

# Restoring the Breach

Steve & Rachel Good

April 2013

## World Relief Agriculture Vision Trip

Several years ago I, Steve, was asked to oversee an agricultural program in Zambia, called ZambiaWorks. We have been trying (and at times erring) to find innovative ways for small farmers to use what they know, plus new ways of doing things to earn income. Today ZambiaWorks has more than 1,000 farmers and 4,000 borrowers, with plans for expansion.

I was asked to start working with other WR countries in Africa. After two years of visiting potential program sites, sitting on microfinance boards, and telling people about Zambia, five of the countries were ready to move from where they were to something new. But when I only told them about a new way of doing things, I got a lot of questions or puzzled stares. It was time for a vision trip.



*Wiggan Kanchela explaining agriculture loans to the WR Team*

Twelve people joined me in Zambia. We looked at more than 12 different projects in three days, and drove more than

1,500 km. In the end, we sat and talked first as small groups, then as a whole on what we had learned and how we might apply it in the various countries represented.

Now I am seeing the first dividends. One of my first E. Africa assignments was to visit an agriculture project that had loaned \$30,000 in an agriculture pilot. More than 1/3 was eventually written off and much more expense was incurred managing the process.

After the vision trip, I met in this country with three of the trip participants, plus one more and asked the director, "Since we want to try and do an agriculture loan pilot again, what did you learn on the trip and how can that help us build a successful agriculture loan product." The result was amazing. Suddenly I began to hear what I had been trying to communicate for two years. In 2.5 hours of discussion, we had a guideline, a schedule of activities, a timeline of events and retroactive resolution from the board to run a pilot agriculture project as soon as possible. One participant was nearly running circles around me with practical ideas as to how this could be done. What a difference a trip and a team make! There was a clear feeling in the room of, "This should work, what are we waiting for?"

It is not that the work will be without challenges. After all, this is Africa. But being Africa, there are also millions of small farmers who need the opportunity to do more than barely survive doing the only thing they know, agriculture. They need a chance to feed their families, their communities, the continent and make a profit. What a vision and what a blessing to be a part of it!

## Flooding

We returned to Mozambique in January and on the 25<sup>th</sup> major flooding inundated Chokwe where WR has an office. The floods affected every one of our staff members and the office. During the height of the flood, looters took everything of value out of the office as well as many businesses and homes. We were not directly affected in Maputo as Chokwe is three hours away. But it did affect how we spent our time as Rachel was the point person for communicating with church partners and the WR Baltimore office and we were both involved in decision-making meetings. Things are slowly returning to normal. The farmers WR works with are replanting tomatoes and hoping for a good harvest to replace the one they lost.



*Chokwe flood. Some people camped out on top of their houses.*

## Pastor Nambala

One successful farmer we met on the Zambia trip is Pastor Nambala Sikute. He was one of the farmers who started with the egg production project 4 years ago. He has been so successful that he bought a car with his proceeds and started raising his own layers from 1 day old chicks. (This latter task is not easy to do.) Last year I challenged him to start training others so they can learn from him. He and his



*Pastor Nambala*

first student have just finished raising 500 hens each, which are now producing at 90%. He also shared that his church has asked him to train other pastors to earn an income by producing eggs. In a region where most pastors are self employed, he expects to earn over \$12,000 from this batch of chickens.

## Ancient Paths Seminar

Genesis and Yolanda, missionaries from Cameroon, have facilitated with us for years. They have been asking for an AP seminar in their own church and we were able to have one Feb. 21-23. One participant wrote, "I received forgiveness

and it brought relief to my heart. I learned many things in this seminar and had the opportunity to get rid of my doubts and hurts. God is working in my life." We thank God for the many ways he touched people.



*Teaching  
WR Rwanda  
volunteers  
how to do  
a kitchen  
garden with  
the Farming  
God's Way  
method.*

## We Are Grandparents!

We were so excited to welcome Sophia Elizabeth Good on Oct. 18 to our family. Joel and Ellen are the proud parents. She has brought us much joy and we love talking to her on Skype.



*Sophie enjoying her great-grandparents.*

## Prayer Requests and Praises

- Pray for the victims of the floods, that God will provide for them. Some are still waiting to be relocated by the government on higher ground. Thank God that none of our staff lost their lives. We are thankful for an insurance policy that helped restore the office and for individuals and churches who gave to our staff to rebuild their houses and start over.
- Pray for WR as we discern new strategies for the future as our large grants come to an end in 2014.
- In April we plan to visit Kenya to teach the microenterprise development course to WR staff.
- Church Partners are sending teams from April – October. Rachel is involved with planning these and will accompany some of them to the villages.
- In July we plan to visit Tanneken Fros in Beira to teach at a Bible school for one week.
- Thank you for praying for our health and protection as we travel.

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