



RIVONI NEWS

Rivoni Ministries Newsletter Nr. 86 – June 2024

LETTER FROM FRANCOIS

The life the Lord gave us is not without its challenges, but when we look up at the One who gave us this new Life and this Everlasting Hope, we know! We are sure! We Believe! Because the One who gave it to us cannot Lie and will not Lie to us!

(4) Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.

(5) Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them.

(6) Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools.

(7) They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.

(12) O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

(Psa 84:4-7,12; BBE Translation)

As we reach the halfway mark of this year, we can only say **“God is Good! All the Time!”** And Ps 84 v 10 says **“For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand (elsewhere). I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.”**

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I was able to spend some time in Mozambique with our team at the end of February and to attend one of our graduations at Manjange. Our ministry is blessed by the faithful giving of the few souls who support our work in Mozambique. However, the poor exchange rate of the South African Rand compared to the Mozambican Meticaais, still has the value our donations to Rivoni Mozambique close to 50% less of what we previously were able to donate. This impacts many of our activities, including delayed graduations, etc.

Brother Nelson shares more with you all that the Lord is doing with him and the team in Mozambique and what challenges they come across, where they are continually working to build and add souls to the House of the Lord!

May God Bless You! Enjoy!

Francois

1 LETTER FROM BROTHER NELSON

Report From Br. Nelson



Isaiah 43:1-2, But now thus says the Lord who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name. You are Mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be without you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned, nor the flames set you ablaze.

In recent days we have witnessed cases of great chaos around the world, facts that have affected us directly or indirectly. Many activities are paralyzed, economies are deteriorating day by day, things are getting worse, new outbreaks of dangerous diseases are announced in every corner. Life in this world has become uncertain, even for the strongest! This becomes very evident if we see the way in which each world power is preparing itself militarily, even having large weapons pointed at several other rival powers.

It can be said that they live in suspicion of others, that they could be surprised at any moment.

Even Christians are not exempt from these events around the world; we suffer just like everyone else around us. It's very easy to waver or be overwhelmed by despair and the uncertainty of a better tomorrow than today. This kind of thinking is true of anyone, regardless of who they are, their position or their financial status.

It was at times like these that the Lord addressed the words quoted above to Israel captive in Babylon.

Israel, felt abandoned by God, just as any of us feel when faced with situations of distress and displeasure. In such situations, it is common for someone to lose heart and stop fighting, to become discouraged in every way; Israel felt that way, as if it had been abandoned. It had lost hope of one day returning to be a prosperous nation as it had been before the Babylonian captivity. This is evident by the fact that many Israelites did not return to Jerusalem, even after the decrees of the monarchs of the empires that succeeded the Babylonian empire, bearing in mind that there were three opportunities to return from captivity, starting with Zerubbabel, and culminating with Nehemiah, but they remained.

In this passage from Isaiah, God comes to tell Israel that he cares about them, and that he has never abandoned them. He has always been present and continues to be present in their daily lives, even in difficult situations He is there to take care of them by helping them to face every kind of challenge (waters, rivers with their currents, fire with its flames).

Beloved, this current situation we are facing is not the end, says the Lord. Times of rejoicing and jubilation are to come, not only in heaven, as many think and speak, but here in this life as well!

This is because we belong to Him! We are His, by right, and He will never abandon what is His.

Since our previous letter, we have been through a lot in our mission.

We have faced many challenges, a few of which I will mention:

- Financial instability, where we have been forced to cut our monthly budget to what we have available in the account, in order to meet our daily and professional needs;
- The lack of transportation for over a year now, which has made it difficult to move materials and work tools to the different points where our brothers do their work;
- The deterioration of the buildings in our brothers' residences in the districts, as well as the infrastructure at the national headquarters, due to the lack of funds to maintain them;

- The lack of proper places to house our brothers in their new jobs, such as Massangena and Xikwaxane, where brothers Américo Uthui and Titos Chauque are working, respectively;
- The health issue that has continually plagued us in general, but in particular my wife, who has been suffering from cervical cancer for almost a year now.

As you can see, it's nothing different from what's been happening to other people around the world, and it's not a small thing to ignore either. In situations like these many succumb, but we praise the Presence of the Lord Jesus in us as a team, because every day we gain inspiration from the Holy scriptures, which encourages us to carry on even though we suffer like the majority. Isaiah's passage is a staff of support for each of us who are on a pilgrimage towards eternity, in the midst of different obstacles to face.

Beloved, let us remain steadfast even in the midst of the adversity of daily life, because the path to victory passes through the waters, the currents of the rivers, as well as through the intense fire, knowing that the Lord is with us.

Blessings
Nelson and team
RMM

2 JOÃO DZIMBA

By Br. Nelson

Allow me to share with you a short testimony of a student attending our classes in Machaila, coming from the Catholic Church. After a class session, he took the floor and said:

“My name is João Dzimba, I'm a community animator in the Catholic church in Machaila. I've been in the church from a very young age, and to this day I am still a church member. I've had the opportunity to learn a lot about religion, to the point that I consider myself as someone who understands almost everything about God. This has made me somewhat ignorant towards other denominations. Even being part of this class was not easy for me. As many of you know, we Catholics do not attend Bible schools belonging to other denominations because we are orthodox conservatives. But something pulled me here, and I don't regret coming, because I found something very special in this place. My mind found clarification in terms of understanding the scriptures, especially with regard to the person of Jesus Christ as God-man

I consider myself as someone who understands almost everything about God. This has made me somewhat ignorant..

and his implication for humanity. I dare say that I found precious treasures while learning. I believe

that as I continue to learn, many other things will become clear to me, which I will benefit from. For this, I thank God, for bringing me to this class. I also thank our teacher, who has used every possible means to explain the Word clearly to us.”



Photo 1 : João Dzimba giving testimony;

Joao is attending Bible studies for the first time outside his mother's faith (orthodox Catholic) and is already seeing many wonders in his life. He is taking the first year of our courses.

Another student in the same class, from the Zion sect and with many rituals including veneration of ancestors and divination, surprised the class by his change in the way he worships. Since he heard about faith in Jesus as his only Savior and without mixing it up with rituals or worshipping the dead, he has adopted a new identity in Christ. Being young and only in the first year of his Biblical training, this gives us hope that by the end of the course many changes will have taken place in his life, for the glory of the Sovereign God.

Despite all the challenges that we face, as I mentioned previously, testimonies like these serve as motivation to continue because our work has had effect wherever we go, and with that we give glory to the Most High God and our Lord Jesus Christ, because in many ways He has assured us that He is always present in every sphere of our lives.

3 OVERVIEW OF OUR OPERATIONS SINCE JANUARY 2024

By Br. Nelson

The year started off slow in January and continued so till to mid-February due to the school break at the end of the year, which is a very busy time for people. Many of them go on vacation at this time and take the opportunity to travel or visit family members in other provinces or regions. Since the majority of our students are still of school age, their participation in the early days of the year was limited but these challenges have been overcome over time and the pace is now well adjusted.



Photo 2: Graduations at Manjangue while brother Francois visited Mozambique.

Some graduations that were scheduled for the first months of 2024 have been postponed to future dates due to a lack of money to carry them out. We have been involved in a series of examinations in Manjange and Massingir, waiting for confirmation of dates for the respective graduations. In the meantime, we have already scheduled graduations for Chokwe and Chibuto for the month of July and the first week of August.

The dates for the graduations in Mabalane and Combomune have not yet been confirmed. We hope to do this soon.

According to the district superintendent in his last report, Mapai and Machaila have informed us that they will not be graduating now because they want to do a coordinated graduation with the others.

Chicualacuala and Massangena have not yet decided on a suitable date for their graduations this year.

While we wait for the Lord to grant us a miracle in getting the money to build a place of his own in Massangena, we have found a room for Brother Uthui as temporary accommodation there. Massangena borders the province of



Photo 3: Early graduations this year, at the place 25th September

Manica to the north of Gaza, so we see it as a strategic point for the expansion of our work to the centre and north of the country. We are counting on your support, whether in prayers, visits or further encouragement.

It is hoped that the graduations in Chibuto will be followed by those in Xikwaxane and Nalaze, where Brother Titus is currently working. In the past we have done this in collaboration with Ndhindiza, since they are located along the same route.

In Chinhacanine, we are also waiting for confirmation of the dates for the graduations of Mpelane and Ndonga respectively. Their graduation ceremony was scheduled but had been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.

The rising price of Internet connection services and other communications in general, not to mention the poor connection itself, which takes time or even days to send certain information to the cloud or another entity is a real problem. The same amount of data that we used to buy for a thousand meticaís, now costs two and a half thousand meticaís, making it difficult to carry out a lot of pending work.

As I said at the beginning of this report, things aren't easy at all and they're getting worse by the day. I'm not even talking about how difficult it is to buy basic necessities, but we trust in the Lord that the situation will soon turn out for the best.

Having said that, I'll end this report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you from the bottom of my heart, on behalf of all the brothers and sisters who are with me, for all the support we have received from the various individuals, whether individual or collectives.

May our good God multiply everything they have given so that they have twice as much, so that they never lack anything.

To God are all the glory and the entire honour for ever and ever.

Be blessed!

RMM

4 MOZAMBIQUE TITBITS

By Br. Nelson

4.1 PASSING AWAY OF PASTOR PEDRO CHICATLO CHAUQUE

Some of our students in Chicualacuala, Massingir, Chokwe, and Manjangue left for Glory during the month of December and in the first months of this year as a result of long periods of illness.

In Chinhacanine, one of the Rivoni Ministries Mozambique Council members, Pastor Pedro Chicatlo Chauque, also left for glory in April as the result of a traffic accident.

Pastor Chauque was an elderly gentleman, and with his tall, thin stature, grey hair and kind eyes, he was one of those leaders that represented Christlikeness in Love. He was soft spoken, with a firm faith in his Lord and Savior. As a ministry and on a personal level, we will miss the presence of that kind older man. It was our privilege to know him as a friend of the mission.

5 UPCOMING TRIPS

We envisage at least two trips from Pretoria to Rivoni HQ in Mozambique in 2024 and would love for you to join us on a trip. Duration of trips vary, and exact dates are determined later. Please contact Francois if you are interested in joining us on a visit to our staff and students. They truly appreciate our support in visiting and encouraging them!



Information:

UPCOMING TRIPS TO MOZAMBIQUE

There are frequent trips going to Mozambique and our staff would love to welcome you there. Please contact me if you would like to go at francois@rivoni.org.

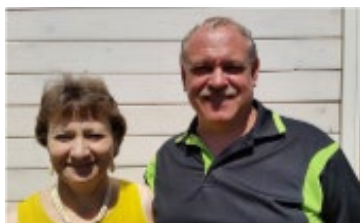
MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thank you for what you give to this mission. To some anonymous contributors, may God who sees in the secret reward you in public. Our staff and I are indebted to all of you who are giving so faithfully every month to continue this work.

God Bless You!

In the love of Christ,

Francois and Dorathea Du Plessis



News & Information:

NEWSLETTERS: We aim to send the Rivoni Newsletters quarterly.

RIVONI FORUM: We have created a WhatsApp group with the Name, Rivoni Forum, where some of our staff and other supporters of the mission can interact, and share news, photos or videos. We would love to welcome you there. Please contact me if you would like to join.

To Donate:

ABSA Bank,
Pretoria North (Branch code 632005),
Rivoni Ministries,
Cheque Acc : 4069 088 653

RIVONI BROADCAST MESSAGES:

For those who pray with us for events as they happen, we use WhatsApp to send the Rivoni Broadcast Messages. These messages appear as if sent to you in person on your WhatsApp App on your cellphone and all replies are to Francois in person and is not seen by any others to avoid message overload on the group.

***From the rising of the sun to its going down the Lord's name is to be praised.
Psalm 113:3 (NKJV)***