



Standing in the Gap

Steve and Rachel Good

February 2006

Trip to U.S.

We were in the U.S. for one month over Christmas and into January. It was great to connect with our families and friends again and see that they are doing well. In January there were World Relief meetings in Baltimore and Minneapolis. It was amazing to be in one place with WR Mozambique staff, people who have visited Mozambique this year, and U.S.-based WR staff. We realized how many people we have met and grown to love in the past year.



Training in Manhica

Our Work

The microenterprise project of raising chickens is expanding. We have completed seven new chicken houses in Xai-Xai, a city on the coast and our trainers have trained 30 more volunteers in Manhica in the microenterprise course. We will begin building there soon.

We were very pleased to know that the projects in Chokwe and Macia continued doing well while we were gone in the U.S. Our bookkeepers (right) are Edgar and Acidia. They are doing a great job of keeping track of the books, paying the volunteers and doing the banking.

Alcides and Anabela help us very much as our technicians and supply runners. Anabela (far right) and her husband are leaders in an Anglican church. They also work with WR in the HIV/AIDS program by coordinating home health care volunteers. Their church has projects to raise money for food for the orphans and

widows in their church family. They are busy making a difference in their community, not only in word but also in deed.



We Cannot Out-Give God

Westwood Church, from Excelsior, Minnesota has the following as part of their mission statement: "With open hands, we receive all that God wants to give ... and with open hands give it away, knowing we cannot out-give God."

This is a confirmation of what we have experienced in the last year. When we came to Mozambique it felt like a big step with some sacrifices and risks. Yet as we have given of ourselves, God has poured His blessings back into our lives. Our material needs are met, we have been healthy, we have a new church family (where we are getting more involved), new friends we could not have met otherwise, and God is taking care of our children. What more could we ask? God is truly good.

Thank you for your part in giving to God and to us and for praying for us. We feel we are part of a team, not doing this alone, and that is so valuable.



Beauty in unexpected places

To Be or To Do

In our meetings with World Relief staff and churches that partner with WR, one of the issues that came up was that Americans love to come to the field and "do" something significant such as build, teach, paint, or provide health services. We are so overwhelmed with the needs that we want to help fix them in a concrete way.

On the other hand, Africans value relationships. Yes, they appreciate the same things we do, but they also appreciate that we sing and dance with them, talk with them, spend time with them, find out what their lives are like. Just to "be" together is good.

These are some of the perspectives we need to keep in mind as we live here and plan for teams coming to Mozambique. We want to make the best use of their time and still honor the African values of being and relationship.

Prayer and Praise

- Ask the Lord for continued health for us and others during malaria season.
- Thank God for the rains that have come to alleviate the drought. Pray also for some flooding in the land and loss of property because of high winds. One of our co-workers lost the roof on his new house.
- Pray for Marcos, the new technical person to help us with the project in Xai-Xai. Thank God for Maria Zelia our newest bookkeeper.
- Pray that we will be able to juggle all the different aspects of the projects in different towns.
- We desire to mentor and disciple a few people. Pray that God will open those doors.

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