

Mozambican Call

Steve and Rachel Good

October 2004



Greetings From Brazil

Greetings from Recife, Brazil, pronounced Brasi-u in the local tongue. "What?" you say, "I thought they were going to Africa, Mozambique or something like that." Well, we are in January, but first we wanted to learn Portuguese without too many interruptions from job and other requirements of our assignment with World Relief. Recife is on the northeast corner of Brazil along the Atlantic coast. It is a city of 3.5 million and we live in a neighboring community.

sound the same, but mean *completely different things!* Needless to say, as we were trying to communicate, we got some interesting blank stares and we have returned some interesting expressions, including shaking our heads and shrugging our shoulders to indicate that we don't understand.

One of the reasons we came here was to have the individual attention in language study. Marta is quite perceptive of our strengths and weakness. She gets us to talk to her and each other in Portuguese. All our classroom instruction is in Portuguese. She gives us assignments outside of the classroom, like to buy a Portuguese Bible at the bookstore or come visit the S.S. worker training, that forces us to learn outside of the classroom context.

Learning a language is hard work. Spanish has been very helpful. Sometimes at the end of class, we feel like our heads

Language Classes

We have been studying language in class three hours a day, five days a week with a private teacher. Her name is Marta (right), she is about our age with two grown sons and her husband is a pastor of a local Baptist church.



The good news is that Marta thinks she can have us through the study book we are using and pretty much ready to go in Mozambique. We will still need to do some language upgrade

are full of mush and we can't take in any more information. The good thing is that after a break, we can usually find the energy to focus on some homework.

there since culturally things are different and some pronunciation will need to be adjusted. We will also need to know more job related words and concepts.

"Earth is not our final home; we were created for something much better."

Rick Warren

Inside this issue:

<i>Greetings from Brazil</i>	1
<i>This World is Not My Home</i>	1
<i>Fill'er Up</i>	2
<i>Dylan</i>	2
<i>Thank You!</i>	2

This World is not my Home I'm just passing through...

We will live in Brazil for three months. It is long enough to make friends and feel part of a community, but it is not long enough to invest in furniture (we've borrowed the essentials) or decorations for the house. It has given us a good picture of life on earth. We're really just passing through, this is not our final destination. And while it's OK to have some comforts in life, it is not our focus. Our

hearts are to do the Father's will and our goal is to bring as many to Jesus as possible, helping them to grow in maturity and in life skills.

Here are some interesting things we've seen lately:

- Soccer/volleyball - you can't use your hands just your feet and heads to get it over the net.
- Cashew fruits tied on strings and hung together on both ends

of a stick. The strings are adjusted so that the fruit cluster together and form a solid wheel. The stick is then carried on someone's back. It takes a lot of fruit to get one container of cashews as there is just one nut per fruit.

- Lots of soccer games played on the beach and everywhere we look. No cleats or shin guards here and sometimes no shoes.

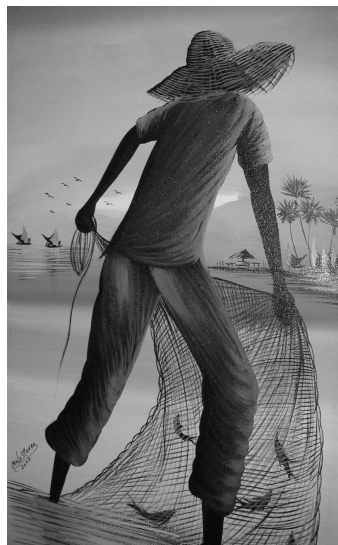
Fill'er Up

Every day we have to run a pump to get enough water into the tank on the roof or our house to use during the day. This is a picture of what God is doing with us now. He's filling us up and getting us ready for Mozambique. Not that we won't need to be re-filled again, but this is a big filling time. In some ways this is a sabbatical for us. Neither of us have had the type of jobs where sabbaticals were a part of the job benefits. We just went

to work every day and took occasional vacations, which often were not very relaxing. This is different. We do actually have some time to relax and "get away from it all." We can even sneak that occasional siesta in the middle of the day and not feel at all guilty about it. At the same time we are learning important concepts and language that will prepare us for future responsibilities. Our world of options, opportunities and acquaintances is being expanded.

Dylan

As we were walking one day a man started talking to us. There are not many foreigners in our area so he picked us out as Americans. He talked with us about living in New Jersey as a young person. And then he said, "But my life has no purpose. What's the point, it all ends with death." We were able to share with him about God's plans and purpose for him. He has been searching for truth for 35 years. We hope to get together and share further. There are many around us like Dylan. They are going through the motions of life but they lack meaning and purpose.



Fishers of Men



Rachel with friends from church; Carmen, Victor and Sergio

Thank You!

- * A big thank you to Zion Chapel and those of you that were able to attend our commissioning and send off on Sept. 12. It was a wonderful experience for us to spend that time with you and feel your encouragement and support as we made the transition from 26 years of "normal life" in Elkhart/Goshen to living in different climates and cultures. It was special.
- * Thanks to all of you who have been a physical help to us in the process of getting ready to leave the area, renting our house, cleaning out the barn and having our sale. We could not have done it without you!
- * We appreciate all that Larry and Melanie Jones of Mennonite Central Committee have done for us. They helped us contact our language teacher, made arrangements for our house and loaned us some furniture. Muito obrigados!
- * We are very grateful for the financial support. We are going out primarily as volunteers, although World Relief is able to provide housing and some transportation.
- * Thank you for praying for us. We need prayers for the Holy Spirit's guidance, for cultural adjustments and language acquisition, and for our lives to be surrendered and obedient to the Father. Please pray for us whenever we come to mind. God is probably reminding you about us for a reason.
- * Also, a big thank you to Tim and Joan Morningstar who are our mission administrators back in Goshen as well as Phil and Sandy Hartzler who are our mentors and advocates. They have been a great source of encouragement and support in our preparation and will continue to play an important role in our lives in the coming years.

Remember, those who stay by the stuff will receive the same reward. J Samuel 30:23-25
Blessings to all, Steve and Rachel

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