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MENSAGEIRO LUTERANO



Igreja de Moçambique ordena 15 novos pastores

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CHURCH IN MOZAMBIQUE ORDAINS 15 NEW PASTORS

ANDRÉ PLAMER

Pastor in Macapá, AP - Brazil
Missionary and coordinator of the Theological Education
Program in Mozambique

When the first eight pastors, trained for the Concordia Christian Church in Mozambique (ICCM) graduated, the journey of another class also began. In 2021, December 12, was a very special moment for the life of ICCM: it was the graduation day for 15 new pastors. If in 2015 we had only ten congregations and around one thousand baptized members, in 2021, six years later, thanks to the Good Lord, we had 120 congregations and 42 thousand baptized members, according to the latest statistics. There were and there are huge challenges but added to God's rich and endless blessings, the challenges seem smaller than they really are. God has been working powerfully in Mozambique, through the preaching

of the Word and the Lutheran model of living the faith, under God's grace.

The newly ordained pastors have had a continuous formation process of theological studies and orientation guided by Pastors Carlos W. Winterle and André B. Plamer, who encouraged them, through theory and practical examples, how it is necessary to always place one's hope in God's grace. As a result, the students from the very beginning of their studies were already helping the ordained pastors to spread the gospel. Many completely took already over pastoral duties in their own congregations during their training. Today we even have a Lutheran church in Maputo, the capital city, which is more than 1,500 kilometers away from the church headquarters. Great challenges!

Yes! "Mozambique - Fertile ground for the Gospel!" This expression was the subject of my first article for the Mensageiro Luterano, in the January and February 2014 issues, as an account of my first trip to Mozambique in 2013. I was delighted with the reception of God's Word, and in sharing my joy with the readers of the Lutheran Messenger, I used the title, "Mozambique - Fertile Ground for the Gospel." Time has shown that God rejoices with the African people, doing great work. Time has also shown that many brothers and sisters around the world have been richly blessed and, thankful to God, have been supporting this work. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (IELB) and in the partner churches and Mission Societies, we have seen great involvement

and commitment to support this mission. People have been awakened, and many, besides their offerings in the local congregations, have supported the mission in Mozambique. Our sincere gratitude! Psalm 133.1 already reminds us: "How good and pleasant it is for God's people to live together as brothers and sisters!"

The IELB, also through the Concordia Seminary in Brazil, has supported this work. The partnership with ICCM has borne much fruit. We praise God for this. Mozambique is the mission work of the Lutheran Church that has been the most expressive and visible work in the world today. God is accomplishing the salvation of a people through preaching and living based on the Word. The preaching has been warmly welcomed, and many places are receiving well the gospel.

ORDINATION

The year 2021 was different for all of us. Because of COVID-19, it was not possible to have the presence of Brazilian pastors in Mozambique, due to visa difficulties. The vice-president of Teaching of the IELB, pastor Joel Müller, professor Leonídio S. Görl, coordinator of the Theological Education by Extension of the Concordia Seminary, and pastor André B. Plamer, missionary and coordinator of the Theological Education Program in Mozambique, were expected to go to the ordination. But unfortunately, the trip had to be postponed, and we hope it will be possible in 2022. However, in this very important moment for the ICCM, we count on the support of pastor Davis Robert Wowa - president of the Confessional Lutheran Church-Malawi Synod, as a representative of the IELB. We thank God for this support from Pastor Wowa. May the Good Lord continue to bless him.

With the presence of local authorities and guests, the ordination ceremony was held for 15 new pastors who were delivered to the ICCM. All were assigned to their respective congregations, as follows:



**ABEL DOMINGOS
LIMPEZA SIFA**

The ICCM delivers the present regular call to Rev. Abel Domingos Limpeza Sifa to be pastor and spiritual guide with St. Zacchaeus Lutheran Congregation of Tchola, Vila de Sena. He is married to Graça Artur Lapissoni, and the couple is blessed with four children.



**ANTONIO SEBASTIÃO
MESA**

The ICCM has given call as assistant pastor to Rev. Antonio Sebastião Mesa, to be pastor and spiritual guide with São Lucas Lutheran Congregation, Murrema, Vila de Sena. He is married to Anita Casimiro Vasco, and the couple is blessed with one child.



**CHICO JANUÁRIO
CAMPIRA**

The ICCM has given call as assistant pastor to Rev. Chico Januário Campira, to be pastor and spiritual guide with St. Zacchaeus Lutheran Congregation of Tchola, Vila de Sena. He is married to Marta João, and the couple is blessed with five children.



**DEVESSE JAIROCE
FIANDA**

The ICCM has given call as assistant pastor to Rev. Devesse Jairoce Fianda, to be pastor and spiritual guide with St. Mark's Lutheran Congregation, Kapasseni, Sena Village. He is married to Emilia Braz Wilson, and the couple is blessed with three children.



EUFRÁSIO JOSÉ DAIO

The ICCM has given call as assistant pastor to Rev. Eufrásio José Daio, to be pastor and spiritual guide with St.

Peter's Lutheran Congregation, Chemba. He is married to Argentina Barro Nhamitambo, and the couple is blessed with three children.



**FERNANDO SEVA
MIQUISSENE**

ICCM has given call as assistant pastor to Rev. Fernando Seva Miquissene, to be pastor and spiritual guide with St. Joshua Lutheran Congregation, Zambezi, Vila de Sena. He is married to Maria do Céu Faria Jacinto Quembo, and the couple is blessed with nine children.



**GRACIANO MILIASSE
MUANDIONALERO**

The ICCM has given call as assistant pastor to Rev. Graciano Miliasse Muandionalero, to be pastor and spiritual guide with St. Timothy's Lutheran Congregation, Três de Fevereiro, Chemba. He is married to Maria das Dores Gabriel Tchapo, and the couple is blessed with ten children.



**HORÁCIO RUI
JALENE SOUSA**

The ICCM has given M married to Belinha Braz Njala, and the couple is blessed with three children.



**MANECA JEMUSSE
FURQUIA**

The ICCM has given call as assistant-pastor to Rev. Maneca Jemusse Furquia, to be pastor and spiritual guide with St. Luke's Lutheran Congregation, Murrema, Vila de Sena. He is married to Tereza Braz Wilson, and the couple is blessed with five children.



MANUEL AVELINO VERISSIMO

The ICCM has given regular call to Rev. Manuel Avelino Verissimo, to be pastor and spiritual guide with the St. John Lutheran Congregation, of Nhamichindo, Chemba. He is married to Dolica Marito Domingos, and the couple is blessed with three children.



NITO JAIME MOURINHO

The ICCM has given called as assistant pastor to Rev. Nito Jaime Mourinho Waeme Aguaxeiro, to be pastor and spiritual guide with the Lutheran Congregation St. Paul, Vila de Sena. He is married to Josefa Geraldo.



ARMANDO CAITANO CHUVA

The ICCM has given regular call to Rev. Armando Caitano Chuva, to be pastor and spiritual guide with the Lutheran Congregation of M'bweza. He is married to Eva Nito Novaz, and the couple is blessed with three children.



FELICIANO JOSE FILIPE CAMPIRA

The ICCM has given call as assistant pastor to Rev. Feliciano Jose Filipe Campira, to be pastor and spiritual guide with the St. Matthew Lutheran Congregation, Mpango, Vila de Sena. He is married to Celestina José Camangira, and the couple is blessed with six children.



JACOBE ESTEFANO LENCASTRE

The ICCM has given regular call to Rev. Jacobo Estefano Lencastre, to be pastor and

spiritual guide with St. Timothy's Lutheran Congregation, Trêz de Fevereiro, Chemba. He is married to Ricca Simão Januário, and the couple is blessed with two children.



CHADRIQUE ALBANO MANUEL

The ICCM has given call as assistant pastor to Rev. Chadrique Albano Manuel, to be pastor and spiritual guide with St. Paul Lutheran Congregation, Vila de Sena. He is married to Eva Albano Januário, and the couple is blessed with three children.

NATIONAL BOARD ELECTION

After the ordination ceremony of the new pastors, the church leaders gathered for its 2nd National Convention, to elect the new National Board of Directors of the Concordia Christian Church in Mozambique. The following were elected: President: Rev. João Luis Nota; Vice-president: Rev. Manuel Jone Jambo; General Secretary: Rev. Abel Domingos Limpeza Sifa; Treasurer: Rev. Rui Jalene Sousa; Pastors' Counselor: Rev. Paulo Ernesto Minesses (in Mozambique, the function of Pastors' Counselor is part of the requirements of the country's constitution for a registered church, as is the case of ICCM).

CHALLENGES

The challenges are enormous in a country that was devastated by civil war and still has not overcome misery, and is often ravaged by cyclones that devastate and cause the death of several people due famine and disease. Mozambique currently has 21 ordained pastors, and we hope that in the years to come this number can increase, because many of the country's 30 million inhabitants still do not know the Word of God. Also, in just a few years, thousands of people - men, women, and children - have

lost their lives, many being beheaded in public squares, because of religious persecution caused by Islamic extremists in the north of the country. All those who do not want to follow the rule of Islam are persecuted or killed. This situation has not yet reached our brothers, and we ask you to pray for deliverance. There is much suffering, but we believe and pray that the Good Lord will allow the persecutors to repent and preserve the lives of the innocent.

In the midst of all these events is the Concordia Lutheran Church in Mozambique. The work and desire to save the people in Mozambique comes from God, who is kind, and His mercy is renewed with every dawn. The brethren of the ICCM "are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory." (1 Thess 2.10-12). Yes, we ask you to continue praying and, if possible, donating to support this ministry in Mozambique, which is working on well-defined fronts today, with theological training, and aims to continue with the support of Concordia Seminary in São Leopoldo. We want to educate as many pastors as necessary so that the Lord's harvest is well cultivated, and God, in His time, will gather its fruits for the eternal kingdom.

The Agro-Lutero project, which aims to create groups and improve the food quality of the church's families and their communities, generating dignity for Christians and social cooperation, has also been an incessant work. Also, the Dorcas project, through which the women of the church are sewing clothes for themselves and also for sale as a source of income. The youth are engaged in making bricks to support people in



need in building houses. Another important point and a reason to praise God is that brick churches are being built, and these reinforce the feeling of solidity of the presence of the preaching of the Word. Great things the Lord Jesus is doing in Mozambique! Seeing these wonders that have taken place and that continue to happen, in which people, thanks to God, spare no effort to go and hear the Word, we can say with Simeon, according to Luke 2:29-32: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace."

For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

What I would still like to encourage, dear readers, is that individually or collectively, through friends or church departments, consider with affection to be partners in prayers and also with offerings for Mozambique. Read at the end of this article how to send your donation.

My dear brothers and sisters, Mozambique is geographically far from us, but very close and in our hearts. And together, Brazil and Mozambique,



we are embraced by the Lord Jesus Himself. Unfortunately, as we have already pointed out, the pandemic caused a series of separations in our lives, also preventing us from going to Mozambique; but we say as the apostle Paul did, in 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20: "But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort

to see you. For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way. For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy." May the gracious God continue to support and sustain us and His church in Mozambique and in all the places where his sweet Word is preached. Amen!



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com a identificação “Moçambique”,
para uma das seguintes contas abaixo.
Mande também um e-mail para
tesouraria@ielb.org.br comunicando o
destino da oferta, e peço que copiem
a mim (cwwinterle@gmail.com) ou ao
pastor André (andreplamer@gmail.
com) para podermos agradecer e
fazer contato regularmente, relatando
da situação em Moçambique. Desde
já agradecemos sua colaboração.

PIX da IELB: 92.990.092/0001-12

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