

Your Mozambique Covenant Partnership



Welcome into the community of Mozambique Covenant Partners! You have taken a big step in building a relationship with a sister church of A Igreja Metodista Unida em Mozambique, the United Methodist Church in Mozambique.

What is the Miracle in Mozambique?

Since 1998 the Missouri Conference has established covenant relationships between the United Methodist churches in Missouri and the 170+ United Methodist Congregations and 24 districts in Mozambique. The covenant relationship includes support of \$990 per year for pastor salaries and \$1,320 per year for districts. It also includes prayer and correspondence exchanges. Since 1999 many of the churches in Mozambique are able to pay their pastors. So support takes on many forms. Some churches and districts use the Missouri support funds to provide homes and furniture, or transportation or education. No matter what the form, you will make a difference through covenant.

Building and rehabilitating parsonages is one of the great needs for congregations in Mozambique to strengthen the ministry of the pastors. Appropriate housing is critical for pastors in Mozambique, because of transportation difficulties. It is beneficial for pastors to live at the church location. The community centers around the church. Many homes are in great need of repair or of additions so that pastors can have families.

Covenant partners are welcome to contribute additional funds to the building of their pastor's home.

What is my commitment?

The covenant partnership includes a commitment to:

- ❑ Support a church or district with a financial covenant in the name of Christ.
- ❑ Appoint a layperson to be Mozambique Ministry Leader and send the name & email address of that person to *The Initiative*.
- ❑ Write one letter a year to your covenant partner during each covenant year.
- ❑ Place the name of your covenant partner church, district, and pastor on your congregations prayer list so that your sisters and brothers in Mozambique are remembered in prayer daily.
- ❑ Send 5 more email addresses to the Initiative to receive info direct from Mozambique.

Inside this guide is a "Sign Up and Order Form. Please send the name of your Mozambique Ministry Leader and submit email addresses for "Friends of Mozambique", an email listserve that sends periodic news.

Please return the form to *The Mozambique Initiative*, P O Box 754, Eureka, MO 63025-0754.

In February 2002 Bishop Joao So-mane Machado praised the covenants, saying, "These covenants have raised the economic life of our pastors. There is no way to even measure the value of that impact. We can see the great difference that they [the covenants] have made in the lives of pastors and their families. When we see some of the places where a pastor's family has to sleep, we could just cry. After the first covenants and the expansion of full covenants, we could see the improvement in the houses and in the pastors [morale, health, etc.]. So we give God great thanks to the Missouri Area for this gift."

Bishop Nhanala continues that praise! Thank you for your commitment as a Mozambique Covenant Partner. As the One Church in Missouri and Mozambique goes about the work of making disciples, through your covenant you will make a difference in the world. On behalf of *The Mozambique Initiative* and our sisters and brothers of the United Methodist Church in Mozambique, please accept our gratitude and extend it to your entire congregation, group or family.

You will be blessed to be a blessing!

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John Gregory – Covenant Partnership
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Email:
enhantumbo@tvcabo.co.mz

Website
www.moumethodist.org/mi

How do I contribute my covenant support and where does the money go?

Congregations and church groups: Send all contributions through your church treasurer along with your regular apportionment payments. Use the standard forms provided by the Annual Conference for contributing to “Special Giving Form: Advance Specials—Special Offerings—Mozambique”. Send to the lock-box address provided or 3601 Amron Drive, Columbia, MO 65202.

Individuals: Use the individual contribution form provided by M.I. or downloaded online, and send all contributions payable to Missouri Annual Conference, Treasurer’s Office, 3601 Amron Drive, Columbia, MO 65202.

Complete Special Giving Form/Individual contribution form: Enter \$900 in fund line 8800 Covenant Partnership and \$90 in fund line 8850 Covenant Partnership Support: MI coordinator and staff. Download forms at www.moumethodist.org.

Funds are processed by the Missouri Conference Treasurer’s Office and credited to your church’s account. Periodically *The Mozambique Initiative* processes your contributions from the Treasurer’s records and sends the money to the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM). As a service to the Missouri Annual Conference, GBGM then wires the money to the DAF (director of finance & administration) in Mozambique and the MI representative and coordinator process out of that account. Your Church World Service Funds pay for the costs involved in processing through GBGM.

Of the amount that goes to Mozambique ten percent pays for the administration of the funds *in Mozambique* and the balance goes into the church account. For a more detailed explanation of fund processing, please contact the coordinator of *The Mozambique Initiative*.

When your covenant funds arrive in Mozambique, they are put into an account for your covenant church partner. The District Superintendent and local church pastor, decide together about the needs of the church and how the funds are used. There is a defined parameter for the use of funds as pastor support, loans and grants for self-sufficiency project, and leader capacity-building. Approval is sought from YOU for anything outside of those parameters. Funds are drawn as needed.

What else is really needed or wanted by my covenant partner?

Covenant partners send many items via travelers. Here are some suggestions:

- Token gifts of friendship, like paraments and table covers for the sanctuary.
- Photographs of important events at your church, especially people pictures.
- Personal items like stoles and robes for pastors.
- Choir robes if you are able to make arrangements for storage and transport.
- Communion sets that are *not breakable*, travel communion sets.
- Brief stories or news about your church (note they will need to be translated).
- Maps of Israel and Palestine for Bible study. Cokesbury has several.
- Small mementos of your church and / or your community (Christmas ornaments, coffee mugs, St. Louis Arch, etc.)
- Watch email news for opportunities to send items with travelers.

How do I communicate with my covenant partner in Mozambique?

Communication in Mozambique is difficult. But Mozambique Initiative representative, Ezequiel Nhantumbo, makes communication possible for *The Mozambique Initiative*.

The official language of Mozambique is Portuguese. Tribal languages abound. Ezequiel translates communications in both directions. If you send a letter by postal mail to your covenant partner, expect it to be opened by Ezequiel for translation. Be sure to include an email address to receive a reply.

Send Partner Email To: Enhantumbo@tvcabo.co.mz

To send email to your covenant partner, attach your letter document (preferably MS Word) **clearly addressed to your covenant partner:**

Rev. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXX United Methodist Church
XXXXXX District (if known)

Send letters and packages to:

Ezequiel Nhantumbo
The Mozambique Initiative
Igreja Metodista Unida
C. P. 2640 (for postal mail)
Rua Kibiriti Duwane (Rua Francisco Barreto) #229 (for couriers like DHL, FedEx, UPS)
Maputo, Mozambique

Be sure to sign your letter completely with your name, your position, your church name and full address in the U.S.

In your email be sure to explain who you are and that you need the letter translated and distributed to your covenant partner. Make inquiries about your partner directly in your letter. Ezequiel will gladly translate and have it delivered for you.

What do I say to my partner?

Very few pastors have any electricity, much less telephone, computer, or internet. It's not that you cannot supply the equipment. There is no service available. Only 8% of the homes in Mozambique even have electricity. Postal service is irregular and addresses are sketchy at best. So hand delivery through M.I. representative, Ezequiel Nhantumbo is the most dependable way to communicate.

Begin your communication with an introduction, as if you are meeting someone for the first time. Follow the same respectful pattern that you would use if you were meeting someone in person. Tell your covenant partner briefly who you are and why you are writing. Inquire about their location, their community, their ministries. Then tell them about yourself or your church, its primary ministries, and the things that you think are important for them to know. Invite your partner to respond, to tell you about themselves in a mutual exchange.

As your relationship progresses through communication or personal visits, venture deeper into ways that you both might benefit mutually from the covenant relationship.

What NOT to say or ask — consider a new relationship and how you might feel if someone were to ask you questions upon first meeting like: What do you need? What can I send you? How can I help you? This might be denigrating to the partner, especially in a first communication. We task-oriented Americans often want to know immediately what we can do to “help”. But the rela-

tionship IS the help until we just get to know each other. Please, have respect for the fact that your covenant partner has much to offer you also, but that develops in the relationship.

Please do NOT ask, “Did you receive my \$900.” Since funds are disbursed in a collaboration between the pastor, the District Superintendent and the Council on Ministries Director, they do not go to the church in a lump sum. We have found some pastors who have had their entire house renovated not knowing it was from Missouri covenant funds.

DO ask how you can pray for your covenant partner.

Building a relationship is not easy. Building a new relationship with respect, being sensitive to cultural differences, and perceived differences in power, is work. You will need to work at communication.

Can I ever visit my covenant partner?

Yes, making arrangements through *The Mozambique Initiative* coordinator Carol Kreamer and the Missouri Conference VIM office. It is a doable venture to visit your covenant partner but takes a lot of work. Contact the *Mozambique Initiative* Coordinator to learn more.

THE MOZAMBIQUE INITIATIVE
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Eureka, MO 63025-0754
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Email: cpkreamer@hughes.net
Website: www.moumethodist.org/mi

Pray for your covenant partner church and pastor by name!

Put your covenant partner's church name, pastor name, and any family member names as you learn them on your personal or your congregation's prayer list. Your prayers are a coveted gift!

Mozambique Initiative VIM Opportunities

Visiting your covenant partner is an excellent way to build a relationship and is a doable venture. Share information and make new friends. Travel the country and learn the context in which your covenant partner exists as a United Methodist Church. Be inspired by worshiping in the spirit of Africa. Give yourself in offering. Contact the coordinator of *The Mozambique Initiative* to learn more.

M. I. V. I. M. Opportunities

V. I. M. to Mozambique

Contact:
Missouri VIM Coordinator: Audrey Phelps (phelps@umocm) 573-474-7155

M.I. VIM Leader: Evelyn Rogers (rogerses@missouri.edu)
Chicuque Rural Hospital Leader: Tom Mitchell (tomm8132@aol.com)
Habitat for Humanity International Leader: Steve Solomon (srsolo@iland.net)
Mozambique VIM Coordinator: Joao Damiao (Muhale@rocketmail.com)

(Check with Mozambique Initiative office. (cpkreamer@hughes.net)

2010 M. I. Calendar

Mozambique VIM team leader training, Columbia

Fall 2010, Winter 2011

Mozambique Initiative Team Meetings, Columbia

Saturday, February 5, 2010
Saturday, September 11, 2009

Mozambique North Conference (Beira) 07/15/10

World AIDS Day
December 1, 10

Mozambique South Conference (Maputo)

December 2010

Focus on Covenant Partners

Igreja Metodista Unida de Maxixe

Maxixe United Methodist Church started in 1991 by members of the Chicuque Parish who felt the distance from Maxixe to Chicuque was getting to long to travel. They saw the need for a church in the area. Maxixe is a coastal city, not far from the city of Inhambane, and the parish covers a large geographical area. It is a typical urban setting where the economy depends mostly on commerce and fishing.

The first United Methodist church in Maxixe was built of local materials. There were only a few wooden benches. Most members who live close by brought chairs. Others used mats to sit on the floor. For Sunday worship it is packed with no room to spare. A new concrete block church has been constructed and now has a zinc (corrugated metal) roof. It is large enough for 1,000 people.

The parsonage is on the property and is just a few meters from the sanctuary. This pastor's home is medium sized and made of local materials (sticks, reeds and thatch) but it does have a zinc roof.

The current membership is around 1,087 people. It includes four local churches and fourteen class meetings. The pastor is Rev. Hortencia Langa Bacela. Church attendance averages around 400. The numbers are expected to grow as they complete their wonderful worship facility. The language of worship, as in many southern Mozambique churches, is the native language of Xitswa (pronounced sheet-swa).

Maxixe is a city with a primary and secondary school and a hospital. On the church property there is a small cistem used for construction. Drinking water is not available on the church property and they must buy water. There are plans to update the Maxixe city water system that will provide a reliable source for good drinking water.

The goals of this growing church are to finish the church building, to have new furniture for the building, and to build a new block home for the pastor. One of the priorities is to establish a nursery (crèche) for the many children of the church and neighborhood.

Pastor Hortencia Langa writes to sister church, First UMC of Warrensburg, "Remember, we always have you in every prayer". God is indeed good...all the time.

T-3 UMC Sample Letter to partner, Centralia UMC (Maputo, March 2004):

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ in Missouri,

It is with great happiness that we are taking this opportunity to communicate with you, hoping that you will have a peaceful 2004.

The situation of our parsonage is quite animated, despite the innumerable constraints we are facing, mainly in this phase of implantation of a system of conditions for an appropriate functioning of our charge.

We are spiritually and numerically growing and at the moment our parish is comprised of 4 local churches with 11 class meetings. Our membership is now of 639 people.

Within this number the majority is represented by housewives who do not have any profitable activity; and children and youth who go to school. We are glad that this latter group of youth and young adults are the guarantee of the continuity of the ministry.

We are divided into societies or organizations which occasionally meet in sessions of studies, enabling us to continue with God's work with certain security, promoting workshops, debates and bible lessons, dealing with specific themes of each age group, as well as the realization of social and humanitarian activities in general. We have to mention that women society is busy with adult education classes in the range of combat of illiteracy.

Members of this congregation are quite active and just last year were able to contribute \$5,000.00 which was added to the amount from Missouri to purchase the land where the chapel is under construction, as the picture illustrates, and I am sure you received other photos our Initiative representative sent to you when he visited us.

We have begun to commit ourselves to the tenth part (tithes) contribution this year and this helps us in the church growth. ...We are increasing our contributions on weekly basis. It is said that "bit by bit we getting there". We are now in the foundation phase of our chapel. We just finalized getting license registration for the building. God of love will help us find additional means for the building of His temple.

Finally, we still observe with great consternation the death of our beloved pastor Rev. Joaquim Garine, who died last Dec. 28, after a long disease. Thanks for your prayers because we are sure God is with him. May he rest in peace. We are still crying trusting in Jesus Christ our redemption and savior. May God our celestial father fill you with happiness in your daily activities.

Casimiro Alberto Matsinhe, President of administrative committee- T-3 UMC