

HAMPTON-MANDIMBA PARTNERSHIP

VISIT 17-29 SEPTEMBER 2007

Hampton's link with another Anglican parish in Mozambique has now been established two years. Recently three of us—Francesca Keating, Fiona Rowett and Derek Winterburn—visited Sao Paulo's in Mandimba. Over the next few weeks we will cover in more detail some of what we did and saw. Here is a brief overview.

Outward bound (Monday—Wednesday)



It took us 48 hours to travel the distance to Mandimba, that included the best part of a day at Jo'burg airport between stops and an overnight stay in Malawi. Time-consuming but mostly straightforward.

Welcomes and beginnings (Wednesday—Saturday)

Although the party had a long wait for us, when we arrived at the Lodge, representatives from the churches were there to meet us, with song and dance.

Now that Bishop Mark has confirmed that David Geraldo will move from being the Pastor before the end of January—it was

vital to plan ahead. A special group has been formed to continue the Hampton Link. (It was a great relief to know that our support would not leave with David). Over the following days elections were held and a young man, Maxwell, was appointed as the main point of communication, and we have now provided him with mobile and credit to keep us in touch. Although the Link will have to adapt, we were confident that the Mandimbans were committed to making the Link *more* effective than even now.

Picking up the threads

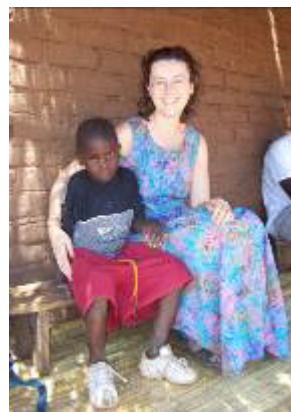
Francesca was welcomed back enthusiastically by the Ladies' Sewing Group. Although they had been frustrated since she had last visited, the new electric sewing machine that we brought with us, galvanised them into action. Soon we were planning to install electricity into the church building to run the machine there. The ladies also enthusiastically 'dissected' some woollen dolls so that they could begin making their own *African* ones.



Seeds were sown

Fiona has been co-ordinating at our end the *Good Seed* project. She and Derek had meetings with David, a parish rep Samson, and the local head-teacher Irish. Together we teased out the best ways forward for the maintenance of vulnerable children in (middle-school) education.

More information next week. The following day they also visited a child, Billy, whose medical care had



been supported by the project. We hope that he will soon be fitted with a glass eye, to replace the one that needed to be removed.

Leaders were grown

In the week that we arrived Pastor David had been running a series for leaders of the church groups and the catechumens of the outlying communities. Derek offered two sessions drawing on his recollection of the sessions he had taken our own *Growing Leaders* through. One memorable moment was when he was trying to get folk to think in the ways Jesus leads. His drawing of an animal was completely unrecognisable as an *African* sheep, they thought it was a tortoise!

Sunday



We arrived at church in style, on the back of bicycles—laden down with T-shirts from Hampton. The service was familiar although largely in Nyanja, with some Portuguese thrown in. Fiona and Francesca helped Derek out in the preaching by acting out the parable of the Dishonest Manager to his narration—it brought the house down! After the service we were formally kitted out in wrap-around *capolana* skirts (even Derek). But there was still time before lunch for a PCC meeting, including an introduction to *microfinancing* that Clenyg has been researching. The council was very positive about the concept.

Then after lunch Francesca (who did all our driving) took Derek, Fiona and David up to Lichinga for our 8.30 am meeting the following day with Rebecca Vander Meulen, who works with Niassa diocese.

Lichinga: back and forth (Monday)

Lichinga is the State capital— and today is its special Bank Holiday. Rebecca has been up for hours by the time we arrive from our Lodge. Fiona checks out some Good Seeds stuff with her, but we really want to see Charles the Diocesan Project Manager about micro-financing, but he has gone

to the Lakeshore. Sitting in the car we decide to track him down, rather than go back to Mandimba—we will stay another night in Lichinga.

So we head north to Metangula, and find Charles having lunch with his family. He is interested in microfinancing and would like more information to check through. After a brief photo-op by the shore of Lake Nyasa, and Fanta's with David's father we drive the treacherous road to Messumba and the Cathedral. Light is failing so it is just another quick stop until we head back to Lichinga (1 1/2 hours).

Messangula (not to be confused with...) Tuesday

On the way back to base we spend the middle part of the day at Messangula which is a community taken into the Madimba parish. The parish priest there is Gabriel Farahane, the brother of Andre Farahane 'curate' at Mandimba. We see the progress on the well (dug, but not



yet secure) and the church (bricks baked) - since the PCC had finally decided on the site of the rebuilt church, work should be complete by Christmas and / or the rains!

Francesca fits in a sewing group while Fiona and Derek calculate who owes what to whom!

Overnight everything changes

David was coming over to rearrange our shopping trip for electrical supplies but was maliciously attacked and robbed. He has a significant head injury and is taken to the medical centre. Francesca is called out, aided by Fiona. They are appalled at the standard of care and hygiene and insist that David is taken to a proper hospital, in Lichinga. He goes off in a truck and falls into a coma.

Shopping is cancelled and Francesca, Fiona and Derek, together with Andre Farahane set off to Lichinga once more.

David has been cleaned up, but is in a great deal of pain. But the hospital looks better than the Mandimba centre. When we go back in the afternoon he has *still* not been sent for an X-ray, but David is able to walk. Thursday morning: David comes out of the ward to meet us but moves, talks and thinks very slowly, no X-ray results.

Back at Mandimba there is really only time to wrap things up and plan together for the future, in particular Maxwell will ring through regular messages about David's health.

Time for home (Friday / Saturday)

An uncomplicated series of journeys bring us back via Malawi, and Kenya, arriving 6.30am Saturday.

Update

David is being moved to a specialised hospital in Malawi.