

## Dear Family and Friends

It's newsletter time already, how fast the time seems to go these days. There is so many things for us to be doing, that there never seems enough hours in the day to fit it all in. There have been several groups staying in the house during May, so we have been even busier than normal since we got back from the UK. The scripture that comes to mind is; 'the fields are white unto harvest, but the labourers are scattered and few. Pray therefore that the Lord of the harvest .....'!



2 New Classrooms are being built, as God supplies

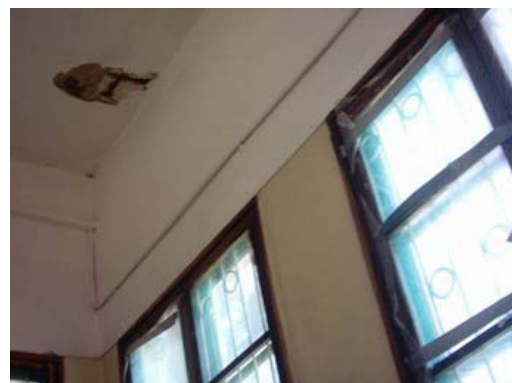
We are seeing more and more people who are hungry for the Word of God. As you all know, Jeff is teaching at the AoGA Bible College two mornings a week, and they are asking him if he could increase this. This is because there is a lack of teachers, due in part to several missionaries going on home leave for 3-6 months of this year.

We have also said goodbye to some good friends who have finished their time here in Beira, and after three years of working with the Mennonite Central Council, have returned to the USA for good. We are already missing the times of spiritual and social fellowship we had together. Making new relationships is not always easy, because it's about giving time to each other and when you are all busy it can be difficult to find the time for making friends. This always seems to end up a low priority when compared with your 'mission', and you can easily end up walking your walk in isolation when God intended you to have fellowship with one another as a part of what he had called you to do.

We are finding that ministering to the needs of other missionaries is as much a part of what God has called us to do in Mozambique, as teaching and sharing with the countries own people. One of the interesting questions that Jeff found God put in his heart and mind at a recent Men's Breakfast for Missionaries and Christian Aid Workers was, 'Which is most effective, the teaching

and aid we give to the population, or the encouragement and training that we give to those who work for us and with us as a part of our organisations?' We believe that God wanted us to see that whilst the teaching and aid we gave to the population was right and necessary, it was what we did for those who worked for us and with us that would have the greatest long-term effect. Like Paul we want to see them as fellow-workers in the Gospel, who we have helped fully prepare so they can carry-on the work should God send us somewhere else or call us home. It's too easy to think of them only as employees or 'helps', and think of our mission as being to those that are outside the organisation. The reality is, we were called to make disciples of 'all' men, and that includes fellow missionaries, employees, helpers and the whole population of Mozambique. And that takes the time and effort on our part, that's required if we are going to build meaningful relationships and be servants to one another for Christ's sake.

The weather is cooling down, and so now is a good time to be doing all those little repairs with out ending up sweating buckets. The Beach House has so many little repair jobs that need doing, and this has increased since the earthquake we had on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Whilst it didn't do any real structural damage to any of the buildings in the city, one could say that what could be shaken was shaken, since every suspect piece of cement or paint has now fallen off the ceilings and walls. Making several of the guest rooms look a little untidy, and in need of some repair and decoration. Even if we don't find time to roll up our sleeves and do the work ourselves, we will have to oversee who ever does do the work and try and work the bookings around the rooms that are out of action.



Storm & Earthquake Damage to ceilings and windows

The great thing is that God always seems to balance things out, by sending a blessing or a funny circumstance just when you most need it. The other week, Jeff was stopped by the police (a fairly common occurrence here for anyone who looks as though they

might be good for a fine, not just ex-pats), and was preparing to hand over the necessary documents etc, when in stead of the usual 'Bom dia, senhor' he was greeted with, 'Hello brother Jeff, how was your trip to England?' Praise God, the traffic policeman was an elder in Anacleto's church, and not only that, but he also speaks very good English. Jeff and he spent a couple of minutes discussing our trip and what England was like, and after shaking hands was told he could go.



Our 8-seater Toyota Lite Ace People Carrier

As many of you know, we have been blessed with a vehicle and three out of the five thousand US dollars it cost has been given to us through anonymous gifts. Most of these were from people here in Beira, and we praise God for the faithfulness of his servants in the International Fellowship here and in the UK.

We also praise God for the Saturday Workshops, especially the ones we have on the third Saturday of each month with the Young People from seven different churches. These churches are in one of the poorest parts of the city, where they receive very little practical help of any kind. But, they show up faithfully every month, and are keen to learn new ways of impacting their own people, and especially their own generation. In the last workshop, we split them into five groups of mixed ages and from different churches. Each group was given a different Bible Story to read through (thank God for a Portuguese Bible on a FREE Bible Programme downloaded from the Web – If you're interested in a good Bible Programme, go to [WWW.e-sword.net](http://WWW.e-sword.net)), and then had to plan and tell the story in their own words using drama, dance, song or pictures to help illustrate it. They also had to work through an interpreter for the first time, so that we could understand how well they had understood the story, and how much they had learnt from all the previous workshops.

Three of the groups did very well, using a combination of pictures and storytelling techniques to present the message of their scripture passage. Unfortunately two of the groups misunderstood their instructions, even though Helen, Jeff and Benson (our interpreter) had carefully explained it to them. But nobody got upset, and we all learned from the experience. There were smiles all round, when we learned that at the Burning Bush, Moses was hit over the head with a chair. Which just goes to prove that while the official language may

be Portuguese, not everyone understands the form of it used in some Bible translations? Still I guess there are people who have the same problem with some English translations, which is probably why we have so many of them!

For those of you who are Internet fans, you will be pleased to hear that Words of Wisdom now has its own Web Site, thanks to the financial support of two good friends in the UK, and some ongoing work by our son Reuben who is busy constructing it for us. If you would like to see what it is going to look like, Reuben has already put a specimen page on the site, and will be adding to it as soon as he can. You will find it at [www.wordsofwisdomuk.org](http://www.wordsofwisdomuk.org).

Our intention is, that it will not only provide information about the work of Words of Wisdom and display the latest Newsletter, but it will also provide copies of the teaching materials we are using in PDF format, with a copyright that permits the materials to be used by other people under specific conditions. This will allow others to have free access to all the things we believe that God has shown us, whilst hopefully putting off some of those who would seek to misuse it or use it for their own profit.

The future for the work here is looking good. Not only is there the possibility of more teaching at the Bible College, but there is also an increased interest in the English and Computer Lessons as we are beginning to get known for what we do. In order to help us increase the number of students we can cope with, the charity trustees are hoping to soon have the finance for another computer. We hope to have more news regarding these developments for the next newsletter.



It may be small but it's a kitchen we can cook in.

We have also been given a area at the Beach House to develop as a private kitchen/dinning room for our own use. This is a real blessing, as it will allow us to invite more people to have a meal with us, which is something we have really missed doing as a part of our ministry to others.

*God bless you all  
Jeff and Helen*

PS If you would like to let us know your news, you can e-mail us at [wordsofwisdom@teledata.mz](mailto:wordsofwisdom@teledata.mz). We can also keep in touch with you then, where ever we are in this World.