

# Restoring the Breach

Steve & Rachel Good

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## God's Nudging – Change in Understanding Our Vision

You may recall that our former heading was "Standing in the Gap." This has changed to "Restoring the Breach." When we were first touched by Mozambique 10 years ago, we had a strong sense of need to stand in the gap for a nation torn by war, stricken with poverty and bound by many cultural chains. One of the things we did in the early years was to gather people of prayer to intercede for Mozambique. This spiritual work still needs to be done for the needy, broken and vulnerable as it is the call of God on all our individual lives to be intercessors for this broken world.

During our debrief in Le Rucher outside of Geneva, we spent each afternoon waiting on God, listening to our own thoughts and hearts, and matching these to the assignments we had been given. As we reached the last day, our assignment was to ask God, "What are you saying to me in this time?" In the room where I was seated, there was a photo of a disaster area with the verse from Nehemiah 2:17 stating, "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies in waste, ... Come let us build, ... that we may no longer be a reproach."

As I pondered that verse, the following thoughts came to me. "Nehemiah saw the need and returned with a plan,

gathering those who were like-minded and determined to work to restore what was broken down. God's methods used God's way can and will repair what the enemy/disaster/negligence has destroyed. Just as soil can be restored to raise a strong and healthy crop, so a culture and people can be restored to create a strong and healthy people/nation. This must be done using God's eternal principles, ways and paths."

I realized that as our work roles have changed through the years, our vision has been changing too. We were not only to "see the gaps and stand in them," but God had been giving us the tools, people and resources to begin restoring the breach in each location where he gives us opportunity. Standing in the gap can be done from the outside coming in, but restoring the breach must be done from the inside out. We can only do it with others from the local setting.

I am sure that we don't fully understand the ramifications of this new vision. Some, maybe much of it will come later. Our desire is to step fully into God's new emphasis and fulfill it with all the strength and passion that he gives us. Please pray for more of HIS wisdom as we venture onward.

## Sabbatical Activities

We are very grateful for this sabbatical with change of focus and pace. We enjoyed our debrief in France, a retreat for Rachel with Women of the Harvest in Denver and a retreat we just had with some folks from our church. Retreats and debriefs are a good time to step back from "normal" life and reflect, pray, process and retool.

We have also had wonderful times with family at the Good reunion in Colorado, quality time with parents, children, siblings and extended family. September brought the



annual Good family pilgrimage to Lake Michigan on Labor Day. This has been a great tradition for our family and some say it is a close second to Christmas.

After a break from e-mail and work, we have picked up some

of our WR work, much of which can be done from anywhere in the world. Rachel was blessed to have two women from WR



partner churches do a lot of the organizing, accompanying and reporting on team visits to Mozambique this summer. We spent two days in Michigan to hand over responsibilities to Rika and debrief Shelise. Thank you so much!

In June we visited the Garden Faire put on by Hands of Hope in Barrington, Ill. This is their major fund-raiser for the agricultural programs in Zambia. It was



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## Steve's Trip to East Africa and Zambia

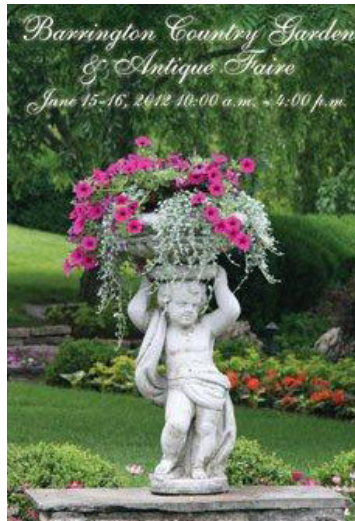
In September I went on a five nation trip through East Africa and Zambia. It was a different experience to travel through six time zones just to get to the work locations. (It is much easier to stay in the same one.) I was able to interact with the WR teams in Kenya, East DRC, Rwanda and Burundi on their existing and proposed sustainable agriculture programs, the two microfinance boards and the ZambiaWorks team in Mongu.

It is amazing how much interest there is in the whole realm of agriculture in the developing world right now. What WR is doing with building sustainable programs and institutions to provide farmers and communities with real income-generating opportunities is quite unique and powerful. One exciting development is a proposed March visit to ZambiaWorks for interested WR directors to see what has been done there over the last five years.

## Sabbatical Activities (cont.)

amazing to see it firsthand. They have raised millions of dollars over the last six years. In August we returned there and held a small Family Foundations "Empowering Relationships" seminar. After the blessing time at the end, one participant claimed it was better than "being high!"

Rachel was offered a part-time job from her former employer, Mennonite Mission Network. It involves going through files from the era when she was there and has been a trip down memory lane. It has been great to reconnect with former colleagues.



2012 Garden Faire

We are looking forward to a Family Foundations Conference in Newport News, VA this month and will visit some family members on the way there. Shortly after this trip we anticipate greeting our first grandchild born to Joel and Ellen. We'll keep you posted!

### Moments in Mission - Opportunity to hear and see more detail

November 11 we will share about our ministry in Mozambique at Harvest Community Church in Goshen. It will begin at 12 p.m. with a light lunch (for a small donation) and will include a report from a team that just traveled there. Please join us!

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. We appreciate your partnership.  
Steve and Rachel