

Arnie & Rubenita Johnson

NEWS FROM MOZAMBIQUE

March 2024

It has come to my attention that we have gone quite longer than I had expected since we last sent a news update. I had edited and written at least three updates last year, but it appears that many did not receive them. For that I am truly sorry.

It has been a truly busy year, and an exhausting one.

We were able to draft the portions of Scripture necessary for the first phase of chronological teaching, and now Arnie is mixing time checking the quality of the translation, while also training some people to work on drafting Bible books, starting in the book of Mark. Please pray for the translation drafting to move forward, and the checking to not fall too far behind.

There was a lot of scrambling to get our literacy materials to the point where we could begin teaching, and Rubenita is now team teaching a test class, to begin the full on teaching of a second class along with our coworkers later this year. Please pray for the literacy program to grow and create hunger to read God's Word.

Our coworkers main focus is on developing the chronological teaching program, and they are making good progress with about half of the lessons drafted. The biggest challenge is that people have a hard time understanding salvation by grace through faith. The expectation for works based salvation is so high, that it takes a lot of explaining and discussion for the learners to accept that they are looking to God who already made the sacrifice, instead of them needing to bring a sacrifice themselves. Another big challenge is to help people understand that God is involved in daily lives, and that ancestor spirits are not. Please pray for those who are hearing these things right now as they check comprehension of the lessons.

We also had quite a lot of paperwork to do for the government with passport renewals and visas, and our mission bank account renewal, as well as member care for missionaries in other villages. Thankfully, some of the paperwork is now able to be done by some people we trained, which is a burden off of our backs. We would appreciate prayer to have the liberty to continue freely and legally to work in Africa.

Arnie also traveled internationally both to Thailand and Senegal for workshops of missionaries from around the world. In Thailand, the focus was on giving vision to the need for missionary training in multiple languages and countries around the world. Arnie did some translation for Portuguese speakers there. In Senegal, the focus was on Bible translation itself, and helped us clarify and better our procedures and checks right here in the Maindo language. We are thankful for the provision our mission organization made for these trips.

At the end of last year, Joanna came down with a case of malaria that required her to take the medicine intravenously, but she came through it great. We appreciate your prayer for our health. We have been generally very healthy, but the dangers here are big.

We had asked prayer for the Baptist church in Quelimane that was wanting to open a daughter church here with us, and that program was falling behind due to covid restrictions, but the pastor has contacted me once again to see about visiting here in the second half of this year, and make a plan to move forward. We need prayer for this to take place.

In Christ,

Arnie, Rubenita and Joanna Johnson