

JANUARY 2015

NEWS FROM THE OLIVER FAMILY

Mission?

OF
GOD?

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Unloading bookstore for storage until our accommodation is ready

After almost a year in Maxixe we move 700km north to a road junction.

Cruzamento De Tete (crossroads to Tete) is 20km from the city of Chimoio and 70km from the Zimbabwe border. Actually we can't move there yet because there is no where to live! Some money given by Methodist Church Britain (MCB) has been allocated to build a church house. Despite delays due to bureaucracy, building has now begun with hopeful completion by March. But



Construction of manse is underway



Rain damage in Maxixe

this is dependent on money being available for a borehole and fitting out the interior not to mention working around the rains. Rains came very late this year... but having come they came with vengeance! so much so that during the final packing the ceiling came down in our Maxixe home.... right over a bed and our books..packed and ready to move. The room soon flooded, but thanks to the lady who helps around the house we managed to move the sodden boxes with minimal damage to furniture and books.



Following the lorry on the 700km journey to Chimoio

Whilst Gina and the twins stay in Zambia... Malcolm begins the move 700 km northward

A big logistical problem.. where do you get a covered lorry... especially one which will protect books, furniture, mattresses and precious items against the rain. Answer... forget the idea... no business person is interested in making the trip not least because of the bad roads and travelling through a former conflict zone which until September 2014 could only be traversed in an military escorted convoy.

A good samaritan lent me a trailer ... and a friend introduced me to the owner of an open truck

Having concluded that a least two return trips would be needed towing a trailer, I was pleased when the truck eventually arrived in the evening and loaded most of our belongings like giant three dimension jigsaw over two metres high. A flimsy tarpaulin then covered them overnight ready for the next days journey northward. After a round trip of over a hundred km to take the driver to his home to sleep, return the trailer and collect a United Methodist Pastor from a police roadblock, we slept.

Travelling behind the lorry was nerve racking!

We eventually arrived at the Circuit Stewards home at midnight... only one rain downpour which was fortunate because the plastic tarpaulin offering ended up in shreds flying past Malcolm in the car following the lorry soon after leaving Maxixe. So in the early hours we unload the lorry into a storeroom... which was just as well as it rained heavily just as we finished. God is good!

Answers to Prayer

On the 6th day of each month in the UK Methodist handbook, people are invited to hold us in their prayers. Looking back over the past year we sense God has been answering prayer.

1. Developing Medical Outreach
We asked for the wisdom to use our skills to help develop a sustainable outreach program of diagnosis, treatment and public health. Gina has been able to observe, comment and suggest appropriate actions. She has also been able to gain invaluable experience in outreach work and hospital based treatment of those with TB who are HIV positive.

2. Work with others
It has been good to work in a United Methodist Hospital and to discover the culture and customs of another part of the Methodist Family. Networking is often invaluable... we are now in touch with some key United Methodists (medical and ministers) as we move to Chimoio. God is good.

3. The IMW with its many dreams
In December Bishop Dinis Matsolo gave the final approval following six months of exploration as to where we should be in 2015. We are delighted that the church has decided we should serve in Chimoio, a very new part of the Igreja Metodista Weselyana family.

4. Elections passed on October 2014
The elections passed peacefully and Frelimo seems to have won (as it always does) but with a greatly reduced majority against rivals Renamo. Final election results have only just been formally announced and Renamo continue to threaten violence unless there is a greater power sharing agreement.

5..Nampula
Last year the District appointed Revd Arlindo Munduma to be a mission Partner in Nampula. ...and we understand Methodist Church Britain have allocated \$7000 for Arlindo to be paid as a National in Mission Appointment. We understand money for accommodation and transport is still needed.

Suggestions for Prayer

1. Opportunities for Gina

Gracious God as we give thanks for the skills, graces and gift you have blessed Gina with, we pray that she may find openings and opportunities for using her nursing experience within the new setting.

2. New School for Chipo and Luyando

Loving Father, as Chipo and Luyando begin a new year at Chimoio International School Nursery, may that settle in well, make new friend and find a atmosphere that reflects the love which lies at your heart.

3. Malcolm as he begins as Circuit Minister

Source of love, Author of peace and wellbeing, as Malcolm works alongside Central Zone Circuit, may the presence of your Spirit, inspire and strengthen your people to seek first the culture of God. May you lead people to work creatively as they seek your will. May the uniformed Women's Manyano and the Mens Christian Union remain true to their calling and draw others to your loving presence

4. Networking and Partnership

As we reflect on the prayer of Jesus Christ that 'they may all be one as You and I are one', May Christians of all the many denominations seek to compliment each others minutes and avoid in eagerness any desire to compete. May you, gracious God open the way for new relationships and partnerships which bring honour to your name. May new friendships and contacts develop in ways which further the work of your kingdom.

5. Networking and Partnership

We thank God that you have bought to safely to 2015. We give thanks for friendships and collegship not least of people like Revds Arlindo Romeo, Revd Arlindo Munduma and Jeremias Franca.. We praise God for new friendships in Chimoio, for church members, for people like Revd Antonio and Dr Tina, James, Sarah, Paulina and Faith, for lots of children fto play with Luyando and Chipo.

2015... new opportunities & challenges!

- A new language to wrestle with... this time Shona.. spoken widely in Zimbabwe and even available as a language with Google! In addition to Shona some of the members speak fluent English rather than Portuguese. Malcolm still wrestles with any language!! Gina is fast picking up words in Shona.
- Malcolm begins working with three congregations, equipping, encouraging, enabling church members in their discipleship journey. He is looking forward to possible ecumenical working and school chaplaincy possibilities.
- The key to our future in Chimoio will be for Gina to utilise the nursing experience gained over the past few years either in developing sustainable outreach work or in a clinic/ hospital.
- Chipo and Luyando will be begin at Chimoio International School Nursery. Two of the church members teach at the International school.



Manayano women gather for their meeting after morning worship.



... so the men (Mens Christian Union also gather

congregations are located. Establishing Networks and find new dimensions of culture.

- Over the next few months helping with the construction of the Manse with the hope that we can move.

•Getting to know the local area. Both Chimoio City where we will be living and the rural areas where the



New church building in Zonal Central Circuit



Prayers on foundation of new manse



Closing graduation at nursery in Maxixe

FAMILY PHOTOS



Writing a get well card for Grandma Oliver



On way home from Zambia after Christmas