



# Standing in the Gap



Steve and Rachel Good • August 2007

## Coconut Oil Production

Even before we arrived in Mozambique we had thought about starting a plant that would produce virgin coconut oil and jobs for Mozambicans. This has become a reality as a new business, Africa Oil Works, started producing oil in June. The manager is a Mozambican WR employee who is transitioning to own part of the business.

To make this unique oil, the inside of the coconut is ground into a finely grated pulp, then put on the large stove top heated by burning the empty husks and shells. After an hour of being turned continuously (photo right) and drying to about 10 percent moisture, it is put into a cylinder and pressed, producing crystal clear oil worth at least \$4 per liter on the spot. \$10 a liter in a South African supermarket

- all this from about 60 cents worth of coconut. Who said money doesn't grow on trees? What makes this so exciting is Mozambique has the potential to be one of the top five leading coconut oil producers. Currently we are working on marketing the oil and getting the word out about its healthy properties.



## Blessed or Cursed?

In April we held a facilitator's training as well as our first AP seminar in Maputo. It was an exciting, stretching time as we attempted to minister in our small group in Portuguese. God touched people and many are asking for more seminars. We will participate in a coordinator's training in August which will make it possible for us to hold seminars without having to rely on our friends from South Africa to come help us. The purpose of Ancient Paths Seminars is to establish in individuals the biblical foundations

that cause life to work and people to prosper from one generation to the next. In the Ancient Paths Seminar, we minister to the participants regarding seven critical times in life when we are more vulnerable to receive either "God's true image", or "Satan's false image" of our own identity and destiny. This addresses a tremendous need in a country that lives under generational curses, a history of war, poverty, disease, and other emotional and spiritual attacks.

## Microenterprise Development

Rachel went to Beira the end of April to work with a group of women on the microenterprise development course and to look at possibilities of starting a sewing business. They are teaching the course to others including their workers. Two of the women took a sewing and cutting course (no patterns here, you have to design your own) and will teach sewing and design. Please pray for good markets for their products.

It was a great joy to spend time with Tanneken Fros at the end of the week. She continues her ministry with the churches, the orphans and physically challenged people in the Dondo area. She kept me on my toes as we would arrive at a meeting by saying, "Rachel you can share something here." It was good practice for being instant in season and out!



Some of the women Rachel worked with in Beira, greeting her with song & dance.

## Agriculture Project in Zambia

In March, Steve and Sam Grottis traveled to Zambia to interview candidates to lead the agricultural project beginning there. It was a very successful trip and we found an excellent candidate and a good second person for the agriculture technical specialist. This team will work in the Western Province out of the city of Mongu on the banks of the Zambezi river. This area is quite undeveloped but has potential. The biggest challenge is logistics as it is so far from anywhere. Please pray for Steve as he travels to Zambia Aug. 13-19.

## Ebed-Melech, the Ethiopian

Have you ever read the story of Ebed-Melech who rescued Jeremiah from the dry well? (See Jeremiah 38.) He took initiative and even risked his life to plead to the king for Jeremiah's release. I have been challenged to be like Ebed-Melech and the Good Samaritan, to reach out to those who are suffering unjustly even when it is not convenient to help or may cost me something. God help us to live as Jesus lived, truly loving our neighbors. God's promise to Ebed-Melech is found in Jer 39:18: "For I will surely deliver you, and you shall not fall by the sword; but your life shall be as a prize to you, because you have put your trust in Me, says the Lord."

## Weddings and Graduations

In May we traveled to Indiana and were happy to be able to attend our daughter Janelle and her fiancé, David Phillip's graduations from their universities. It is always a privilege to be part of these milestone events and to celebrate our children's achievements. June 16 was a very special day as Janelle and David were married at Zion Chapel, in Goshen. They wanted a simple, meaningful wedding and it was a beautiful, memorable day. Since then they have moved to Washington DC where David



David and Janelle Phillips

will continue his studies in development economics. They recently spent 12 days with us here in Mozambique and we had a great time together giving them a feel for our work, our life here and some of the beauties and challenges of this country.

Since we have returned to Mozambique our daughter, Joanna and Keith Lowe have announced their engagement. We are happy for them and look forward to another wedding in October. We will combine this trip with a WR meeting in Baltimore.

## AfricaWorks Business Team

The end of April, we hosted a team of potential business investors from Minnesota, their pastor and the CEO of WR for a whirlwind 10 days of traveling the length and breadth of Mozambique to see the variety and types of work we are doing (especially with agriculture and trade). It is always challenging to explain what we do in business to people who are steeped in business. It stretches us and enriches us as we have much to learn about the technicalities of business and as they ask questions about the situation in Mozambique.

If you are wondering what AfricaWorks means, it is a program name that combines all the trade and agriculture activities, projects and businesses that World Relief Southern Africa is involved with. Presently, this name is being registered as a local Non-Governmental Organization (not for profit) to oversee these activities as a legal entity. An indigenous board of directors is forming to lead this effort. The plan is for Rachel and me to remain as part of World Relief Southern Africa and serve AfricaWorks as consultant advisors/technical support.

### Blog Site

It has been awhile since some of you have heard from us. If you'd like to get more frequent updates you can read our blog at <http://www.srgood.net>.

### Muito Obrigado

Thank you so much for your prayers, your affirmation, and for standing with us as we work at providing opportunities for the poor. "He who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed." Prov.

19:17. God is faithful!

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