

# Standing in the Gap

Steve & Rachel Good

December 2011

## A Changed Life

Atalia is a young woman we met when we first came to Mozambique in 2005. She became one of the trainers for the microenterprise course we did. Later she began

working at the World Relief Model Village of Mukhotwene, organizing kids' clubs and teaching Mobilizing Youth for Life AIDS prevention courses in the schools. Now she is also teaching two Spiritual Transformation Groups in the village. These use a Bible-based picture curriculum that

***Atalia teaching one of the Spiritual Transformation Groups***



is transforming people's thinking and lives. They were taught that you have to go to the priest for forgiveness or offer animal sacrifices. Now they are learning that Jesus paid for our sins and they can go to him directly for forgiveness.

Atalia's husband became sick recently. His family wanted Atalia to take him to a witch doctor. She refused and said they would pray and go to the hospital. The family was very angry that Atalia didn't obey them. At the hospital they started treating her husband for TB even though he wasn't diagnosed. He is now well.

Atalia started attending Sybil Baloyi's Bible clubs when she was 14. She says she is what she is today because of God's work in her life and the teachings she received in the clubs. When she speaks about abstinence and other topics, she is teaching what she was taught and practiced as a young person.

## Visitors and Village Visits

We were happy to have Tim and Joan Morningstar visit us in November. During their trip we joined two women from a WR partner church in Mucatine. While we were there Joan helped teach some women to sew, we participated in kids' club, saw the agriculture field and participated in a church service. In the village of Mukhotwene, we taught the volunteers to crochet rag rugs, talked to the agriculture leaders, and taught Bible lessons. God also helped us with the extreme heat.

***(Left) Steve and Tim teaching leaders  
(Right) A finished crochet project***



## Ancient Paths

Ancient Paths continues to be an important part of our ministry. In August we helped with an intense two-week training in South Africa. We enjoyed interacting with people from different African countries. In November we started working with leaders from the OMS seminary and hope to continue working with more seminaries in Maputo to train the leaders to do the seminars with their students. Then these students will be trained to take the seminar with them throughout Maputo and Mozambique.

We also helped with a seminar in Swaziland in November and had such a sense of doing our small part and watching God do His big part of healing and restoring people. He is an amazing God!

## Catching Up

### Steve's Travels

Steve is currently traveling for a month to Zambia, Tanzania, Burundi and Congo. He is enjoying the work of supervision, working with micro-finance boards, savings groups and consulting on agriculture. In Maputo he still does coconut oil marketing.

### Sabbatical

We are looking forward to being in the U.S. from May 2012 until January 2013. This time will be a combination of catching up with the family and church, rest, study and work. Steve may travel to Africa at least once.

### Local Church

Our local pastor, Sammy Gumbe, passed away in August. It was a blow to the church and his young family, but God

is faithful. Steve preached at the Sunday memorial service. This past weekend we attended a leadership retreat that was encouraging. God is calling us to more outreach and prayer.



## Prayer Requests and Praises

- Please pray for travel mercies and good health for Steve (he is generally healthy, but can't eat products with wheat or MSG).
- Pray that our local church will find a pastor and that someone will take over Rachel's responsibilities for Sunday School.
- We thank God for the answers to prayer for a different house. We are very happy with the location and the rental price.
- Pray that we will be able to train seminary leaders with the AP seminars before we leave for sabbatical.
- Thank God for the good trip with the Morningstars and the US partner churches who visited Mozambique this past year.
- Pray for wisdom to know how to best use our time on sabbatical.



We wish a Merry Christmas to each one of you. May God bless you during this season and all through the new year. Thank you for your prayers and partnership with us over the years. We look forward to seeing some of you soon.

Steve and Rachel

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