

# Restoring the Breach

Steve & Rachel Good

December 2014

Greetings from sunny Africa, where summer has come, along with the long anticipated rainy season.

## South Sudan

South Sudan is one of the youngest countries in the world and a country still at war with itself. Fortunately, the WR agriculture project is in the southwestern and peaceful part of the country. I got there by prop jet plane and Land cruiser. A road trip to the same place is 8-10 hours. The road is a long, orange clay ribbon, full of holes that stretches through the green countryside with very few towns or villages along the way. The project is a basic food security agriculture program that is teaching farmers conservation agriculture methods, using improved seed for maize and cassava. Farmers are also given opportunity to join savings groups to learn how to save and handle their incomes from farming. From a development standpoint, the country is really at ground zero. Opportunities abound everywhere you look, if you have vision. It would be a great place to start and spend a whole lifetime building up communities, business and the agriculture sector in general. This was my first visit. Wow!

## Zambia

Zambia is a place where Steve has been involved since 2007. While the WR program has had its challenges, we are moving forward with the cashew tree farmers and cashew processing business. We also have projects with farmers who are growing maize and rice, two traditional crops in the area. This area of the country was neglected for many years as it was part of a "traditional kingdom" that clashed with the civil government over leadership issues. However, significant changes are now beginning to happen as there are two big road construction projects, new buildings and businesses coming up in the town of Mongu. Please pray for sufficient rains this year as there have been very few rains so far. Nearly everyone depends on rain for growing their own food in Zambia.

## Leadership Forum

This event was held in mid-November for WR leaders. Most of our facilitators came from our U.S. home office. We talked about servant leadership, communication, spiritual warfare and formation, and discovering our strengths through StrengthsFinder. We worked on personal leadership development plans and were strengthened, challenged and blessed.

## Turkana, Kenya



Namunye helped with the construction of the Naro Elim sand dam. Having been actively involved in the farming activities where WR has partnered with Furrows in the Dessert, she clearly understood the

positive effects that this dam would bring to her family and her neighbors and she readily participated, even though she was heavy with child. Her beautiful healthy baby boy was born two days before the sand dam was completed and she named him Sanddam!

How exciting to see the locals have full ownership of this intervention to the point of changing their pastoralist practices and naming their children after it. Though they had to be patient in waiting for the rains to come, God graciously sent unexpected heavy showers for a week, which was enough to fill the dam. The shouts of praise on the evening the rains fell were a sure sign of their recognition of God as the source of rain as He graciously heard their prayer for *Akiru* (rain). - Excerpt from a WR report.

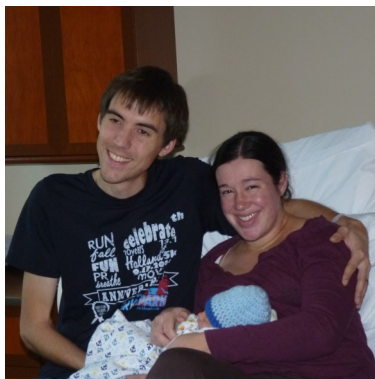
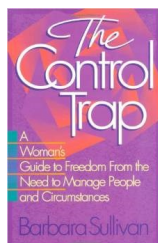
Turkana is a part of Kenya that has been ignored or off limits for most of Kenya's history as it is dry, windy, remote and rocky. If ordinary rocks were valuable, Turkana would be rich. WR started working in Turkana during a severe food shortage in 2011. We started a relationship with the communities in 2012 and drilled wells that could be used for drip irrigation projects to produce vegetables for themselves and for sale. Most of the farmers are former nomadic people. However, between the drought, raids and other difficulties, most of the animal herds were lost. It is amazing to see green crops growing in this dry land. Steve recently spent five days visiting the communities and discussing how to strengthen the work.



# Thanksgivings

This season is a good time to count our many blessings.

- ◆ In November our WR office changed locations. We are thankful for good renters of the present building as the money will fund the purchase of a new building as well as WR programs. This is important as many of the large donor grants are ending. This move has included turning the guestroom at our house into an office. Because Matola is 20 kilometers away through some challenging traffic, we are working at home three days a week and traveling an hour each way two days. Some of this is just for sanity's sake and the other to contain cost as fuel prices are fixed here at around \$5 per gallon.
- ◆ The Christian bookstore we work with is doing much better financially. A few months ago we were wondering if it would stay solvent. The new personnel is doing more book tables and getting Christian literature and Bibles out in the community.
- ◆ Our church, Maputo International Christian Fellowship also moved. We are exploring options for our own building, but in the meantime we are happy to rent a place at a local seminary. The ladies' Bible study group continues to be a place of joy as we sharpen and encourage each other. This year we studied *Control Trap, A Woman's Guide to Freedom from the Need to Manage People and Circumstances*. We have learned a lot and it is changing lives. Dina shared that her marriage has improved because she no longer nags her husband about being a spiritual leader in their home but instead she decided to pray for him and trust God. Now he willingly takes that role in their family.
- ◆ We are very thankful that the Mozambique October presidential elections were mostly peaceful. President elect Nyusi will be installed in January. Please pray for a God-fearing government with integrity.
- ◆ As members of the WR team, we were able to attend the Willow Creek Summit of 2014, held in Maputo for the very first time. It was a two-day event, broken down into six video sessions and was a great encouragement to us and all involved. What the developing world needs as much as anything, is good solid, healthy leadership. It was a real joy to be a part of this event.



- ◆ Rachel is so grateful for the opportunity to fly home for a short time to greet our newest grandson, Jonah Stephen Phillips. He was born to David and Janelle on November 29<sup>th</sup> and is God's gift to our family.

*We are thankful for every one of you! Thank you for your kindness, your love, your support and prayers. We pray you will have a meaningful, joyous Christmas as we remember the birth and the life of Jesus. Where would we be without Him? - Rachel and Steve*



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