

CHARIS NEWSLETTER

Mel & Mandy Mozambique

April 2016

Charis Ministries



'Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God.'

At times it feels like we are living in a world full of trouble, heartache and conflict and God and His beauty seem to be shrouded in hopelessness... but... hear the words of Jesus: *..My peace I give you; I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid..In this world you will have trouble but take heart I have overcome the world! (John 14:27, 16:33)* They cut through the darkness like a shaft of light filled with impossible hope! Jesus the Prince of Peace overcomes war with peace, hatred with love, cruelty and indifference with mercy, suffering with healing, injustice with justice, evil with good. As the body of Christ this is our calling too.

Prayer

- Please pray for Mozambique as discontent between the political parties continues and violence continues to erupt north of the Save river. The main problems have been located around the main road which connects the south with the north of Mozambique. Beira is particularly unsafe at present. Please pray for all who travel.
- We would ask you to pray for healing and peace for our missionary friends Scott, Lisa and family. A couple of weeks ago they were brutally robbed at gunpoint by 3 masked robbers. It was a terrifying ordeal. They have just heard that the men, who were local, have been apprehended by the police.

Mercy

Just before we arrived back in Mozambique Rosa's house burnt down so the first thing we did was to build another one. Rosa is poor and disabled and Charis has been helping her for years. Bento and Orlando, as we write, are



building another house for a very poor family Bento came across. The lady, Anna, has 4 children and her only means of surviving is to fish. The house they were all living in was



falling down. The other day when we were returning from the village we saw an old lady lying half in the road..we wondered if she might be dead. However when we stopped and shook her she woke to say she was resting, because she was thirsty and hungry. She was carrying firewood back home. She was blind and had

a stick. The first thing she asked us for was prayer! Not food or water. Anyway we went to get food and drink for her and prayed for her too. Oh Lord, help us always to notice the precious ones you place in our path. We continue to respond to various needs in the villages including providing powdered milk for grandmothers with babies, food for the elderly, clothes for the most needy and basic medicines for the sick.



The triplets are doing well! We were delighted to see mum and babies so much better. Thankyou God.

Bible Teaching

We are continuing our bible teaching in the village: on Tuesday it is open to all and Friday is for leaders and pastors. We have been using Jaco and Inge's portuguese manual: *The Great*



Commission. We pray God will bring growth in our understanding and change in our lives so that we might become more like Jesus. Our core emphasis remains contrasting true faith in Jesus with empty religion. The average numbers so far have been 25 on Tuesdays and 35 on Fridays.

Church visits In the last few weeks we have had the privilege of visiting and preaching at 2 Zionist bush Churches. The welcome we received was wonderful and the worship was very lively...in 38 degree heat it was like doing a workout! We praise God for Aglow. The groups have members from several different denominations and so there is a great opportunity to visit and strengthen all the churches with God's Word.

Grinding Mill



Praise God the grinding mill in the village of Chiruala is up and running! Whenever we visit the village we see people bringing their corn to grind. Unfortunately the corn crops have been scanty this year due to the drought..please pray for more rain in 2016 so that the next crop will grow well. The villagers rely on corn as their staple food and suffer when there is drought. We are currently providing more maize flour at this time for the elderly in our Aglow villages.

Health Training and Marie's Visit

We were excited to have Marie Lee, a retired midwife from England, come for 9 days to do Midwifery Skills Workshops to the staff at Vilanculos Hospital. She is a volunteer with **Life for African Mothers** and visits various African countries carrying out these workshops using up to date manikins. This training was the first of



its kind in Vilanculos. Thanks to our friends (photo opposite), who organised all the meetings

beforehand and also translated handouts and powerpoints, we were able to hold 3 days of training in the hospital and a day on the delivery suite. We covered all the major obstetric emergencies, plus other subjects, such as pre- eclampsia and eclampsia, obstructed labour, topics of current interest and the staff enjoyed practising the manoeuvres on the manikins. We hope to continue to do more of these, especially to staff in the

outlying health posts. A couple of senior midwives also expressed a desire to become trainers! We are very excited because we have received a kind offer to buy manikins to continue this work. Praise God! Marie also had the experience of doing this training out in one of our villages to health workers and traditional midwives, and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Thank you for your continued support and love, which allows us to partner with our Mozambican friends to bring practical help to the vulnerable as well as encouragement and strength to the local body of Christ.

A special thanks to all those who prayed and sent condolences to me (Mandy) after my father sadly passed away 23rd December your love and concern is much appreciated.

Love and God bless, Mel & Mandy xxx

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