

Standing in the Gap

Steve & Rachel Good

April 2009

Ancient Paths Coordinators Seminar

It was a wonderful weekend in February as we made the long drive to the middle of nowhere outside of Durban, SA. We went primarily to take another couple to be trained as coordinators for Ancient Paths. We drove into rain and fog and missed our first exit off a main highway. We found the road to the hills and then things got interesting. The fog was so thick we had to drive about 25 mph on the twisty, wet and unmarked



Recent training with some AP facilitators.

road. Darkness was coming fast and we could only see a few feet in front of the vehicle. The couple that was

with us were good for us as they sang and laughed like they didn't have a care in the world. Why worry when you can praise instead? We eventually arrived at a farm gate and drove through a pasture, and found the place we were supposed to be.

The weekend seminar was very good and a great spiritual encouragement to us personally. The view was beautiful once the fog wore off and it was great getting to know our hosts Leon and Marietjie better. Imagine rolling hills, forests, lakes, many flowers and birds, cool weather. It was like a different world!

By Sunday afternoon the fog had come back. We did make good time back to the Swaziland border, but then things went awry. We needed to get to the border exiting Swazi before 8 pm when it closed. To make a long story short, we missed a turn off as it was getting dark and drove much farther and longer than we

would have needed to, arriving 6 minutes late, thus needing to spend the night in a hotel.

Some lessons God taught us during this trip:

1. Don't just stop on a foggy road, continue on as far as you can see in the light that God gives even if you have to go slower.
2. Praising and trusting God is much more relaxing than being up-tight, worried and stressed out. Think of Jesus sleeping through a storm.
3. It doesn't matter how fast you drive, if you are going the wrong direction, you won't get there.
4. We had been given a road map to the farm that we followed carefully and arrived. We did not do the same going home and did not arrive without much more effort, frustration and cost.

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Zambia Trip

Steve traveled in March to visit the AfricaWorks project in western Zambia with our partners, Hands of Hope from Barrington, IL. It was exciting to see how much has been accomplished and how people are engaging with economic development ideas. The prevailing attitude had been, "we have such poor sandy soil we can't do agriculture here". Our team has helped 500+ people engage in income producing activities of egg production, jatropha (oil seed) plantations, milk goats, commercial vegetables, business loans, and also started a feed mill to supply the local poultry houses. Two of the communities have started using their jatropha oil for lamp lighting at night and making soap.



Oil lamp made with jatropha oil.



The goat project is going well and they are learning to drink goat's milk.

Ancient Paths (cont.)

5. Teamwork would have helped to prevent these mistakes as each of us does the things we are gifted in doing.
6. We do have choices. When we get lost we can be moody and lost or keep a good attitude even if we are still lost!

Mirtha and Yudel

We have had the privilege of relating to and getting to know Mirtha and Yudel, a Cuban couple. They arrived at our home last July as they thought they were transitioning out of Mozambique. They house-sat for us as we took leave in the U.S. They continued to stay with us as they applied and reapplied for visas which were eventually denied. It was a hard, long journey for them but the promise was that God would open the Red Sea for them. Their visas for Mozambique were about to expire and they had been told there was no chance for renewing them. But God opened the Red Sea at what seemed like the last minute. They received residence visas and started working at an orphanage with 30 boys in January. Mirtha helps with medical issues, and sewing, Yudel helps with the administration and the school and they both parent and love the boys and work with the church. They have a passion for children and God is fulfilling their dreams. Pray for them as the work can be overwhelming. Also pray that God's provision will be there for them. If you would like to give a one-time or monthly donation toward their support it can be sent to the Zion Chapel address below. Include a note that your gift is for the support of Yudel and Mirtha.



Yudel
&
Mirtha

Thank you for your generosity and prayers in these challenging times. God bless you! Steve and Rachel

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Life is like a trip down a river. As this year progresses, we are beginning to see signs of change here at World Relief Mozambique. At times we wonder what next year will bring, what we are supposed to do and how we will connect with the work we have shepherded these last four years. One of the word pictures we see is that life is like a trip down a river. There are special people in the boat with us and Jesus is there. Other companions are floating close by and there is laughter. We can relax and enjoy the scenery or we can worry about what is around the bend in the river. There may be a small rapid, or a log to go around or so many logs that we need to portage. This is all part of the trip and there is no need to fear for Jesus is still with us. We need to take the challenges as they come, and not worry about them for then we can't appreciate and enjoy the beautiful scenery going by right now. God will help us with the challenges. His presence and His grace will keep us throughout our journey.



FAMILY

We were very blessed to have our daughter and son-in-law Keith and Joanna visit us and help us welcome in 2009. We were able to take some time off to travel with them to the beach, the village and to South Africa. They also spent some time in Maputo experiencing life as we do. We are grateful to God that all of our children and their spouses are doing well in their different areas of service and study.



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