

SIMTOWE MINISTRY UPDATE



August 2020



MOZAMBIQUE MINISTRY UPDATES

Dear Prayer Partners,

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It has been a long time since you have read from my desk due to our unsettled life in our new field. Mozambique is full of challenges and you need to take enough time to get settled and adjust to the new system of life and cultural differences you are facing for the first time. I would like to share those challenges so that you know how to pray for that ministry and especially for us since we are facing issues every day that frustrate us and can lead to giving up, but we thank God for being faithful to His promises that He will never leave us nor forsake us during our hard times we are passing through in the ministry.

Challenges in this field:

In this field we have already been facing some giants and we need to make sure we fight hard to overcome them by tackling them head on through prayer and by God's help. We will win one day if we faint not; we know our greatest weapon is prayer, and we are told not to worry about anything but to let our requests be known to the God of grace. Devoting ourselves to defeating those giants since they can be stumbling blocks along the way, and delaying our efforts for achieving our goals and vision we have toward this ministry. This country is far from understanding and knowing the Word of God and knowing God's will upon their daily living. I try to recall from the Word of God—Romans 3:10-18 is very vivid in the lives of most of the people we are living with. Some of the giants we are struggling with are: the language issue, disunity among the people we are serving with, lies and untrustworthy people (it is very painful to me—I like to trust people who are close to me in the ministry), poverty, corruption, ancestral worship, witchcraft, and people who don't care about spirituality and are full of carnalities in their lives. This is just to name a few among many. We consider them as great challenges to us as we try to teach them a new way of living through our lives as we try to set good examples for them. We need to show them what Christianity means and how we live that out in our lives. We have been praying to win them to the Lord as their Savior. Naturally, we have been having some difficulty with the weather situation. Sometimes the heat becomes unbearable, extremely hot up to 48 degrees [118.4 F], so we are searching for a place where it is bit cooler to move to in the future, if God allows.

Our commitments to the field:

Despite those challenges we are facing, we started the work on a good note—our house we rented has a lot of space inside with a sitting room and dining room which are connected and provide a huge space. We suggested the church plant within our house. So we started the evangelism work in the area and by March 2020 we had over 30 people attending the Sunday service. We were very optimistic that by the end of the year the church will be large enough to start planning for acquiring our own land, constructing the church building, and moving from the rented house. Unfortunately, toward the end of the month of March, the breakout of the coronavirus pandemic was announced, the country was subject to lockdown restrictions, and church gatherings were severely affected and suffered as a result. Up-to-date restrictions are still in effect and we don't know when they will be lifted'

During the early days of lockdown we continued with our Bible study classes—Sophia with the ladies and I with several groups—until they forced us to stop gathering. It was a very sad move since people were just getting excited about learning Scripture which they had never done before.

Our plans and goals for this field:

After a long struggle we were able to get work permits for Mozambique! We thank God for that! What was remaining was to in-

roduce our vision and set up our goals which I shared with some of the leaders during our strategies seminar which took place in November 2019. The year 2020 was the year of implementing our goals we set in 2019, but the pandemic has reduced our plans and goals to nothing, and we are waiting upon the Lord to see when He will allow us to continue with those plans in future.

Our projections for the ministry:

Actually, I can assure you that our projections are still the same as before, since we haven't done anything yet apart from registrations and work permits we have achieved; therefore, we will continue to pray for:

- ◆ the establishment of the Bible Training Center—this is our goal in order to upgrade the level of our current leaders in the churches, who are far behind in Bible knowledge and skills in their leadership.
- ◆ the church planting program—using our evangelists we will be training to carry that task around their areas and beyond.
- ◆ the programs of leadership training, outreach programs, church visitations, youth conferences, women's seminars/conferences, leaders' seminars/ conferences—all priorities as we work in this field.
- ◆ the construction of our worship centers which are fundamental for church recognition in the country as God provides.

Family updates:

Allow me to share God's blessings upon our family since I last shared with you.

- ◆ Stella is now permanently employed by the government of Zambia as a Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the District in the country. No engagement yet but we are praying that a spouse will come for her soon.
- ◆ Frank is now a government employee on a permanent basis in the electrical industries in Tanzania. Thank God that he is about to bid farewell to singlehood. Right now we are in serious preparations for his wedding which will take place September 6, 2020. So please take note that this can also be an invitation to you all.
- ◆ Benjamin is now finishing his second year at University of Science and Technology in Mbeya, Tanzania.
- ◆ Cecilia is doing fine in her studies in second year at St Mary's Secondary School in Mbeya, Tanzania.

Note of thanks:

Allow me to convey our thanks for your prayers and financial support. You have been very faithful to your faith promises by sending for the ministry and for our family. We have no words to express our appreciation—just to say a big word of THANKS for everyone who prays and supports. May the grace of God cover you, protect you, and keep providing for His ministry's sake.

God bless you all.

Because of Calvary love;
Simtowe Family



Kennedy, Sofia, and Cecilia