

GOD'S BLESSING

// **Richard writes:** In the hope that you are able to read this letter before 25 December, we wish you a very happy Christmas and God's blessing as you celebrate our saviour's coming.

Although the run up to Christmas in Mozambique is nothing like that in the UK, we have a lot to do these next months. Early next year, and God willing, we will have our third child (due late Jan/early Feb). We will come to the UK in December in readiness for the birth, and will take our home leave, which we hope will be an opportunity to see some of you.

CONSIDER

There is much to do, also, as we consider our future beyond that. We believe we have exhausted the scope for our own involvement in the discipleship, outreach and small business work we have been doing at and from Maputo city centre Reformed Church (IRM). The question now is if there is something more we can contribute further afield. Please do pray as we discuss possibilities with church groups here and our sending mission, Crosslinks.

On balance, this term in Mozambique has been a tough one. In spite of our years here, and a desire to learn, the range of

cultural barriers to authentic discipleship often still flabbergasts us.

Nonetheless, we are thankful to God for the things we have enjoyed and for the work we hope has glorified Jesus Christ. You might praise and thank God with us for those at the IRM city fellowship, and beyond, who have completed the discipleship course with us, or have done the course as disciples of "our" disciples.

STUDY

We are further pleased that groups in five different geographical areas have been getting into Bible study as they would not have done previously. These studies have been important as a non-threatening place to which members could

invite friends, neighbors, and other family members, some of whom have come to participate in the city church. In each case, Bible study group participants have come to prepare and facilitate Bible studies on a range of issues. Very few had ever prepared or lead a study before these groups began.

As we reported last newsletter, the feedback and benefits of the small business training have been very positive. I will leave four Mozambican colleagues able to train others in the

"The question now is if there is something more we can contribute further afield."

DEAR FRIENDS...



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future. One of our students is now doing that on a larger scale than we ever could, as an employee of an NGO, for which he now works.

FRIENDSHIPS

We thank God for a range of friendships with Mozambicans. It was often when we least expected it, or had given up hope of such intimacy, but we were often touched as friends came to confide in us about the joys and challenges they faced in their lives.

It was also very encouraging as some national friends made that leap of trying to understand - with us - what it is like to be a foreigner in Mozambique, and were willing to listen to us in our weakness and ignorance. The faithfulness of some we know in very challenging circumstances has also been an inspiration to us.

Bianca writes:

Apart from discomfort with back pain, I have kept well during this pregnancy. Myles is very excited to have a baby brother or sister on the way. Anabel has

taken some convincing but now is talking to the bump and making some positive - or maybe more "neutral" - comments about baby coming! Myles and Anabel will end their school and crèche terms one day before we leave Maputo. We hope then that they will be able to say their goodbyes at a time when it seems "normal" that something is coming to an end.

RETURN

We hope to store our belongings and find a different house to rent on our return. Myles has been unsettled day by day as we cleared our current home. "Mummy, where are the photos / plants / cushions?"

With love from,

Richard, Bia, Myles and Anabel

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More information on our work in Mozambique is available at...

http://www.crosslinks.org/who/people/mp_reeve.htm

Thank you for your faithful partnership with us during this term, in praying and in giving. You might continue to pray as follows...

- That those who have completed the discipleship course will be faithful and motivated to disciple others
- That the taste for studying the Bible together will be ongoing amongst those who have had the opportunity
- For those who trained with us to run small businesses, that they will be successful and right with God in the way that they run their businesses
- For our enquiries re future work beyond the city centre of Maputo.
- For our extensive travel in the coming months
- For the arrival of baby around the end of Jan
- For the transition of each of us back into UK life
- For Myles as he goes to a UK school and Anabel in day-care a few mornings a week.

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