own Fiel Conference hosted by Editora Fiel in the capital. All

the men working with Bila in his indigenous effort to bring the doctrines of grace to the Mozambique church are the fruit of this conference ministry. I believe it is vitally important!

If you can help us take advantage of this matching funds grant by making a special contribution to the literature/conference ministry, please send your check designated "for literature ministry" to:

**Grace Missions
723 South D Street
Oxnard CA 93030**

In 2005, the same year we opened our bookstore, a mission agency beginning work in north Mozambique asked Evangelical pastors and leaders in a survey, "How can one be saved?" Only two pastors even mentioned Jesus Christ in their answers. All others said salvation came through personal reformation, espousing a works-based approach to God that will



prove disastrous in the final day. One of the pastors who referred to Christ said salvation came through following His example. The only pastor who proclaimed a gospel of salvation by grace through faith in Christ joyfully showed off his shelf of cherished Christian books. When asked where he got those books, he said he had purchased them at the Fiel Conferences hosted in Nampula each year!

All through northern Mozambique the true gospel needs to be proclaimed in Evangelical churches. Your gift to the literature ministry will help make that happen.

By His grace,
Charles and Julie Woodrow

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