



# Standing in the Gap

Steve and Rachel Good

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## Christian Leadership Encounter

After we arrived in Mozambique we began to see the need for spiritual change and new foundations for any work we would do. One reason for hope (and potential concern) was a new government led by President Guebuza. This led us to establish a Christian leaders' meeting to pray for Mozambique, the government, business community and those involved in business development (below).

We are learning to stand in the gap, to repent for the sins of the past as Daniel and others did, to ask God to shower his mercy on Mozambique and bless this nation. Those who have joined us are excited about the vision. We meet weekly on Sunday evenings.

God has been preparing the way and answering prayers as Guebuza declared war on bureaucracy and corruption in his inauguration speech and has elevated provincial

ministers who have good track records in governing their areas. The new minister of industry and trade has given his staff 100 days to simplify the rules for registering a new business, declaring it should only take a few days to complete the task compared to 200 days or more currently. Wow!

**Pray that the group will remain committed to pray and that God will add more Mozambicans to our group with a vision for the nation.**



## Praise Report!

One of our initial tasks upon arriving in Mozambique was to design or acquire an appropriate training program for micro-enterprise development (MED). I, Steve, worked hard to pull the needed components out of a business textbook. However, it seemed too academic and the concepts were presented at too high a level for the average Mozambican we are trying to reach. We knew several organizations that have developed or used simple training programs successfully, but it seemed each option dissipated like mist in the hot African sun.

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## World Relief Staff

We are learning to know our co-workers (WR staff below). They are committed

to the goals of alleviating suffering, poverty and hunger by working with, for and from the church. World Relief's mission is "to mobilize and empower the church to transform impoverished communities in the name of Christ, to the glory of God."



We are amazed to hear of the Child Survival program's success of 62% reduction in child mortality. The numbers of kid's clubs where they are taught the Bible, as well as lessons on health and hygiene have increased from 9 clubs with 200 children to 300 with 85,000 children in clubs and schools. The AIDS program

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## World Relief Staff (cont.)

is training many pastors' networks who then train their congregations as well as work with networks that provide home health and orphan care. We are working closely with the agriculture sector to help start agri-businesses.

The beauty of most of these programs is that they train volunteers who train others so the work is multiplied many times.

**Pray for lives that will be impacted holistically by World Relief programs. Ask God to provide sufficient funds for the work of World Relief Southern Africa.**

## Child Development Training

The Child Development staff led by Sybil Baloyi has sensed the need to work with parents of children in their clubs as many of the children come from difficult home situations. When we found materials from Medical Ambassadors on marriage and parenting and shared them with Sybil, she asked Rachel to participate in training the trainers in their program. We spent three days in April in Chokwe working with 12 trainers. It was an exciting time as the group learned biblical ways of relating in marriage as well as disciplining and parenting their children. We used an interactive teaching method that includes skits, small group interaction, stories, and lots of discussion. In this participatory learning method, often the group discovers the answers themselves. After creating a list of how Jesus loved the church and how husbands should love their wives, one man said "I have a lot to do when I get home!"

**Praise God for a blessed time of sowing seed from God's Word. Pray that the trainers own marriages and families will grow in grace and that they will be good models as well as trainers.**

Right, Sybil teaching (photo by Kristen Miller)

## Praise Report! (cont.)

After weeks of not very fruitful work, we were praying for direction and help. For some "reason," we looked up the Medical Ambassadors International (MAI) webpage to see what they offered. They have an outstanding track record in community development around the world. We didn't see anything specific, but inquired if they had anything on MED they were willing to share.

When they sent us a list of their training courses, we started to get excited. They had a MED series. The titles of the sessions were almost exactly what I wanted to create. After we received the training package and saw literally hundreds of well done, simple, and clear lessons covering topics from health, to spirituality, small group and YES!! micro-enterprise, we thought it was Christmas. We had a fun day reading and selecting what our groups will need in the future. We were able to receive all of this because we paid for it and because we are alumni based on our participation in their week long CHE seminar, organized by Carolyn Klaus, Hope In View, during June of 2000, in Peru. God knew way back then what we would need in the future! We were just going along for the experience. What a great joy to see it now. So instead of creating our own training materials we will use these that have already been tested and used in the field. We plan to start training in May.



Thank you for remembering us in prayer and for your support. It is exciting to see how God provides and prepares the way before us. God bless each one of you. Steve & Rachel

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