

Farming for Orphans in Mozambique

FOM

News from FOM - September 2022

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40

Dear Lady Boswell Students, Staff and Parents

I greet you in the love of Jesus and I want to thank each and every one for being faithful prayer partners, for your compassion for God's work in Mozambique and your faithful support.

Much has happened since I last wrote to you directly. There has been Covid which impacted our precious friends in Mozambique. As life there is conducted outside they have no inside space to live in only to sleep, the children had to wear masks all day every day from morning until bedtime. I was unable to visit Mozambique again until November 2021, two years since my previous visit. This visit was cut short as all the Southern African countries were put on a UK Red List and I had to return early. This was very disappointing but the work in Mozambique continued well and with WhatsApp it was not too difficult for me to keep in touch daily.

With great thanks to Lady Boswell's we were able to continue growing the vegetables on the farm as this was an activity allowed during Covid. We also continued training new teams, one that started in March 2020 and another in March 2021 and now a new team this year too. Since 2015, 24 local Mozambicans have received 6-12 months of Farming God's Way training. The vegetables and fruit grown not only supports the orphans and their carers but also has long lasting impact as each person trained has gained valuable experience.

What an amazing blessing for the orphan care that we were able to continue providing vegetables every week between June and November and some fruit year round. Also, during this time we were able to continue with the enterprise programme for older orphans not able to continue to tertiary education.

This year we have been working with other rural churches that have identified orphans in their communities, some living only with siblings as both parents have died and there are no other relatives to care for them. Others are with a grandparent or sometimes one parent. The churches are highlighting the needs of these orphans in the community and we have expanded activity to support vegetable gardens attached to the churches with the crops distributed to those in most need. The extent of the poverty for children in these situations is extreme.

A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the solitary in families. Psalm 68:5-6a

News directly from Mountain of Praise Church and the orphan care is that there are currently 60 children under the age of 15. Each are rescued out of difficult situations, some staying a short time with MOP and others a long time. Currently the cost of food is high as food and fuel prices are increasing, as they are worldwide, and the vegetables that FOM provides, grown on the Africa Naturally farm, are truly a huge blessing for the children and the team caring for them. Pastor and Mama Rego thank FOM and Lady B's unfailing support. The nutrition from the vegetables and fruit, bananas and papayas, are a significant contribution for the wellbeing of the children.



In addition to vegetables grown on the farm, Antonio Tomo, who is one of the guards at Missionary Tanneken's house, and a leader in a sister church in Dondo, continues to grow vegetables on that site. FOM continues to provide vegetable seed, encouragement and ongoing support. He has been a good and successful student of the FOM teaching (Farming God's Way) and during the harvest months of June to November, he produces enough vegetables for each day of the week for the children at that site. I love to receive photos of his farming activity and to visit him when I am in Mozambique as he is inspirational, demonstrating what can be achieved.

Tanneken, has now retired. She had her final visit to Mozambique and the children in July. Our time crossed for a few days and we were able to spend some special time together. One of her last dreams is for a preschool to be set up and equipped for the young children. Typically children do not start primary school until age 7 and so this dream is for the younger children and those with special needs.

Tanneken says, 'thank you for joining us in this long adventure. The mission to the orphans and the church, will continue from strength to strength, with the committed local team. I thank all of you who pray and give financially so that this God-given work can continue. Thank you and God bless you.'

I thank God for my recent time in Mozambique over the summer. There is much work still to do and we are excited to continue the FOM link with Mountain of Praise Church and orphan care and to extend this to orphans living in the rural communities with no external support at all. We have also signed up to a global seed exchange and hope over the next few years to reduce our dependency on purchasing local commercial seed, aiming to introduce open pollinated seed and harvest seed for the following year. Purchasing vegetable seed each year is a significant cost and not the best quality seed.

Each person in the Lady Boswell community has contributed to supporting the work of FOM and the precious orphaned children at Mountain of Praise and now in the wider community as we discover the desperate need here.

Please pray for the precious children, for Mama and Pastor Rego, for the FOM team, those growing the food for the orphans and Armando coordinating everything, that we are able to continue the vegetable and fruit farming and provide training for a few on the farm each year and for many in the local communities.

A heartfelt thank you from us all.

Janet

Global Mission Partner with George Mullers and
Associate Missionary with Church Mission Society



⌘ Saturday harvest before taking to the orphan care.



Last year's team of apprentices finishing, with their gifts of equipment and fruit trees.



The new FOM team who started in March this year.



Photos by Missionary Janet Phythian/ FOM