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CHARIS NEWSLETTER

August 2015

'He has shown us what is good. And what does the Lord requires of us?
To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God. (Micah 6: 8)

Well due to unforeseen circumstances I am writing this from the UK! Mandy's dad has been very unwell with pneumonia and it was so difficult for her being far away not knowing what might happen. We, therefore, decided to return home so that she could spend some time with him. He has rallied round a little but remains weak. Please pray for him and the family at this time. We are trusting God to be able to return on the 8th September just before our friends, Karen and Danny, Adrian and Penny arrive on the 13th September. The plan is to meet them in SA and to drive up to Mozambique together. Please pray with us that God will work everything out for good and this mission trip will still take place. Thanks.

We thank God that the work continues despite our absence. Bento, Orlando, Zaida, Teresa and all the Aglow groups are daily ministering God's love and grace to the elderly, sick and vulnerable.

Twins: Bette and Ignacio About 3 weeks ago Bento, Orlando and Zaida asked us to visit some twins, who, they said, had been abandoned by their mother. Of course we went immediately and found these 2 adorable children sitting expressionless in the sand, dirty, covered in fleas and matekanha, hungry, sick and frightened. We were all appalled at how anyone could leave two vulnerable, defenceless children to survive alone. We learnt that there is an elder brother, 15, who apparently has been trying his best to look after them, going looking for food during the day and returning, when possible, to cook some food. Thank God, who goes before us, we were able to bring them to the little house we have built on our land as a temporary refuge, where Zaida has been staying. Zaida agreed to look after them with our help. Mandy and I went to the market to get food, clothes and other necessities whilst Bento, Orlando and Zaida washed them, shaved their heads and gently began the painful process of taking out the worms (matekanha) from their little feet and hands. For the first few days they were very quiet and scared, but our love and care has worked its magic and they are now talking, smiling and playing. Praise God!

They love a cuddle...here's Mandy with Bette snuggling in (funny..Mandy's mum is called Betty and it's the first time in our 8 years we've come across a Bette!) We are prayerfully seeking a more permanent home for Bette and Ignacio..please pray with us. We have involved the social services, who might be able to provide some regular food for them, but we need someone who will care for and love them.



Teresa -African Aglow Conference visit We were very excited to hear about Teresa's trip to Zambia in June funded by Charis. It was the first time she has left Mozambican soil and obviously been in an aeroplane... she is a poor woman from the bush and said words couldn't describe the experience, but exclaimed-'with God nothing is impossible!' Immediately on her return along with some

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other aglow ladies, she travelled 3 hours north up to Mombone to the latest established aglow groups to share the message from the conference: *every nation touched, every nation changed*. We believe Teresa has been specially anointed for this work...bringing a fresh message to the churches: how the outworking of **unity, prayer and compassion** will bring revival transforming formal religion into true Jesus-like faith.

And last week in response to an open door provided by our missionary friends **Inge and Jaco**, Teresa, 2 ladies and Bento went to speak to 3 groups of church leaders around **Inhambane**, (3 1/2 hours away), who had heard about Aglow and want to start groups there. It is amazing how quickly these groups seem to be springing up and we are praying there will be much fruit for God's kingdom. When we started in 2008 we saw fires in the bush igniting all over....praise God we are seeing this happen through these AGLOW groups. And the great thing is.. that it is driven and led now by the Mozambicans (not us).

Hunger in the villages I can't imagine being truly hungry, but when we asked Teresa and Marianna, another Aglow leader, how we can help at the present time, they asked for more food, because the elderly and vulnerable are suffering due to drought and their little machambas (plots) are failing to produce any crops. So in addition to our normal contribution, Charis has given extra food and will continue to do so. Thank God for everyone who gives to our work, because it reaches the 'least', in terms of real bread and the real necessities to survive. This is Candida with her 2 children. She lives alone and survives on what she can grow. She is smiling now, because we brought her food and gave some knitted cardigans from the UK to Mandinha and her brother. (Thanks Maureen for your beautiful gifts!)



Bible teaching It is always a privilege to be able to teach God's word, but especially to those, who do not possess a bible and cannot read. In **Machocamane** we have been encouraging a group of Aglow ladies, mostly elderly, with weekly visits to teach and pray with them. Before we leave Mandy blesses them by seeing the sick and handing out basic medicines. We are also continuing our weekly bible course 'Understanding the Whole Story' in **Chiruala**, where many come from the different Aglow groups. We have recently managed to buy some **bibles** from the

Bible Society in the local language in response to constant requests for bibles. Thank you St James, who raised funds specifically for this.

Prayer Points: Prayer changes things that are not good to good...please join with us in praying for:

- The twins-for a long term solution to their care.
- The September mission trip, that God will remove every obstacle and prepare the way for it to take place. Pray for peace and faith for Karen/Danny Adrian/Penny and hearts full of God's Spirit ready to come and serve and encourage those they meet.
- Fatima and her aunt Alfa. Pray for a better relationship between the two of them. Fatima is looking better and her aunt is caring for her, but Fatima has some emotional problems.
- For Mandy, her dad and family at this time.

Thank you for your continued support! Love and God Bless, Mel & Mandy xxx

Contact Details

www.charis-ministries.org.uk

Mel Welch - Email: melwel72003@yahoo.co.uk mobile: 07516217349

Mandy Hunter - Email: mandafrika@yahoo.co.uk mobile: 07999104403

If you would like more information or wish to give a donation to our work please contact Kath Welch (Secretary): 1 Sunnyside Ave., Wilpshire, Nr. Blackburn, BB1 9LW. Tel-01254 240893 katmel09@talktalk.net

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