



IGREJA CRISTÃ DA CONCÓRDIA EM MOÇAMBIQUE

“Jesus Cristo é o mesmo, ontem, hoje, e eternamente.” (Hebreus 13.8)

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NEWSLETTER MOZAMBIQUE - DECEMBER 2019

A Word from the Coordinator

Although I was unable to travel to Mozambique this year, due to visa and health related issues, I will summarise the information received from Mr. Abel Sifa, translator and correspondent, and from other leaders of the Concordia Christian



Church in Mozambique – ICCM. In addition are accounts from Pastors André B. Plamer and Fernando H. Huf, who were there in November for two weeks, and who on their way back to Brazil stopped by my house in Pretoria, South Africa. We thank God for the many blessings poured out and for the people who were called by the Gospel of Jesus

and gathered into his church through the preaching and testimony of the pastors and students from TEE Program. At same time, we apologise for any mistakes or omissions in this letter.

1) TAKHUTA WANKULU

The destruction caused in Mozambique by Cyclone Idai in March 2019 was an opportunity for Lutheran Christians in various countries to demonstrate their love in a concrete manner with help to their Mozambican Lutheran brothers and sisters. It was impressing to witness how individuals, groups, and churches



mobilized and donated to buy food and to help to rebuild houses and churches. More than 10,000 people received rice, cooking oil, beans, seeds, water purification products, medication, plastic tarps for covering huts and churches, and other basic products based on

local need.



Life is still difficult for Mozambicans, as it always has been. However, life is again normalising with the return of regular cycles of planting and routine activity. The people do not forget the immediate help they received at the time of greatest need. They thank, first of all, God, and then also the donors, who helped to alleviate the

hunger and pain. This witness of Christian love was a living proclamation of the Gospel which motivated many people to ask: What church is this? Lutheran



Christians shared part of the food they received with neighbours and relatives, speaking of the love of Jesus. Many people joined the Christian faith and the churches grew. Also, several new preaching points have been created and the few pastors present are unable to accommodate all those requesting pastors and Lutheran worship in their villages. Students from the Theological Education Program, titled “Future-Pastors,” assist local pastors with the tasks of holding services with song, prayer, reading of the Word, and sharing the Gospel. The ordained pastors come once a month, but in some cases only every two or three months in order to celebrate the Lord's Supper and baptise children and adults who have been prepared by the local leadership. Distances and hazardous roads hinder pastoral care. Yet God is faithful and has gathered his people that they not lose heart. We believe that it is the Holy Spirit who “calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith” (*Luther's Small Catechism, Apostles' Creed, 3rd Article*).

We thank our partners in God's Mission: IELB, LCMS, LKM/MLC. We have translated one from amongst many notes of gratitude. This one was sent by Future-Pastor and leader of the church, Mr. Abel Sifa, who summarises the joy and gratitude of the Mozambican people towards those who participated – and continue to participate – in the growth of the church, and towards those who have demonstrated Christian love for these our suffering and needy brethren who, nonetheless, put their hope in the living God who does not abandon his children:

"God heard the cry of the people of the church of Nhachiwa, Cado village, district of Chemba. The pastor responsible for the district, Reverend João Luís Nota, led the campaign of both distributing food products and spiritual food to all members of the community. He preached the Word of God and then led a service of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

At the conclusion, he distributed the physical food to the members of the church. Pastor Nota was accompanied and worked together with Future-Pastors Eufrásio Daio and Paulino Zacarias with the support of laity from the parish. The songs and dances [of the people] were an expression of gratitude to God for their having received spiritual as well as physical help.

*They did not forget to say, "TAKHUTA WANKULU" (translated, **THANK YOU**) to all those who sacrificially gave of themselves and donated these food products. May they be blessed in the name of Christ Jesus. At his farewell, Pastor Nota was offered a live chicken as a symbol of good travel and continued remembrance by the Lutheran church of Nhachiwa."*

2) Youth Gathering



Young people from the Lutheran Churches of St. Mark's, Kapasseni, St. Matthew's, Mpango, and from the districts of Marromeu Amambo and M'bweza, travelled great distances and met at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Sena, headquarters of the ICCM. These young people celebrated a service

on Saturday night, led by the future pastors of these communities, and finished the meeting on Sunday at about 3:00 p.m.

Pastor Manuel Jone Jambo shared the Word of Life that Sunday morning and all youth groups sang choruses and hymns of praise of adoration to almighty God.

The youth of St. Paul's prepared food for all present from Saturday dinner until Sunday dinner as the last group to leave was from Amambo and had to leave on Monday at five o'clock in the morning with the train.



The young people of St. Paul's managed their financial expenses through collective labour at odd jobs in the fields (farms) of those needing work done, along with the weekly offerings, and as well from voluntary offerings of some church members. Abel Sifa.

2) One Day Symposium in The Gondola Region (Chimoio).

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2, ESV).

With these biblical words, Brother Abel opened the one-day symposium on Christian Doctrine at the Lutheran Church of Mudima, Gondola district, Manica province. Brother Abel had been invited by the brothers of that province and endorsed by the local coordinating pastor, Rev Julio Mineses Nhapiodi, who stated that Brother Abel was a pioneer of the gospel in that province.

The vast majority of people of the province have Pentecostal backgrounds, but are now prepared to learn and follow Lutheran doctrine that clearly presents salvation of grace through faith in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:8). Therefore, they invited Brother Abel to continue teaching what Pastor Andrew had begun the previous year.

Among the many questions asked, the most common were the following:

- a) What is the similarity and difference between our church and the Roman Catholic Church?
- b) The sacraments: Are the means of grace symbolic or real in the act of the Lord's Supper and Holy Baptism? Why child baptism?
- c) Positions and functions in the ICCM: are pastors called or appointed by the national board of the church to only work with a certain Lutheran community? What is the work of the pastor? Are women allowed to occupy certain positions

within the church? Are Lutheran communities free to make their decisions for the development of their own church or must they seek the permission of the national church board?

d) We would like Brother [Abel] to help us translate the liturgy into our own language. (Note: The language in this region is Shona and not the Chisena language which is prevalent in most of our congregations. This request was answered when Pastor André was there in November. The liturgy was translated by Brother Abel and revised by the leaders of the church).

e) How is a funeral service performed in the Lutheran Church? Because, when we lay to rest our brethren, we always follow the Pentecostal model.

f) What is the importance of Adiaphora?

After Brother Abel clarified everything, they were reassured and asked that the studies be held monthly.

On Sunday August 21, during worship with the various Lutheran churches present at the meeting, Brother Abel was selected to share God's message from the Gospel according to St. Luke 10:38-42. The service was marked with dances and songs of praise to Almighty God.

At the end of events, Rev Julius Mineses Nhapigodi received the offering of products brought by members of the churches. The money gathered was then given to a brother who came from far away, Morrumbala, to learn Christian doctrine.

The great meals prepared by mothers of the local church contributed greatly to the smooth running of God's work.



With this, after Sunday's lunch, everyone said goodbye and returned to their homes.
Abel Sifa.

4) Marromeu Maviga - Humanitarian Aid

(In addition to reports from many congregations that received Humanitarian Aid, thanks to donations from Brazil (IELB), the United States (LCMS - IOM), England (ELCE), Germany and other European countries (LKM), and South Africa (MLC), we highlight in this Newsletter the distribution of supplies in Marromeu Maviga.)

The Lutheran Congregation of Maviga is located in the rural area of Marromeu province, Sofala, 169 km from the ICCM headquarters (Sena) and 30 km from the district headquarters where Pastor Manuel Jone Jambo is the supervising pastor and where Mr. Tangwe is the president of the local church.

We arrived on Sunday morning around 10:00 am and the pastor directly began the service which included the baptism of 52 people, both children and adults, and the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Before the distribution of food products, as he requested, we shared Pastor Carlos' heartfelt regards with this Lutheran community in Maviga! Then the distribution of food began. The president, Mr. Tangwe, expressed his thanks for the much needed help that was received, remembering that this distant and



isolated congregation had already received a well with good water and help for the building of the church. We spent the night in that community. In addition to the presence of Christ in the room in which we slept, the mosquitoes also kept us company until dawn! Nevertheless, we gave thanks to almighty God who brought us early the next day to the village of Marromeu to do the

same work as in Maviga – serving Christ

Pastor Jambo, supervisor in these communities, gave thanks from the bottom of his heart to the partners and donors of our church body, in particular Pastors Carlos, André, and Airton who tirelessly sought help, for both body and spirit, for the poor and humble people of Mozambique! "Mulungu mbakuphedzeni mwa pyonsene", translated: "God help you in everything." Abel Sifa.

5) Cado: New Congregation

(Many new congregations have been formed especially through the initiative of future pastors. We highlight a congregation in the Cado region).



Paulino Zacarias is one of the future pastors. Along with fellow TEE student Castigo Amosse, also a future pastor, he celebrated the service on the Fifteenth Week after Pentecost in the new church affiliated with ICCM

It was a very special service, because for the first time the people of that local came into contact with Lutheran doctrine in contrast to Pentecostal doctrine. Brother Paulino preached the Word of God to more than 170 participants.

They have not yet built a chapel, but they celebrate

the services under a tree!

The future pastors went to the work in that place as delegated by the Reverend João Luís Nota, pastor and supervisor for the district. Abel Sifa



6) Reformation Service in Três de Fevereiro



It was with great joy that the people of God in the Três de Fevereiro congregation gathered on October 31, 2019 to commemorate the Reformation. It was a day to remember with gratitude the work that God did through Dr. Martin Luther which gave rise to the origin our Lutheran church. There are many people in Mozambique thirsting for the truth of the Gospel of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ.

Pr. Júlio A. Castomo

7) The Chisena Catechism



It was a great blessing to be with Pastor Davis Wowa, president of the Confessional Lutheran Church – Malawi Synod, and to visit both congregations of the Nsanje district (which borders northeast Mozambique). I arrived on Friday November 1st and on Saturday the 2nd met Pastor Wowa and his wife, as well as Pastor Maganga. Pastor Wowa gave me the box of catechisms he

brought from Pretoria given to him by Pastor Carlos when he had been there for a meeting of leaders from the Lutheran Church in Africa. These are the first catechisms in Chisena that have been brought to Mozambique.

On the same Saturday, we visited the congregation of Chimombo and then went on to another congregation on Sunday.

I also had the opportunity to observe the liturgy of the Lutheran Church in Malawi which, including the Confession and Absolution of Sins, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Blessing of Aaron, is so similar to our liturgy in every respect, except the pronunciation that matches their language (Chichewa).

On Monday I did some maintenance on the motorbike and on Tuesday I made the return journey back to Sena.



It was very good to see how these brothers from the other country confess the same faith as we do.



When Pastors André and Fernando came to Mozambique, they brought several copies of the Chisena Catechism and an official dedication was made in Mozambique with books being distributed to pastors and students of the Theological Education Program. We are waiting for an opportunity to receive more copies in order to also start distribution in all the churches

We thank the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF), for sponsoring the translation and publication. Abel Sifa

8) November 16, 2019, Pastor Fernando Huf .



Another day of grace ... today we visited five congregations in the towns of Três de Fevereiro, Chemba, Cado, and Licoma. We baptised 123 children and adults. The welcome was always very musical. In the last

place visited, four congregations were gathered to thank the Lutherans for the humanitarian aid sent after Cyclone Idai. TAKHUTA (thank you)! It was exciting when, after the service, people brought pigeons, chickens, sweet potatoes, peanuts, and goats to say thank you.

(#Mozambique #IdaipassouJesusficou André Plamer Igreja Cristã da Concordia de Moçambique - Be a partner

<https://ielb.org.br/doacoes/projetos/37/missao-africa>) Fernando Huf



9) Water System for the Training Centre and Tchola District

The project to replace and enlarge the water system at the Lutheran Centre for Theological Formation (Pousada Luterana) will also benefit the nearby village of Tchola. The project started this year at the end of February, but the tragedy resulting from Cyclone Idai that occurred in the centre of our country, especially in our province, hampered implementation.



Finally, the work was complete and dedicated in the presence of the local government representative and pastors André and Fernando in November. This project, which cost 422,585.00 MZN, was sponsored by the Martin Luther parish of Gottingen, Germany, under the leadership of Pastor Michael Hustenbeck, to whom we thank from our hearts.

Pastor Fernando Huf shared the message by citing the example of Jesus as he talked to the Samaritan woman at the well when asking her for water to drink. Jesus promised to give her the water of life that would never run out. Likewise, Pastor Fernando said that in addition to having this water from the river, it is necessary that we have the water of life that is only in Jesus Christ. This is our Salvation.

It needs to be pointed out that the inhabitants of the town of Tchola, where our Theological Training Centre is located, suffered frequently from crocodile attacks when they went to fetch river water; however, as of the official dedication day for this project, this suffering will only be a historical memory of the people of that territorial space.

The ceremony ended with the speech from government representative, who, besides thanking the ICCM for this great help, also spoke about continued protection of the system and fittings. Above all, he pledged that the water would be treated so as not to carry diseases to its users.



Carrying out of the work was directed by Pastor Manuel Jone Jambo, responsible for ICCM special projects, and assisted by Mr. Abel, also a member of the Special Projects Commission, with the indirect support of the ICCM board and the people of the village of Tchola. Abel Sifa

10) Study Bibles



Today is another day to thank God! Study Bibles were given to some students at the Educational Centre of Concordia Christian Church in Mozambique. With donations and support, many people helped make this day possible! TAKHUTA (thank you)! Fernando Huf

11) Post Cyclone – Gondola Corridor



Wherever you go in Mozambique there are people working the land and preparing the soil for the rainy season that is beginning. In the region of Chimoio, the beauty of the fruit and plantations stand out.

Fernando Huf

12) A word of gratitude from Pastor André

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, I bring you good news from the brothers of Mozambique and also the gratitude of many brothers for

humanitarian aid. Pastors Fernando Huf and André Plamer were in Mozambique in November for two weeks.

There they continued the educational process of TEE Program (Theological Education by Extension). This year, Module VI was worked on. If possible, next year, in

2020, it is planned to gather a group of about 18 candidates, among the 60 students, in order to help them complete the missing stages of their education, to graduate and to be ordained.



Life in Mozambique after the cyclone has dramatically changed

because prices have increased and the economy become even more unstable, but in the midst of these social ills, the Word of God is growing strongly in people's hearts. After Cyclone Idai, the number of the believers in all the churches we visited increased. In the Province of Manica, a group of more than 100 believers made contact in order to join the Lutherans because they had heard the captivating testimonies of the brothers. In addition to this group, at least one other group per week makes contact requesting the Concordia Christian Church in Mozambique to come to their village, city, etc. But the workers are still few... pray for the church in Mozambique.

The work is thus summarized in two provinces: In the Province of Sofala, where the Chisena language predominates. At the Lutheran Formation Centre, the students were taught TEE and the pastors had classes on Apocalyptic Symbolism (The Book of Revelation). Several services were celebrated with baptisms and strengthening of the brothers, and this was followed by visits to newly formed churches. In the Province of Manica, at the request of leadership, the brothers were strengthened with training in regards to stewardship and offerings. These sessions were at times held in churches covered with canvas and grass, at others times beneath leafy trees, but all were fed by the Word and Grace of God. I consider them like the Christians of Berea, for they are equally noble, reviewing all teaching in the light of the Scriptures. We thank God who has protected us on this further journey. André Plamer.

13) December 6, 2019. Storm in Marromeu Maviga



“It was on Friday of last week, in the afternoon of November 23rd, when we saw a climate phenomenon that

looked like dark smoke coming towards us accompanied by a very frightening turbulent noise. Suddenly, people who were fetching water from the pump near our church fled into the church, but without realising it, we saw the roof of our church [fly off] beyond the village, without anybody getting hurt, and then [we saw] other corrugated zinc roofing hit banana trees, houses, and papaya trees. When this happened, people were crying and others ran away looking for protection. We clearly saw God's deliverance in this tragedy, for no one was hurt or killed. Only two houses of members were seriously damaged and they were repaired the same day. It was a



windstorm that lasted only a few minutes, but it ruined some houses, the church, and trees.”

This was the account of the members of the church, the laity, and the future pastor of that Lutheran community.

It is the Confessional Lutheran Congregation of Marromeu Maviga, where Reverend Manuel Jone Jambo is responsible for the churches of that district. It should be pointed out, this was one of the churches built last year by donations from our brothers (partners) in the USA.

Faced with this tragedy, the people have no way to surmount the building costs for reconstruction, which are enormous, and they are already entering the rainy season which will make celebration of services a great challenge. However, we believe that even if it is difficult, they will be worshipping and thanking God who freed them from the windstorm and saved them from death, sin, and the devil.

So we ask everyone to continue praying and supporting the people of Marromeu Maviga and also the other nearby congregation, Saloni. Abel Sifa.

14) Merry Christmas

Dear friends, we are in Advent. We are remembering the first coming of Christ and we are preparing for His second coming. His birth was humble, as humble the life of people in Mozambique. His ministry did not have the transportation options we have today, but he walked in the dust, entered all the towns and villages, and this is just as the Gospel is spreading in Mozambique today. His death and resurrection were for everyone, also for the people of Mozambique. . Thank you for your prayers and support. Don't forget to add "MOZAMBIQUE" to your list of gifts this Christmas. Help, so that God's mission may continue. The doors and hearts are open to receive the message of God's grace. We cannot miss this opportunity, but we will work together to bring Christ to ALL!

Natali yadidi (Merry Christmas in Chisena)

Khisimisi yakanaka (Merry Christmas in Shona).

Pastor Carlos Walter Winterle - Coordinator of the Theological Education Program in Mozambique

Photo credits: Abel D. Sifa, Castigo Amosse, Júlio A. Castomo, André Plamer, Fernando Huf.

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Here's how you may help:

DONATIONS MAY BE SENT TO...

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod PO Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 – USA (Designate: Mozambique – 60606)

OR: LCMS– Mission Central - C/O Gary Thies 40718 Hwy. E16 Mapleton, IA 51034 - USA (Designate: Mozambique 60606)

OR: Credit Card donations – call LCMS OIM at 1-800-433-3954 (specify donations for Mozambique – 60606)

Some more pictures of Marromeu Maviga:

