

Words of Wisdom (UK)

UK Registered Charity No 1105969

Jeff & Helen Wakeman

NEWSLETTER

November 2005

Dear Family & Friends

Hot and Dusty! That's a perfect description of some parts of Mozambique at the moment. There has been insufficient rain, and the ground is so dry most of the crops are withered or stunted. In some areas all the people have to eat is the roots left in the ground by their failed crops. And yet the church here is thriving even in these difficult conditions.

Two Saturday morning's each month, sixteen or seventeen pastors and some of their wives; gather at the Beach House for the Networking and Training Sessions mentioned in our August Newsletter. These are men and women who work in churches from the poorest part of Beira, and most of them have never received any formal training for the job. It is a joy to teach them, as they are so hungry to learn more of what the Bible actually says, as well as exchange experiences and share blessings.

None of these Pastors have any other transport than their own two feet or maybe a Push Bike, but thanks to Holroyd New Life Church in Australia, we are able to pay for their transport to and from the house for each session. HNLC have also made it possible for us to pay interpreters, provide refreshments and print handouts etc. for these sessions. This is a real blessing for those who are organising the sessions as well as for those who are attending them.

Jeff is currently teaching on Fundamental Doctrines in these sessions. This is a series he developed whilst teaching at Equippers Bible College in the UK, based on Hebrews 6:1-2. Both the Pastors and their wives are thrilled to see how

the Word of God is like a jig-saw puzzle where the picture gradually becomes clearer as you find more of the parts and fit them into their right places.

It is a real joy to see the lights come on when people suddenly realise that the deeper things written about in the Bible are not just for clever theologians, but ordinary people can understand them. As Jeff explains the connection between

natural birth and New Birth, and the difference between good works and dead works etc, they begin to realise that God gave us his Word in many different ways so that all of us could find a way it was said that we could understand. They so want to know what else they are going to find has a God given illustration in the natural world, that if Jeff tried to answer all their questions some of the sessions would go on to mid-night.

At the moment, Jeff still has to work with an interpreter, and this has sometimes made it a

little difficult as most of those who normally interpret for him are busy on a Saturday morning. For some people Saturday morning is still a part of their normal working week here in Mozambique, and for those who don't work it is there one day in the week when they can do some of the things that require daylight. The sun in Mozambique rises at about 4.30am and sets at about 6.30pm at this time of year, and most people work from 6am to 4 pm. This doesn't leave much daylight time when you can easily spend an hour each way in travelling to and from your place of work.

Thankfully we believe we have found a young man who is willing to do the interpreting for us at



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every session. And this is not just because we pay him a nominal amount for giving up his time, but because he also wants to hear the teaching.



Saturday morning at the Beach House

For Helen the school year is coming to a close, because BIPS (Beira International Primary School) follows the Southern Hemisphere Academic Year, which runs from January to November. This means that she will have completed her first year of teaching the Pre-Kindergarten Class, and she has thoroughly enjoyed it although it has been hard work at times. Next year her class will increase from the current three pupils to ten, or possibly even more. With missionaries and Aid Workers constantly coming and going, one never knows until the last moment how many pupils the school will have. However, having developed a fairly full range of teaching materials during this first year, Helen feels she will be reasonably well prepared to meet the challenge of a threefold increase in the number of pupils, after the Summer Holidays.

The summer holidays being in December includes Christmas, which is quite an interesting concept when you are used to the normal UK weather at Christmas time. Neither of us are really beach people, so the idea of spending Christmas Day on the beach doesn't attract us at all. We were hoping to fly back to the UK for Christmas, so that we could see our new grandson, Saul. Unfortunately we were unable to find a flight at a price our limited funds could stretch to, so we are looking at the possibility of a flight during Helen's Spring Holiday from BIPS.

We are also trying to find the funds to buy our own means of transport, so that we can help with transporting the pastors on Saturdays and guests who need transport to get to the Airport. We have been offered an eight seater people carrier at a

very reasonable price, and this would be ideal for the purpose. We currently have about £250 towards the £2500 we need for the vehicle, and have until the middle of December to find the rest.

Anacleto has been invited to a Conference in London during November, and he is looking forward to seeing something of our country. We just hope that he won't find the culture shock and the English weather is too much for him. We have encouraged him to go, because he is taking a Masters Degree in the Teaching of English at the local University, and it would be an ideal opportunity for him to get a taste of the English culture as well as practice the language.

Jeff has just published his first book, it's in Portuguese and is entitled 'Criação' (Creation). He produced it in response to repeated requests to have his teaching on Creation in a form the students at the AoGA Bible College could easily refer to. However, it seems that they are not the only ones who will find it useful, as several other people have shown an interest.

For those of you who haven't yet heard we have two new additions to our family. A grandson called Saul in the UK and a dog called Ricky in Moz, and in case any of you don't know the difference this is Ricky!



*Wishing you a
Happy and Peaceful Christmas
and a Joyful New Year*



*Bless you all
Jeff & Helen Wakeman*