

Restoring the Breach

Steve & Rachel Good

May 2014

Travels Hither and Yon

“Over the river and through the woods to grandmother’s house we go, the horse knows the way to carry the sleigh through the white and drifted snow...” For most of you in the U.S. this song may bring back some very cold memories of a winter that we shared several weeks of as well. You may get a strong impression that we are involved in a lot of travel and you are right. We are both designated as technical consultants at World Relief. In my mind, consultants are supposed to be experts, and as the old joke goes, experts are drips under pressure or people working more than 50 miles from “home.” Well, we are often more than 50 miles from home!

New Grandchildren! We used our frequent flyer miles after 9 years in Africa to go to Indiana in February and meet two very special people. The first was Oliver Gregory, born January 24 to Joel and Ellen and the second was Evelyn May, born February 26 to Joanna and Keith. What a special time to be able to share with all our children, grandbabies and family.



Oliver, Ellen, Joel and Sophia



Joanna, Evelyn and Keith

God is at Work



In April Rachel went to the villages with a church partner team from Ohio. It is always good to get back to the villages. This team gave a marriage seminar which was well received. She also participated with a group of U.S. church partners and other ministries working in Gaza Province.

It was exciting to visit a group of church leaders who have been trained by WR. Each of them trained five people in their congregation and those people are now training others. The trainer, Atalia (on the left) was very happy that when she interviewed the “second and third generation,” their answers and Bible stories were right on with what she had taught. Discipleship is happening and it is making a difference. Several people told me that they did not know that animal sacrifices and other ceremonies in their churches to worship ancestors were wrong. But now they know and no longer participate in them.

Agriculture Consulting

Steve traveled to DR Congo and Turkana, Kenya for three weeks to review the agricultural work and later to Zambia. The Zambian organization that WR started in 2007 has grown significantly and experienced some serious growing pains, and it needs a lot of support over the next year or two. This year alone, the cashew program planted 40,000 new trees with 500 farmers. The goal is to bring cashew tree plantation levels up to 100 trees per farmer. Steve is more involved in direct supervision of this program. It has been interesting to be back on the ground working at implementation after mostly consulting and advising the last three years. It is a good reminder that real life in the field does not always happen as planned in the office.



Livraria Evangélica

We've been on the board of a Christian bookstore for many years. Recently Rachel has become more involved with hiring a new person, and helping with book tables at community fairs. This ministry has been struggling and we pray that it will prosper as it is one of the few places that provides Christian literature in Moz.

Coconut Oil

We visited Maxixe and the coconut oil factory. Steve has served as the marketing agent and consultant since the inception of this business in 2007. It has been a long struggle, but this year holds the first real promise of a profitable year as two major clients in South Africa have ordered six tons each. We also have constant inquiries from other companies who want to know if they can sell our product. This will push us to produce more than everyone thinks possible and add a second shift to the work force over the next 7-8 months. One of our goals for this business is job creation, so this is an exciting development. Virgin coconut oil has gone mainstream in the media and culinary world in the last two years and demand is increasing. We are also exporting the coconut flour as an additional product.

Where is this bus taking us?

We asked for prayer for a project proposal submitted to a large gas company to do health and agri-business development work. If the proposal was accepted, the plan was to move from Maputo to northern Mozambique. Well, WR did not win the proposal. After getting the news, as Steve was waking up one morning he had a mental picture that he had been riding on a bus (something he does often). As the bus proceeded it came to a "Y" in the road and instead of going one way, it went the opposite of what he expected. When you ride a bus, you have no control over where it goes; only the driver does. Your only decision is where to get on and off. The message seemed quite clear that we won't take the road North anytime soon and the question is, where is this bus taking us now?



Prayer Items



- ◆ Thank God for our new grandchildren. Please pray for their health, especially Oliver who has been in the hospital twice since birth with respiratory viruses.
- ◆ Pray for our travel safety. With the large increase of vehicles, traffic is becoming more hazardous.
- ◆ Please pray for our church in Maputo. We need a different building by October and are looking for a permanent site. Pray for spiritual growth of the members and for the Sunday school children.
- ◆ We ask you to join us in prayer for God to direct our steps day by day.
- ◆ Our biennial leave in the U.S. is from the end of June until early September. We hope to see many of you!
- ◆ **Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We thank God for you always. 2 Thess. 2-3a**

Email: steverachel@srgood.net

Blog: srgood.blogspot.com

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Community Church, 17285 CR 34, Goshen IN 46528 USA



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