

# Restoring the Breach

Steve & Rachel Good

December, 2013

## Small Groups

One of our weekly highlights is meeting with several small groups in Maputo. Steve is part of a group of elders who lead our church. Many people in our church are only here on assignment for 2-3 years so there is high turnover and we have to say "good-bye" too often. The group has just diminished with the transfer of one of them and another who just had a stroke. Please pray for Richard's healing.

Rachel enjoys meeting with a Ladies' Bible Study from our church. Currently we are reading *Control Trap* and we finished *Happy Homes and Huts*. We have some very interesting conversations! We pray together, encourage and support one another.



The Maputo staff at WR meets three times a week for devotions. Rachel helps coordinate the study topics. We come from different church backgrounds and are growing in grace and truth.



We are part of a small group which loves to sing, pray, talk about current events and study books like *When Helping Hurts* and books of the Bible. Most of the participants are involved in development in one way or another so we have a lot in common even though our nationalities and our pasts are varied. Here are some of us helping with a program at church.

## What is it that you do again?



Sometimes when I travel I am most fulfilled as I work with people and projects that make a difference in their family and personal lives. Where there is extreme poverty and no hope of escape from the local systems, bringing a new idea, income opportunity or solution seems like an unimaginable miracle to some.

Here are a couple of examples:

- ◆ When we started encouraging improved vegetable production in Zambia, the average household income was under \$150 per year. Now these same families can earn \$1,000 to \$1,500 per year. The PTA president of the same village said, "Now that we have these vegetable garden businesses, we don't have any more malnutrition in our children."
- ◆ A woman in one irrigation scheme in Gaza Province, Mozambique said, "Before I started working with the farm, I always needed food and had to depend on different men in the village to support me. I am now able to provide for myself."
- ◆ While working on a particularly tough problem with locust invasion, I received this reply from a co-worker. "Thank you Steve for your resourcefulness... The last two days I attended a Leadership Summit and one of the speakers taught about 'Diminisher and Multiplier Leaders.' You surely are a Multiplier!"

## Discipleship Groups

In October Rachel helped lead a vision trip for a new WR church partner from Tennessee. It was great to visit some pastors' trainings led by Mozambican WR trainers who love God and follow Jesus faithfully.

We also visited Ofelia, a young widow, at her home. Ofelia used to walk two hours every week to attend a Spiritual Transformation Group. She attended the discipleship group for three years and grew spiritually. She went through some hard times but knew she needed to hold on to the truth. Now Ofelia has started three new groups in her community – two for adults and one for children. They are eager to learn and sometimes call her to say "Please come, we are ready." Her mother is also a member of one of her groups.

"If you love God, things work out better for you," Ofelia said. She believes she has been blessed to be a blessing. Her gift of hospitality was evident as she served a meal to her guests out of the little that her family has.



Ofelia showing us her muscles from pounding corn and hauling water.

## Ancient Paths Seminar

One of our highlights in the past two months was an Ancient Paths seminar in October. The video teachings are great and people always say they learn a lot. The small group ministry and prayer times require some vulnerability and many times in this culture that is a hard thing. However, at this seminar many people opened up and shared deep hurts. When they heard from Jesus, the Wonderful Counselor, there were amazing healings. One participant wrote, "I recognized the source of my own brokenness and could find healing and restoration for who I truly am in Christ and have always been." We are excited about working alongside another couple who are coordinators in training and who have a passion for this ministry.



## Brainstorming the Future

WR is submitting a grant request that could define what we and WR do in the future. We're not grant writers, but after nine years we have some ideas on what could be done to transform communities. This is a 5-year, \$2-4 million project proposal to work in the northern-most district of Mozambique. Anadarko, a US-based gas exploration company, has discovered the largest natural gas field of the decade in this area.

Our proposal focuses on community health and economic development. The area is literally bush with few roads, some mud huts and a lot of beach. In a few years it will become an industrial complex and city housing 10,000 people. Our challenge is to define what WR can do to help transform the lives of people, while at the same time their whole world is being turned upside down. Please pray for this proposal. We have passed the first stage, but it still has several stages to go through before being accepted.

## Have a Blessed Christmas!

Our thoughts move toward home at Christmastime. We pray God will bless each of you and your families as we celebrate the King of Kings, born in a stable, who gave His life for us and who lives forever. As we run the race it is a great comfort to know that He is a God who understands us, who forgives, intercedes for us and cheers us on.

Thank you for accompanying us this year 2013 by your love, prayers, finances, and support. We are very grateful for each one of you.

Please continue to pray for the country of Mozambique as it experiences crises on several fronts. May we all have "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men."

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