

# the OLIVER family

METHODIST MISSION PARTNERS IN MAPUTO MOZAMBIQUE

## ✘ Christmas in Mozambique ✘

*We travelled on Ethiopian airways via Addis Ababa to Maputo and were warmly greeted by church members and the Bishop before*

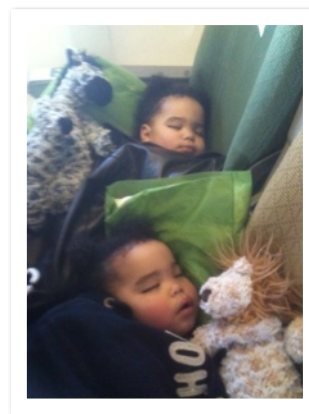


### A busy year

- Gina returned to work from maternity leave
- Malcolm completed a BA Hons in Religion and Theology
- Having been accepted by the Methodist Church as Mission partners we travelled via Zambia for a brief pre placement visit to Maputo Mozambique. We were thrilled that Bishop Dinis Matsolo subsequently wrote to formally invite us to work within the Igeja Metodista de Mozambique.
- We then left Northampton for All Nations Christian College (ANCC) in Ware, Herts



*being taken to our new home. It is close to the city Centre, not too far from the Methodist Church where we will focus some of our time.*



### OUR FIRST SUNDAY

Worship began just after 9am local time (7am in UK) and ended just before midday, a short break before a welcome banquet in hall next door. and then the cutting of a welcome cake.

Worship style is traditional using a service book. A mixture of Portuguese and Xirhonga. Malcolm was asked to bless a month old baby during the service. It felt so good to be part of the worshipping community and begin to listen



to the languages which we need to be able to communicate in.

We arrived back at our home tired, but happy.





## Getting to know Mozambique



We have begun to explore the city and see some of the sights, within a mile of the house are national monuments and a large new multistory shopping complex. It has been very hot mixed with some torrential rain. Munyansa, Gina's sister joined us just after our arrival with her daughter Xanadu. They are helping look after Chipo and Luyando. Our home is not too far from the sea front and on internet mapping can be found at the crossroads of Doctor Redondo Road and Ahmed Sekou Toure Ave

## Saying goodbye

...to mum Olive, Judy, Andrew, Hilary, Nigel, Owen and many other friends has not been easy for them or us. We especially ask your prayers for mum Olive who at the moment is in Turn Furlong centre. She unfortunately had several falls and was admitted to hospital. She so much wants her legs to stop wobbling under her so she can return home.



## ...as we look to Christmas

We don't expect to see Santa here...he visited ANCC before we left! One of the many things we learnt at ANCC was what John Wesley wrote in his journal on December 25th 1738. John Wesley, an Anglican clergyman, saw the world as his parish and whose ministry gave rise to the Methodist Church. A distinctive part of Methodism since its inception has been the importance of small groups of people meeting together as they journey in their Christian faith. On Christmas Day in 1738 he wrote down some rules for the 'societies' or 'bands' which were small covenant support groups where members were encouraged to be accountable to each other in Christian discipleship. They make worthwhile and challenging reading...and present(ed) a tangible response to the Christmas message.

*our love, Gina, Malcolm, Chipo and Luyando xxx*