



IGREJA CRISTÃ DA CONCÓRDIA EM MOÇAMBIQUE

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

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EDITORIAL



One more stage of the Theological Education Program (PET) has been completed. Pastor André Plamer and Prof. Leonídio Gorl were in Mozambique and taught intensive courses almost for three weeks, besides attending several other appointments. See the detailed report from Pastor Abel Sifa, ICCM General Secretary, in this issue of the Newsletter.

The projects continue to be well developed. Churches are being built; the Agro-Lutero Project is helping many families to have something to eat and to earn some money by selling a part of their produce; the National Board is visiting pastors and new congregations; the women are improving the Dorcas project, sewing for the family and taking orders to have some income; and Christ continues to be preached wherever there is an opportunity to witness.

God's blessings are visible. We thank all the donors who support God's mission in Mozambique. Share the news on this mission and get more sponsors. Designate an amount in your will destined to Mozambique. We have received two substantial gifts from inheritances, which will allow us to start building accommodation in the future seminary. It is a requirement of the government that we have good facilities for housing the candidates and for teaching.

We remain at your disposal to answer questions and to direct special offers. See at the end of this newsletter where to send your donation. "From grain to grain the hen fills her stomach" we say as a Brazilian

proverb: your offering, together with others, makes possible the Theological Education in Mozambique and the development of the projects.

As we have been doing, we also share in this Newsletter several reports of activities sent by Pastor Abel Sifa.

Rev. Em. Carlos Walter Winterle

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM -TEP

We want to thank immensely the IELB and the other partners of our church here in Mozambique for their prayers and monetary contributions for the materialization of God's work in the area of teaching the word of God. Due to the COVID, we stayed more than two (2) years without formal studies monitored by the Concordia Seminary in São Leopoldo, Brazil, which coordinates our Theological Education. And the Concordia Christian Church in Mozambique - ICCM particular thanks goes to pastors André and Leonídio for accepting and fulfilling the challenge of coming to Africa, within the different culture, climate, food. Besides, exposed to typical African diseases, such as malaria and others. With this, we are still praying for pastor and teacher Leonídio that God will continue the treatment and follow-up of the malaria he contracted in our land.



See the following Report.

Pastor Abel Sifa - ICCM General Secretary

REPORT

Pastors André Plamer and Leonidio Goerl, both from the IELB, were received at the international airport of Beira in the early hours of May 6, Friday of this year, when it was 00:06, by Pastor Abel Sifa, the General Secretary of the ICCM, sent by the national president pastor to receive and accompany the Brazilian pastors. The guests were expected to arrive on the 5th, Thursday, but it wasn't possible due to delayed departure and

arrival of Mozambican flights (Maputo to Nampula, from Nampula to Beira).



On the same Friday, we went to introduce them to the provincial government. The government representative was offered the March issue of the Mensageiro Luterano, which reports the ordination of 15 pastors in Mozambique. Pastor André shared the word of God and prayed in favor of the requests made by the provincial head of the Department of Religious Affairs. We also took advantage of our stay in Beira to buy material for the courses and a generator for the lighting in the seminary. The worship service at the Lutheran Church "Jesus Salvador" in Beira marked the end of Friday's activities.



On Saturday, May 7th, we traveled very early to Gondola and stayed at the hotel called UNYKISS. On the same day we went to visit the Lutheran Church "São Tiago" of Mudima, where the pastors André and Leonídio strengthened the brothers with the Word of God, following a summary of the liturgy study. After lunch offered by the local community, we went to the Lutheran Church "Cristo para Todos", which is in the city of Chimoio. There we also had the teaching of the Word of God for the strengthening of the brothers by the same pastors. Then we went back to the hotel to rest and prepare ourselves for the service of the next day.



On Sunday, May 8th, we participated in the service at the Lutheran Church "Santo André" in Gondola headquarters, where six Lutheran churches from different places got together to hear the Word of God. Pastor Leonídio was the preacher of the day. After lunch offered by the local community there, we took the afternoon to visit the historical site called "Monte Cabeça de Velho".



The next day we traveled to Sena, where we have our seminary. It was a tiring and exhausting journey, because the road has many potholes and pits. We passed through Vunduzi and Maringue, but we thank God, because we had no problems on the way.



Including the driver, we were five people in the rented car: pastors André, Leonídio, Abel, and brother Remos Joni Fani. We arrived at the seminary around 4pm and were received by the pastors who were finishing the preparations for the TEP classes. As usual, Pastor André helped the pastors with their activities and showed Pastor Leonídio the property of the seminary being developed.



On Tuesday, May 10, we started with the Homiletics classes with professor Leonídio, which lasted two days. The other two days we learned about the Lutheran Confessions with professor André. On Wednesday, May 11, after dinner, our missionaries presented the material they brought from Brazil to the ICCM, including gifts donated by the children of the late pastor Horst Kuchenbecker.

On Saturday, May 14, we went to visit the three (3) Lutheran churches in the Maringué district, which were gathered together to save time. We were kindly received with songs of praise and typical African dances. Pastor Leonídio was the preacher of the day and Pastor André explained



about Christian Stewardship. Finally, the church offered us a goat to eat in the seminary, not forgetting the fast snack, because we were already over the scheduled time for another afternoon service in the churches of Cado.



It was certainly also a very moving service, and Pastor André was the preacher in that Lutheran Church "São Paulo" of Nhachiwa. We returned to the seminary very late, as the distance was long.

On May 15, Sunday, we went to the "São Pedro" church of Chemba-sede and Pastor Leonídio preached the word of God. In the afternoon, we visited Pastor Nota's house and got to know a little bit of Chemba village. On the way back to the seminary we went to visit pastor Jacobe's family and the Lutheran church "São Timóteo" in Três de Fevereiro. Pastor Jacobe took advantage of the lift we offered him to the seminary.

Monday, May 16th, we started again with the classes taught by professor Leonídio on Pastoral Counseling and closed the classes with Comparative Religions, taught by pastor André on Thursday 19th.

On Friday May 20th, the students went to their homes to pick up their wives for the Pastors' Wives Meeting together with their husbands. On the same Friday we went for church activities in the Mutarara district: in the



morning we visited the church under construction at the Lutheran church "St Martin Luther" of Minjale, where Pastor André strengthened the members with the word of God. There were

representatives from three (3) Lutheran churches that came together to meet the missionaries and to hear the Word of God. They also took the opportunity to see and hear about the water pump that is broken, caused by the insufficient groundwater. We received two chickens offered by the



members. - In the afternoon of the same day, we went to the dedication service of the Lutheran Church "São Tiago" of Mutarara. The dedication ceremony was conducted by the president pastor of ICCM, Rev. João Luís Nota. Pastor Paulo

led the liturgy and Pastor Leonídio shared the word of God. We returned to the seminary very late, after a meal offered by the local community.





On Saturday, May 21st, the pastors and their wives were blessed with a teaching about Pastoral Ministry in the morning, taught by professor Leonídio; and in the afternoon we had a short didactic study about the Christian family with pastor André. In this opportunity, the wives received capulanas (pieces of clothes) as a token of love given by their husbands.



And each wife also gave her husband an individual and satisfying gift. The pastors' wives had the opportunity to learn about their husbands' ministry; they also complained about the pastoral families' support, considering that the Lutheran Churches are still unable to support their pastors.



In the evening of the same Saturday, the colloquium of brother Remos Joni Fani took place. He was approved before the ICCM Board of Directors and the TEP teachers. With this, he was accepted as a pastor of the ICCM and commissioned to the province of Manica, his homeland.



On Sunday, May 22, the graduation of the 15 pastors took place. They had already been ordained in December last year. Pastor Remos Joni Fani was also ordained. The graduation service was attended by members of the three nearby Lutheran churches, government representatives, and community leaders. Pastor Remos' ordination ceremony was performed by ICCM's presiding pastor, Rev. João Luís Nota. Professor Leonídio shared God's word and led the graduation ceremony. Pastor Andre explained



about the correct way of offering according to God's word and was the Master of Ceremony of

the graduation. - After the graduation service, we went back to the seminary for lunch and to prepare for the trip back to Beira the next day. Still on Sunday night, we had a meeting to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between partners that support Mozambique.



On Monday the 23rd, we made our way back to Beira. We passed through Gondola and stayed again at the Unykiss Hotel. The next day, May 24, we had the morning worship service at the Lutheran Church "São

Zaqueu" of Metuchira. But first we went to introduce ourselves to the head of the locality as the representative of the local government and were well received. - In the afternoon of the same day the service was also held at the Lutheran Church



"Amor de Deus" in Nhamatanda Village. - After the service we went by motorcycle to Maguimba, the place where elephants are destroying diverse cultures and killing people. This was the first place where our church was established in Nhamatanda district. And on the same day we went spent the night at the Savoy Hotel in Beira.



On May 25, Wednesday, in the morning we visited the beach and got to know a little bit of the city of Beira. And in the afternoon, we had the farewell service at the "Jesus

Salvador" Lutheran Church in Beira, where we received gifts of African style shirts. At the service, Pastor Leonídio preached the word of God and Pastor André explained about the correct way to offer to God, according to the Scriptures. Then we went back to the hotel that night. But before we went to bed, we had a delicious dinner of chicken and potatoes.



The day of our missionaries' departure back to Brazil was Thursday morning, before 8:00 a.m. on May 26. We accompanied the missionaries to the international airport in Beira and they took the flight to Maputo.

We thank God for the work that the missionaries did here in Mozambique, even though we had a very tough schedule, almost without rest. But it was worth it. The word of God was shared, lives were strengthened, and Christ was taken to everyone. We give glory to God for this.

Rev. Abel Sifa, ICCM General Secretary.



Pastor Andrew writes: My beloved brothers, this was the 8th year that I had the grateful joy of serving the IELB in Mozambique, being a teacher and helping to organize the Church in Mozambique, supporting local leadership and training leaders. The work is always a great challenge, but each day/year God is gathering more brethren to praise and worship the Triune God. The brothers in Mozambique know how dear they have been to me, how precious they are, and how much care and love I have for them. Sometimes I act as a father who corrects, exhorts, but also as a father who welcomes and embraces his children and cries with them, without promising them something that is not according to the Word, because our desire is that Christ grows and we diminish. I thank God for also allowing us to literally see the action of the Holy Spirit acting and transforming lives. It is not a different way of being and acting here in Brazil, but we see that the Word finds fertile ground for growth. Let us pray that everyone, both in Mozambique and in Brazil, may be strengthened and encouraged by the Holy Trinity. I call upon you, my beloved brother, who read this report, to pray for this work, as well as to generously open your hands and offer God's blessings to keep this work going. Pastor André Buchweitz Plamer.



Pastor Leonídio reports: The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil maintains a partnership with the Lutheran Church of Mozambique (the official name is "Igreja Cristã da Concórdia em Moçambique" - ICCM) offering a theological training from the course of Diaconia in Christian Education offered by Concordia Seminary in its Theological Education by Extension (ETE) program.

So, I traveled on May 3rd to Mozambique together with Pastor André Plamer to teach the last module of the course.

Besides the classes, we visited several villages and congregations in Mozambique. Each place was a different surprise, one more pleasant than the other. We were always welcomed with great joy and hospitality. The simplicity of the faith was something touching.

On May 22nd we had the graduation of 15 new pastors. With the new graduates, the ICCM now has 22 pastors, 6 from the first class, 15 recently graduated and 1 from the colloquium. The graduation service was very festive and memorable for everyone. The Lutheran Church of Mozambique (LCCM) is still very young and needs many pastors. The return trip took place on May 27th.

Certainly, this was a great experience of faith and life.

God be praised for all this work. – Pastor Leonídio Gorl

DORCAS PROJECT



The ladies are still excited about the opportunity they are having to learn how to sew and to make clothes for the family and even on demand, earning a little money with this activity. One of them comments: "When I started it was very difficult, I couldn't even move my foot on the

machine pedal, but now I can also sew a skirt or a shirt. This is possible when you have the will to learn and not give up." The number of people who are learning this craft is growing. Seven new machines were recently bought, thanks to a specific donation to support the Dorcas Project.

AGRO-LUTERO PROJECT



The AGRO-LUTERO project, which is in its second year of implementation, aims to ensure sustainability for church members involved in this agricultural activity and also support the needy and

vulnerable, including the elderly and orphaned children as one of the ways of taking CHRIST TO ALL through actions.

Several groups have organized themselves into small cooperatives. The work has shown good results. The participants are excited and new groups are being organized.



We are very grateful for the support of our partners, be it material, financial, or even words of encouragement. Therefore, we continue to ask our brothers and sisters in the faith to continue donating to this project so that we can form other groups.

CHURCH IN MINJALE



We give thanks to God for the blessings received, because the brothers and sisters in Minjale will have a decent and resistant church building to do all the works of God.

The master builder together with the people of that community are working side by side so that the construction of this work may be finished soon and with tranquility.

The ICCM National Board addresses its appreciation to every internal and external member who is supporting this noble mission. And the president pastor of the Church, Rev. João Luís Nota, reiterates his thanks to the partners for their efforts in solidifying the Gospel of Christ in this African soil.

BIBLES, CATECHISMS, AND CLOTHES



Pastor Chadreque tells us: We had a pastors' meeting on Saturday, June 18. All the pastors received Bibles in the Chisena language, Martin Luther's Catechisms in the Chisena language, and clothes and shoes

sent by the children of our dearly missed pastor Horst Kuchenbecker. The pastors of the ICCM were very happy with the Bibles bought in partnership with the IELB, with the Catechisms and other books brought by Pastors André and Leonídio, and with the clothes we received. We address our heartfelt thanks to the family of our late Rev. Horst. This thanks also goes to the IELB for the purchase of Bibles. The president pastor, Rev. João Luís Nota, emphasized to his pastors to remain firm in their faith in Jesus, because it was Jesus Christ who called us and chose us to serve in his work. Even if we go through difficulties in our lives, they will not be a reason to give up on the work of our good God. We thank our missionaries, TEP teachers, since the beginning of our studies in 2015 until

the graduation of the pastors this year. May our good God bless everyone in Christ.

N.B. 1: Pastor Horst Kuchenbecker was in Mozambique teaching in 2012. He passed away on 28.11.2020

N.B. 2: Bibles are bought with the donations of our co-workers.

N.B. 3: The Catechisms were sponsored by the Lutheran Heritage Foundation - LHF, printed in Brazil, and are taken to Mozambique whenever someone goes there to teach.

COVID-19



The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod - LCMS has supported two requests from the ICCM for the purchase of COVID-19 prevention materials. One was last year and one was earlier this year. By a government requirement, each church was required to have thermometers to check the temperature of the worship

participants. This equipment was purchased and distributed to most churches, making it possible to hold services again. Other mandatory requirements last year were relaxed this year, suggesting the use of local resources. For example, instead of alcohol gel, hand washing with water and ashes was allowed, which disinfects the hands as well.

Social distancing was maintained. Now the situation is back to normal, and Pastors André and Leonídio have been able to go around the churches preaching and teaching without any further restrictions. Our gratitude to the LCMS for this additional support.



THE TWO OF US



Lídia and I are officially retired, but we have not stopped working. I prepare and record radio programs one week a month as part of the team at the congregation we attend; I am responsible for a monthly page of the Mensageiro Luterano, featuring the emeritus pastors, as well as writing several articles to the magazine. I still wrote to the annual devotionals "Castelo Forte" and "Five Minutes with Jesus", as I used to do for a long time; I continue to support the work in Mozambique, in coordination with Pastor Airton

Schroeder and Pastor André Plamer; and, as much as possible, I have preached and lectured in congregations. The devotional and prayer life in private and with Lidia is constant in our life.

Lídia continues to entertain herself with sewing and patchwork, besides the housework. We live right in the center of town, which allows us to go to the market and stores on foot. We didn't buy a car, and, when necessary, we call a cab.

In April we were happy to have a visit from our son Leo and family from Germany and our daughter Tatiana and family from England. In May we visited our son Paulo and family in Canada and met for the very first time our youngest granddaughter Anna, who is two years and four months old. In June we attended the IELB National Convention in Guarapari, where we had the opportunity to meet many friends. I was elected as member of the CTCR (Commission of Theology and Church Relationship). This means lot of work and responsibility!

Incredible as it may seem, time is short to do everything we intend to do, even though we are retired.

We send our hugs to all our friends spread throughout Brazil and the world.

Carlos Walter and Lídia Winterle

Photo credit, Pastors André B. Plamer, Leonídio Goerl and Abel Sifa.

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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