



## IGREJA CRISTÃ DA CONCÓRDIA EM MOÇAMBIQUE

*“Jesus Cristo é o mesmo, ontem, hoje, e eternamente.” (Hebreus 13.8)*

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### **Mozambique Newsletter DECEMBER 2022**

#### **EDITORIAL**

Carlos Walter Winterle

Another year is coming to an end. Another year in which we feel the strong hand of God over all of us, guarding and protecting us, preserving us in his grace and faith in Jesus Christ, and blessing His Word through the work of His church.



Mozambique also has many reasons to thank God for another year. Besides the graduation of new pastors that took place in the first semester, God spared the country from cyclones and drought this year. The

harvests were satisfactory and the projects developed by the church are going on.

The transition program of the coordination is going on smoothly. There are many details to be solved. The most important thing is that the Word of God continues to be preached with faithfulness and the people of God meet regularly to praise God, to offer their prayers and to be instructed by the Word. Administrative details need to be settled.

This is the last Newsletter under my responsibility. Starting next year, the Newsletter will be the responsibility of the Project Coordinator of the IELB. I will always be available to collaborate. It was always a joy for me to be able to share the countless blessings poured out by God over his people in Mozambique. It was hard to select what was most important from the several news and photos received from there. With the ease of contact through WhatsApp, almost weekly we receive photos and videos of services and trips made to preach the Gospel. We see a living church that rejoices in gathering around the Word and the Sacraments.

May the articles and news in this Newsletter motivate many to make a

special year-end offering to Mozambique. Include this mission in your Christmas gift list. Promote events in your family and church to talk about Mozambique and raise funds. Put Mozambique in your church's budget for 2023.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year, always in the presence of Jesus.

## **NEW COORDINATOR**

Carlos Walter Winterle

It is time to pass the torch. Involved with the work in Mozambique since 2007, with the love of a father for his children, we have already started this year, 2022, with the transition of the coordination. Due to health issues, I am no longer able to travel there. But I will continue to be available to the partner churches in this mission for whatever I can do. As far as possible, I will accept invitations to speak about God's mission in Mozambique, helping to obtain resources for the various projects in progress.



The new coordinator is Pastor Airton S. Schroeder, vice-president of Social Action of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil – IELB. He is responsible for the projects of the IELB. Pastor Airton has been following the work in Mozambique since 2014 due to his position and intends to go there next year to get to know the local reality. He will be accompanied by pastor André B. Plamer, who knows the church in Mozambique well.

The financial support system remains the same. Donations from Brazil should also be copied to Pastor Airton ([airton@ielb.org.br](mailto:airton@ielb.org.br)) The account numbers to send donations to are at the end of this newsletter. The needs grow in Mozambique as the church grows. God has greatly blessed the preaching of the Word and called many to faith in Jesus Christ. Pastors, TEE students, and lay leaders work tirelessly to serve their respective congregations and the new places that cry out for care. At the same time, they all have to work to support their families, as the congregations cannot afford to pay their pastors a salary.

The ongoing projects are growing and making some extra income possible for the participants. As resources become available, the projects are

multiplying in other locations. Be sure to support this wonderful work that is happening in Mozambique. God still has many people that He wants to call out of darkness into His wonderful light. We thank God for the support and affection always received, we praise God for his mercy and love in leading us to this work, and we wish God's blessing to the new Coordinator, Pastor Airton.



## **TRANSITION**

Carlos Walter Winterle

*During this period of transition of the Coordination of the works in Mozambique, the ICCM General Secretary, Rev. Abel D. Sifa, sent the following e-mail to the new IELB Coordinator and responsible for the projects abroad, Rev. Airton S. Schroeder, presenting the church and its challenges:*

Good afternoon Rev. Airton S. Schroeder, I hope all is well with your family and ministry by the grace of God in Christ Jesus, our Savior.

I want to thank you very much for the official letter that the Board of Directors of the IELB sent to the Board of Directors of the ICCM about the coordination of the work in cooperation with the ICCM in Mozambique. I also want to congratulate Pastor Leonídio for accepting the challenge of being the Coordinator of ETE, serving God in Christ Jesus in the African continent.

I inform that the ICCM at this moment serves 139 Lutheran churches in five provinces (states): Sofala, Tete, Manica, Zambezia and Maputo. These churches are assisted by 5 national board members, 15 department members, 22 ordained pastors, 37 future pastors and 139 lay leaders. We have more than nine thousand families, corresponding to more than 44 thousand members (children, youth and adults).

Pastor Coordinator, I want to remind you that Mozambique is located on the east coast of Africa, which suffered a Portuguese colonization for 500 years, followed by civil war for 16 years. Periodic military conflicts are

perpetuated in an isolated and interspersed way in the center of the country (where our church has a greater influence) and also in the north. This is the major cause that has led the country to enormous mental poverty, which is the basis of economic vulnerability in the lives of most of the people, especially those living in the rural areas, like us. We want to learn and to do, but we don't have how, where and with whom to learn. Furthermore, "an empty stomach does not help a fit mind"!!!  
Pastor-coordinator, I emphasize that during this five-year term, the new executive board of the ICCM intends to work very hard in the following areas of activities:

**1) Theological Education:** - The Theological Education provided by Concordia Seminary qualifies us as pastors and teachers able to impart the biblical and theological knowledge that leads people to Christ in order to be saved. This includes scholarships abroad and meetings to exchange experiences with the executive boards of our partners.



Small Catechism by themselves.

a) To create Christian education centers on a national level to prepare lay people who lead worship in their churches and also those who aspire to follow a pastoral vocation.

b) To provide basic education in Lutheran churches to the children so that they are able to read the Bible and Dr. Martin Luther's

**2) Organize and structure the ICCM** in the general sense, that is, from the legalization of the properties to the constitution of parishes and districts, the organization of leagues of men, women, youth, including the children's department (Sunday school).

**3) Continuation of current social projects** (building of the churches, AGRO-LUTERO, Dorcas and Lutheran Heritage Foundation) and future ones: Micro professional; help for orphaned and vulnerable children; sustainable insurance for board members and ordained pastors; and internal missions.

These plans will only become visible when the mission coordinating pastor to Mozambique is able to set aside time daily, without waiting for appointments, to pray, to communicate with using, to appreciate and interact with partners, forgive, and have the patience to teach, if possible in a practical, face-to-face manner.

According to the statement of Rev. André Plamer: "**Mozambique is a fertile land for the Gospel**"; of course, this is true. But, on the other hand, it is almost impossible to human eyes to complement this statement, because we have no practical knowledge due to the insufficient exchange of experiences with our partners who help us to walk in Christ.

Pastor coordinator, attending and considering that we are in the phase of coordinative transition, there are some worries that are running over my head. For this reason, I ask you to calm my spirits and clarify the functionality of the following projects, regarding the model of obtaining resources, execution and accountability of the following activities:

- 1) Translation, supported by the Lutheran Heritage Foundation;
- 2) Agro-Lutero;
- 3) Dorcas: - sewing project run by the mothers and
- 4) Financial support for the administration of the ICCM board.

Thank you in advance.

Rev. Abel Sifa

**In response, the new Coordinator sent the following e-mail:**

Thank you for the letter. I will quickly answer a few questions.

As Vice-President of the IELB, I am also coordinator of the IELB projects, and therefore I have been following this project since 2014. I have been coordinating the Angola project effectively for several years and since the beginning of this year the coordination of the Mozambique project is officially under my responsibility.

Coordinating means to work together with others. It is not to decide alone.

Thus, some attributions will be assumed with more propriety as we are dialoguing.

All ongoing projects and resources that have not yet been accounted for will have to be executed and reported on. The reports must be sent to me and analyzed by me and the IELB board, and passed on to Dr. Winterle and Pr. Plamer for analysis and opinion.

I want to remind you that only the coordinator has changed. The partner church has not changed. In a church, people pass on. In the ICCM, the contact people for the IELB have changed several times since the beginning of the partnership. In the IELB, we have changed presidents a few times in this period.

People leave marks and build stories.

In this sense, history is not being erased, but the baton is being passed to another hand.

Now we are going to establish our way of acting together. I believe that some protocols will have to be undertaken jointly.

Our God is the same. He wrote history through your leaders and ours.

Now, in the recent past, God has written a beautiful history involving Pastors Winterle and Plamer, and He will continue to bless His church in Mozambique and in Brazil.

Pastor Airton S. Schroeder

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### Guidione



Pastors Abel Sifa and Remos Joni Fani were welcomed with songs and dances by the Lutheran Church of Guidione, Gondola District, Manica Province. The song chanted in Chiutê language, translated into Portuguese, is: "Let us welcome with joy those who bring the Word of the Lord".

Pastor Joni invited Pastor Abel to celebrate together with him the service at the Lutheran Church of Guidione. It was a blessed service where pastor Abel shared God's word from the Gospel of Luke 11.1-13. There was also a teaching about the correct understanding of offering. And Pastor Joni administered the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We inform you that the brothers of that community are preparing the material for the construction of their chapel.



### Saint Zacchaeus - Baptism of Peter

That Sunday was a very special day for the Acácio Marcelo family. The family invited the whole "São Zaqueu" Church from Tchola - Sena to their house to have a thanksgiving service for the

arrival of another member in the family. The newborn has the name of Pedro Acácio and received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism that day. The members of the church brought gifts to the newborn. It was a very good and wonderful service of thanksgiving to God for the child and his baptism. The church praises God for this blessed service.

### **Chimoio**



ICCM President Pastor Rev. João Luis Nota visited on Sunday, June 26, 2022, Pastor Remos Joni, recently accepted by colloquium and ordained. Pastor Nota helped administer the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Holy Supper. This

took place at the Lutheran Church "Christ for All" in the city of Chimoio, Manica province.

### **Reformation Celebration**

Several congregations celebrated worship on Reformation Day, October 31, Monday, thanking God for the truth restored by Dr. Martin



Luther. The text of the messages was John 8:32: "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." The congregation "St. Zacchaeus" after the service showed the movie "Luther" - something unheard of for many people. The zeal of the pastors and leaders of ICCM to preserve the truth of justification by faith is very great. The converts know perfectly well the slavery they lived in before, tormented by the spirits of ancestors, or threatened by false leaders of Pentecostal churches, and how the Gospel freed them and gave them joy and hope in Jesus Christ.

### **Children**

Some pastors and future pastors are engaged in working with children very much. Bible stories are the theme of every meeting with the children, showing them the love of God the Father, Creator and Sustainer, the love of Jesus, our Savior, and the love of the



Holy Spirit, who calls us to faith and accompanies us in our Christian life. Pastor Chadreque has a ministry with children in which he tutors them so that they can learn to read and write well. Teaching material is needed. Bible story posters have already been donated in previous years, but the need is growing, as the number of children in the congregations is large. When resources allow, the children also receive a loaf of bread and a glass of juice.

## **ICCM'S AGRO-LUTERO OFFICIALLY COMPLETED TWO YEARS OF EXISTENCE**



Abel Sifa

It was on June 25, 2020 when the AGRO-LUTERO project was officially presented to the ICCM and it was decided that the date would serve as the official milestone of the beginning of this project. Therefore, the celebration of the group's second anniversary took place this year, with ICCM members engaged in preaching the gospel through agrarian activities.

The celebration was very good, as it was attended by all the guests, including members of the ICCM national board. Rev. João Luís Nota, the presiding pastor of ICCM, was the one who led the day's devotion. Rev. Abel Sifa was the speaker of the day, speaking about the importance of social work in the process of bringing people to Christ, based on 2 Thess 3:6-16. He also explained the history of AGRO-LUTERO, since he was the founder of the project.

Then there was a report from each representative of the agricultural production group, reporting and testifying about the impact of AGRO-



LUTERO in their family and church life. There was also talk about the charitable work that AGRO-LUTERO is doing in the church. Afterwards, there was a discussion about the agrarian development of this project, and the following difficulties were identified:



- 1) The need for a tractor to facilitate in farming, because the production areas are large and the hoes are not working out. Also the same tractor will facilitate the flow of the product to the place of sale or conservation.
- 2) Construction of a warehouse to store the seeds and the 30% product parcels collected for the project's fund.
- 3) Acquisition of a means of transport for monitoring the production sites.

In terms of challenges: AGRO-LUTERO has noted the priority of expanding the project to all the provinces where our church is operating, including the livestock activities, which we are still waiting for the green light. For this, we count on the support of our partners.

A special thanks goes to all our partners who support us in this very important task that helps the preaching of the gospel of Christ in Mozambique and in particular to the Lutheran mission in Germany and the Lutheran youth in the Paraná East district in Brazil.

## **THE MOTHERS' GROUP OF THE DORCAS PROJECT HELD THE CLOSURE OF THE YEAR MEETING**

Abel Sifa



It was for the first time during the two years of their sewing activities that the group held this type of event, "Closing of the year of Dorcas activities". The activities of the Dorcas project officially began on November 3, 2020.

For this closing celebration they invited the project coordinator (Rev. Sifa) to give a talk about the Dorcas project, since he was the founder of the project. The event started with a devotion shared by Pastor Rui Jalene Souza and was followed by the introduction of the project leaders (manager, vice-manager, secretary and treasurer). Then there was a lecture about the essence, objective and vision of the Dorcas project. The speaker used the biblical text from the book of Acts 9.36-40 to show those present the inspiration for the organization of this sewing group.

As this was the first event of its kind, 12 members of the Dorcas project and seven guests from the AGRO-LUTERO project participated.

In addition to thanking the donors and partners of the ICCM, who have helped so much in the realization of this work and presenting the statistics of the group's development, the difficulties the group is facing and future challenges were also presented.

As for the difficulties, the group presented the need for more sewing machines and materials, means of transportation to facilitate the sale of their products to other distant locations where the product is most needed, lack of adequate space to practice this activity, etc.



As challenges, they mentioned the expansion of the project to other provinces, where mothers from other provinces will become involved in this sewing activity in their churches; exchange of experiences with other groups of sewing mothers, preferably from our sister churches (if it is possible a visit from mothers from the Women Lutheran League of Brazil - LSLB or others), mobilizing other mothers to participate in the Dorcas project for next year, etc.

Finally, they acknowledged Reverend Winterle's family for embracing this initiative of the ICCM to help in the allocation of the first sewing machines. Also, they addressed their thanks to the donors who supported this project and asked them to continue their support so that the gospel of Christ can be expanded to all corners of the Mozambican territory through charitable works.

## **EXPANSION – MASSEQUECE**

Carlos Walter Winterle

*Many new churches are being formed. There is a lack of instruction and care by a pastor. As much as possible, the pastors are visiting the new churches, strengthening the faith of the believers with the preaching of the Word, instruction and counseling. We have here the report of pastor Abel from one of these new communities:*

It was a very special Sunday for the people of God of the Lutheran Church of Massequece in Lamego, Nhamatanda district. For the first time they were visited by an ordained pastor, who strengthened the members with the Word of God and administered the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Rev. Abel Sifa worked on Saturday with the Lutheran Church "Christ the King" in the administrative post of Mafambisse, Dondo District. The next day he went to the Massequece area in the rural area of Nhamatanda



district to share the word of God, together with the future pastor of that district, Mr. Romão Paulino Tazona. Mr. João Chupike, leader of the Lutheran Church "Amor de Deus" in Nhamatanda Vila, and the treasurer of the same church accompanied this visit! Also, two brothers from the city of Beira, from the Lutheran Church

"Jesus Salvador" joined them for this visit: Brother Antonio Quembo and Brother Choni.

We celebrated the service with a total attendance of 296 people, among children and teenagers, adults and seniors, of which 47 people received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.



The brothers in Massequece are very active and dynamic. They have already improvised a porch to protect themselves from the sun and rain during the services and meetings. They also already have a kiln with more than 10,000 burned bricks waiting for possible help from ICCM partners for the building of their church. Since last year they

have been working on the AGRO-LUTERO project too.

Most of the members of that Lutheran Church are children and teenagers. This is the reason why ICCM asks for the support of Christian education material from our partners for children and teenagers from our Lutheran Churches (Proverbs 22.6). Besides the AGRO-LUTERO, we have also talked about the possibility of implementing the Dorcas Project for that Lutheran community, which lives only on the basis of agriculture and handicrafts for family sustenance.



After the service, a nice and delicious meal was offered, typical traditional from the African continent.

At the end, the songs and dances, accompanied by locally made musical instruments, presented the praise and

worship to the Triune God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Savior of mankind from sin, devil and hell, to the eternal glory in his Kingdom.

Despite the rain that fell with little intensity, we were accompanied by the whole community, singing and dancing as far as the place where we were transported by rented motorcycles. It was an exciting and unforgettable farewell. Only God provides such a moment for His honor, glory and the power forever.

Rev. Abel Sifa

## PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE OF THE RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS

Abel Sifa

It was on October 3 of this year, that the guests from the various religious denominations located in the province of Sofala began to arrive. The place chosen was the Golden Peacock Resort Hotel, better known as China Town, located in the city of Beira, the provincial capital.

Among all the guests, it is worth mentioning the top officials of the city of Beira and the official representative of the state in the province, among whom were Dr. Stella, the secretary of the state, and the engineer Albano Caribe, the president of the municipal council of the city of Beira. Besides the above mentioned, also present were the speakers: a lecturer from the Catholic University of Mozambique, a representative of non-governmental organizations, and the director of the Amecan Board.



The central theme was: "*The role of religious denominations in the process of peace, reconciliation and justice in Mozambique*". In this context, there were sub-themes, among them, the impact of religious denominations on society. Rev. Abel Sifa went there to represent the presiding pastor of the Concordia Christian Church in Mozambique, Rev. João Luís Nota. He asked the representatives of the provincial government present at the conference to "authorize the religious denominations to give lectures in the public institutions, mainly in schools, besides hospitals and prisons, so that the students learn morality and the value of life, thus they will be the mentors and real continuators of the peace process with themselves and

the society in general”.

At the end of the conference, we were invited to commemorate together the thirty years that have passed since the Rome Agreement, known as the Peace Agreement, that was held the next day (October four) in the Peace Square located in the same city.

Before we left the conference venue, Reverend Abel Sifa was recognized and greeted on behalf of ICCM by all the provincial government representatives, and also by some leaders of the most influential religious denominations in the province.

Unfortunately, on this trip to Beira, Rev. Abel Sifa suffered the theft of his backpack one night inside the public transport that was taking him to the conference. In the backpack he had his laptop, clothes, Church stamp, and some documents for the visa process.

This first Provincial Conference of Religious Confessions was very good and productive, because the government and the representatives of the religious confessions discussed key points for the maintenance of democracy and religious freedom in the country.

## **DIVULGATION**

Carlos Walter Winterle



I had the opportunity to preach and talk about Mozambique in a Meeting of Families of the Midwest District of Santa Catarina on July 10. About 400 people gathered together in Macucozinho, "São Paulo" Parish of Iporã do Oeste. The offerings of the service were destined for the work in Mozambique. A group of

ladies from the district offered R\$4,000.00 to buy sewing machines to support the Dorcas Project in Mozambique. We thank God for the welcome and protection during the trip.

On October 8 my wife and I went to the Emeriti Meeting, which took place at Concordia Seminary in São Leopoldo, RS. About 30 emeriti pastors and pastors'



widows were gathered together for that Saturday. I was invited to make a presentation about our work in Africa from 2006 to 2020, especially the work in Mozambique. It was great to interact with the colleagues, who asked many questions about missionary opportunities, traditions, and our acceptance by the African people.



We were hosted by Pastor Arnildo Figur and his wife Veronica in their home in Novo Hamburgo. We met Pastor Emeritus Guido Goerl (94 years old), Veronica's father, who paints pictures and donates all profits from sales to the mission in Mozambique. I made a personal presentation to Pastor Guido about the work in Mozambique, thanking

him personally for all the support he has given to Mozambique.

## OUR FAMILY

Carlos Walter Winterle



We had the joy of seeing all our children and grandchildren this year. In May, we traveled to Canada and spent a month with our youngest son, Paulo, and his wife Flávia and grandchildren Lucas (9) and Anna (2). It was springtime in the northern hemisphere and it was beautiful to see the rebirth of nature after the harsh winter. In the

meantime, Paulo has moved to Mississauga, Ontario. He is teaching music in two Christian schools. Flavia works in an architecture office.



In August, we visited our daughter Tatiana in Halling - Rochester, England. Dickson made a beautiful agenda for us. Henrique (14) and Julia (8) were on vacation. We went to Cornwall and visited many historical places and museums. It was summer and we escaped the cold and rainy winter in southern Brazil.



Our oldest son, Léo, who used to live in Germany, returned to Brazil in October. His wife Ana Carolina and their children Lea (10) and Luis (7) arrived in September. They live in the same city as us, Santa Cruz do Sul, which is a great joy for us to have at least two grandchildren closer.

We are getting ready to celebrate our Golden Anniversary. The ceremony will be on January 14th, in the same church where we got married, in Santa Cruz do Sul. We thank God who brought us here, accompanying us in a wonderful way during these 50 years of living together.



On January 1st I complete 50 years of Ordination. God has blessed our ministry in Brazil and in Africa, and has given us many opportunities to preach His gospel and to witness His blessings to many people in many countries.

We are thankful for the support and friendship of so many friends we have made around the world. As much as possible, we will still keep in touch, no longer as Coordinator of the work in

Mozambique, but as a friend and servant of God.

**"The Lord has done great things for us; and we are filled with joy"** (Psalm 126.3).

Rev. Carlos Walter and Lídia Winterle

*Photo credit, Pastors Abel Sifa, Chadreque*

*This Newsletter is published in Portuguese, English and German. I thank the reviewers:*

*Portuguese: Pastor André B. Plamer*

*English: Dr. Bálintné Kis Beáta*

*German: Pastor Martin Benhöfer*



## **SEE HOW YOU MAY HELP:**

**USA: The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod** PO Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 – USA (Designate: Mozambique – 60606)

OR: **LCMS– Mission Central** - C/O Gary Thies 40718 Hwy. E16 Mapleton, IA 51034 - USA (Designate: Mozambique - 60606)

OR: **Credit Card donations** – call LCMS OIM at 1-800-433-3954 (specify donations for Mozambique – 60606)

**South Africa: Mission of Lutheran Churches (MLC)**, Account Nr. 1913-137-538, Branch Code: 19 87 65 NEDBANK LTD., Branch: Cresta, Account Type: Current, Swift code: NEDSZAJJ (3954 (specify donations for Mozambique)

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The Lutheran Church-Canada, **LCC**, from Canada, via Redeemer Lutheran Church, **RLC**, Vancouver

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of England, **ELCE**, from England

The Igreja Evangélica Luterana Portuguesa, **IELP**, from Portugal

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