

# Farming for Orphans in Mozambique

## FOM

News from Mozambique  
October 2023

'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, Parents and Staff

This year I have been blessed to visit Mozambique twice, in February and March and from July to early September. What a joy to spend time with our brothers and sisters at Mountain of Praise (MOP) Church and orphan care, on the farm and in the communities where I link with local churches and find many orphans living with only their siblings or being cared for by grandparents.



### News from Mountain of Praise and Pastor Rego

**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.**

Pastor Rego asked for prayer for a nursery school that they would like to build. They would like to provide some extra support for children with reading and writing as many going to the state schools reach 10 and 11 years old and have not attained these skills. He rejoices because Deo's legs have been healed. He explained that they are trying to keep families together and have two families where the fathers have died and the mothers have significant mental health problems so the mother is also living with them, receiving care and prayer.

Social Services aims to re-home orphans with a family connection, however distant. So, the children at MOP are either recently placed in care or cannot be re-homed because they have no

family or no one wants them. Most families do not accept to take in disabled children or those with special needs so MOP has many with a disability and it continues to care for around 65 children at a time. Recently Pastor Rego was told he must build an additional sleeping and bathroom accommodation for the boys and several were keen to help.



Antonio, Leo and Jose



Walking to school in Cyclone Freddy flooding

In February and March this year, we had heavy rains and flooding due to Cyclone Freddy. On the farm, we had serious flooding which then impacted the start of the FOM vegetable growing season. Local roads were destroyed, homes too and children walked to school through floods.



Momade and the FOM field flooded in March

Your support has been essential for the precious MOP orphans. Without your contribution, their nutrition would be greatly lacking. Over the past years, over 200 orphans have been supported and 24 people trained in Farming God's Way on the Africa Naturally farm.



The FOM farm team led by Momade has been amazing this year. Due to the flooding, they could not start sowing seed directly into the field in mid-March. Instead, they built a small nursery and patiently improved the drainage in and around the field. The water took weeks to go as the whole area was flooded.

They persevered and seedlings grew in the nursery and later transferred to the field.

### FOM Harvest

To date this year after the late start the total harvest is over 280 kgs, including green beans, aubergine, peppers, cucumbers, cabbage, lettuce, carrots, turnips, onions and beetroot, and the harvest will continue through November/early December. In a small but important way, they have also supported training for the small rural churches that I link with.



### Growing Hope for Orphans in Rural Communities

This year we have continued working with more 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. There are many orphans. For example, within three small churches in Dondo that I closely link with, there are over 50 orphans. The churches are highlighting the needs of these orphans in the community and we have expanded activity to equip adults in the churches to develop vegetable gardens attached to the churches with the harvests distributed to those in most need. The extent of the poverty for children in these situations is extreme.



Pastor Pedro in Caia



Domingas and Benedita at Seed of Abraham Church



Pastor Gabriel growing vegetables for those in need



Janet in the flood water

Friends, everyday life in Mozambique is precarious and hard work to survive for most. One needs to trust in God at all times. Most of you know that I live in a tent on the farm and the farm is off the grid so we rely on solar for all the energy needs. This year the storms from Cyclone Freddy lasted for days, the thunder, lightning and quantity of rain were daunting and somehow I was bitten by a spider which required strong antibiotics to heal. I was alone on the farm with Dolly, my faithful dog, the cats and wonderful Munhope who was the guard during that period. We checked in with each other regularly and I was thankful for his resourcefulness in preparing a meal once a day. My experience was insignificant compared to Mozambican families. They do not have a dry tent to shelter in or food stored in dry containers and the mud that fills in the walls of their houses is washed away with the heavy rainfall.

### **Please join me in Giving Thanks**

For each precious child at the Mountain of Praise orphan care

For God's love and protection for all the children

For the FOM farm team and their hard work and dedication

For abundant harvest following the flooding in February and March

For Momade, team leader, who each week takes the harvest by bus and on foot to Mountain of Praise church and for his recovery recently from malaria

For Deo and the miracle healing of his legs

For strength for Pastor and Mama Rego and the widows caring for the orphans

For the eight churches Growing Hope has equipped this year with vegetable gardens and for the harvest supporting orphans living in these communities

### **Prayers of Petition**

- Strength for Pastor and Mama Rego and the widows as they care for the orphans
- For God's protection and blessings for orphans leaving MOP and being placed in families
- For orphans newly arriving at Mountain of Praise, they settle in well and flourish and know they are loved
- For the orphans we find in rural communities with no structured support
- For Janet to walk with Jesus as she continues to encourage and support the farm team, MOP and other churches while back in the U.K. and as she makes plans for next year

Lastly, I thank God for Lady Boswell School and I pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel with FOM. We can be confident in Him who began a good work and will carry it on to completion.

Janet

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