



Standing in the Gap

Steve and Rachel Good

February 2005

Arrival in Maputo, Mozambique

We arrived in Maputo after 26 hours of travel from the U.S. Because our director was traveling for an extended series of meetings, we have taken this time to get oriented to World Relief and Maputo. We have also been able to slow down a bit as we seek direction from the Lord and World Relief. We have enjoyed meeting some of the WR staff, practicing Portuguese and reading some es-

sential books in preparation for our work that have impacted us and taught us more about Mozambique and Africa. There is a lot to learn and we are thankful for this opportunity.

The Christian guesthouse where we are staying has been a great place to meet people from all over the world who are either visiting or ministering in Mozambique. It has been good to network, learn from and bless each other. We are in the process of finding housing.

The last week of January we visited Chokwe, a town three hours from Maputo where WR is working. We were able to see their child evangelism, community banks and child survival programs (below left) in action and talked with others about the AIDS and business development programs. This community had been totally devastated by the flood in 2000. An added bonus to this trip was that Kristen Miller, from our home church in Goshen Indiana, was along. She interviewed people (below) and took pictures as she volunteers for WR.



Language School

We were so blessed in our language school experience. Our tutor, Marta challenged us and corrected us patiently many times. We came to see that God put us in that place at just the right time. We were able to share some important and powerful spiritual truths with her and the church and encourage them to keep growing in their walk with Christ and the Holy Spirit. We gained many friends and several times we were asked if we would come back after our three years in Africa. What could we say? Our lives and future are in His hands. "Ta/ vez (perhaps)."



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As we read and learn more about Mozambique we realize how much the people have suffered in recent years through wars, famines, epidemics and floods. It is also a nation that has

been steeped in witchcraft, immorality and violence. There are many biblical examples of people who stood in the gap for cities, and countries, who confessed sins and pleaded for

God's mercy. Please pray with us that God will forgive and pour out His Spirit and His blessing and healing on this land.

Christmas 2004 - The Whirlwind Month

After saying "ciao" to our friends in Brazil, we returned to our home in Indiana. Janelle and Joanna, our 2 daughters, joined us for most of the time during their school breaks. Our son Joel and his fiancée, Ellen, came for Christmas and we also enjoyed celebrating with extended family. We kept busy inside and out finishing some projects in preparation for our extended leave.

Joanna, Rachel, Ellen, Joel, Steve and
Janelle with gifts from Brazil



Joel and Ellen's Wedding

We were pleased to share several days with the Stevenson family in Lafayette, Indiana. The festivities started on New Year's Eve. During the wedding rehearsal dinner, we had a time of sharing, advice, toasts and prayer. Rachel and I shared a song from *Fiddler on the Roof*, something that Joel and I share in common and now our weddings do as well. We

shed a few tears as both sets of parents blessed them in their initiation of a new family unit and home.

Joel and Ellen were married on January 1, 2005, in a beautiful evening ceremony. What made it special for us and others were the intentional expressions of biblical servant hood and love that were woven throughout. The following day, out-of-town guests shared brunch at the home of Ellen's parents, Greg and Sarah Stevenson. They were such gracious hosts the entire weekend. Their personal dedication to the Lord, the church and "our" kids helps us leave since we know they are in good hands.

Over the following ten days, we said goodbye to family, friends, the church, house, farm, and our girls. We all had tears as they went out the door for college. The next morning we were still carrying a little sadness in our hearts, but God was faithful to remind us of the verses in Luke 18:29-30 where Jesus said, "If you are willing to give up ...children for the sake of the kingdom, you will receive many times more..." What a helpful comfort it was to us.



Thank you for your part in making it possible for us to be here through your love, prayers and support. You are an encouragement to us!

Blessings, Steve & Rachel

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