

# MISSIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE

From your missionaries, Bill and Linda Mercer  
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February 2009

Dear Pastor Lucas and Congregation of Christian Life Community Church,

Numbers.....they can be informative, can't they? Take 26 for instance. That is the number of Extension that were held here in Mozambique in 2008. There were 190 graduates that participated in those ceremonies, held in 7 different Provinces of these graduates will serve well in their local churches, or wherever the Lord may lead, as they join the 100's of other students who have graduated down through the 23 years since the beginning of the Bible College.



The new school year recently began in the Central Bible College in Maputo. 102 new students registered for the Saturday Extension School classes held there, bringing the number of students in this Center to over 300. Besides them, there are those who are in the Ministerial, Bachelor and other courses that the Bible College offers. In recent weeks, 3 new Extension Schools have been started and we have invitations to open 3 more. These will become part of the more than 100 Extension School Centers to be found throughout the country. There is great interest in studying the Word of God.

Preschools are still part of the program here. There are currently 7 of these schools with a total of 457 children between the ages of 2 and 5. Center of Hope I and Center of Hope II are 2 daycare centers that are ministering to over 250 orphans and vulnerable children on a regular basis.



There are millions of young people need direction for their lives. To ministry in this area. Over the past seminars, 1 youth camp and 2 an expanding ministry, now special prayer for this outreach to



in Mozambique. Many of them that end Linda continues her months, there have been 3 youth seminars for youth leaders. This is reaching into 3 Provinces. We ask the youth.

We currently have **4** fewer missionaries on this Field than we did last year. Rex and Rita Stuckless, after many years of faithful service, have returned to Canada for a



greatly-deserved retirement. Izirlei and Lenilda Guimarães are in Brazil on furlough until July. More helpers are urgently needed. There are **2** families preparing to come – the Manuel Bessas, from Canada, and



the Sergio Santanas, from Brazil. They both need additional funding to meet their budgets. Please pray with us that their financial needs will soon be met so that they can join forces with us here.

Speaking of finances, we want to thank all of you who have sent your donations for us to the PAOC Head Office over the past year and years. We are deeply grateful for every donation, large or small, so, our Workfunds/Personal of over **\$30,000.00**. We thank support during this new year of things going on here, and each finances. The offerings of the include an egg like that shown in the picture, are sincerely given, but are not adequate to fully meet the need. Thanks for being a partner with us in Mozambique.



In closing we are reminded of another number. In my journeys here in Mozambique I



have heard the little chorus that says: “Jesus is **Number 1**”. Many here in Mozambique are finding this to be true in their lives, as they accept Jesus as their personal Saviour. A local pastor of a small, but growing



church, told me that today **8** people had made their decision to follow Christ. Last week in the same church there were **15**. The church has had to purchase more chairs—a nice problem. In November past, one of the large churches here in Maputo had a water baptismal service in which **1,423** were baptized in the ocean that Sunday morning. These are some of the many who have accepted the Lord as their personal **Number 1**. Even so, there are still multitudes that need the Saviour.

Thanks again for your prayers and financial support. As mentioned in a previous letter, we had thought we might retire last year, but due to the shortage of missionaries, and the furlough plans of those still here, we have decided to stay on until at least mid **2010**, the Lord willing.

We wish you the continuation of a great **2009** in every way.



*Bill and Linda*