

Hi everybody, well done on a superb and informative Bush Telegraph for March 2009. The magazine was thoroughly enjoyed and thanks for the great effort put in by the team. I am also writing to inform you that, once again, the Methodist Church in Walmer is to do a mission trip to Mozambique as from the 26th June to 12th July 2009. A group of 20 people in 4 vehicles will be sent on this mission from Port Elizabeth and a further 3 vehicles with 12 occupants will be leaving from Uitenhage. The main objective of this year's mission is to reach out to small churches, schools and clinics in the rural southern part of Mozambique. We will be distributing, amongst other things, bibles in the Tsonga language, clothing, school stationery etc. At night we will be showing the Jesus film and then preaching and sharing with the local communities in the small villages scattered about in the bush. Conditions on the mission are rather tough as very few if any facilities are available. The reward is in reaching out to the people of Mozambique who are mostly destitute and are of the poorest of the poor in Africa. To hand a bible to a village church where their might only be one and sometimes no bibles in the whole community is a blessing indeed. We most certainly learn, time after time, to be thankful for the many blessings that we have and take for granted. Simple things like fresh running water, flush toilets, showers, a different set of clothes, a pair of shoes, a nice meal and so on are not common place in these areas and yet the little bit that we can do by spreading the Gospel of hope, sharing a meal, handing out old clothes etc means a great deal to these people. A simple toy such as a tennis ball or soccer ball are treasured as gold once handed to a child and the huge smiles of appreciation received is amazing. Reaching some of the villages is very difficult as the terrain varies from badly potholed tracks to thick sand tracks, river crossings, marshlands and so on. No road signs or bridges exist and the tracks are practically non-existent with the very real threat of land mines in certain areas. Malaria is also a major problem in this region. A simple thing such as washing clothes or underware must be done very carefully as parasites living in the water attach themselves to the clothes and can enter the human body causing all sorts of havoc with the human system. Logistically it is also difficult to carry enough fresh water and provisions for the group of 32 people. Please note that this letter is only intended to inform the members of the club about the proposed mission and a full report back will be done on our return. However should any person wish to contribute toward the mission in any way it would be greatly appreciated by the team and most certainly by the people of Mozambique. Simple things such as old clothes, balls, dolls, stationery and funds toward the purchases of Bibles (R70.00 per bible) would be most welcome. Above all your prayers would be most appreciated. God Bless Bennett and Charmaine Botes.

Bennett Botes

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