

# GROWING HOPE IN MOZAMBIQUE



## Update May 2023

The time spent in Mozambique in February and March was in several ways a challenge but also fruitful.

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Matthew 25:40

Janet Phythian: Associate Missionary, Church Mission Society, and Global Partner, George Mullers

# Prayer requests

- Please give the Lord great thanks and praise for His never-ending faithfulness and love for all the people Growing Hope is linking with.
- Thanks for Janet's long-term visa, approved in March.
- Thanks for the open-pollinated vegetable seed made available in March. We pray this will lead to seed collection for future years and eliminate the need to buy seed.
- For leaders in Mozambique; Armando, Pastor Francisco (Pires), Pastor Antonio, David and Paulo.
- For the hundreds of orphans in local communities living in poverty, with grandparents, other relatives or alone. For the churches to provide comfort.
- Wisdom for decisions around broader training in 2023 for rural church leaders. Is 'Rooted in Jesus', a Christian discipleship course specifically written for Africa, the best option and how to practically arrange the training?
- For Janet's next visit in July and August.
- For the health of each pastor and Growing Hope leader as there is frequent sickness.
- Funds for training, seed and equipment as the number of churches and families participating, grow.
- For resources to continue the beekeeping training programme using land on the farm, for churches, orphans and the local community, all living in poverty and many not yet knowing Jesus.
- Continued sales of Africa Naturally Tea Tree Oil to support the ongoing provision of additional funds for Growing Hope.
- Let Him be our strength and shield and our hearts trust Him always. We sing our thanks and praise to Him. Let us know at all times and in all we do that we are the Lord's people and the sheep of His pasture.



On the Africa Naturally farm we recorded 675 ml of rain in February and 345 ml in March. This is a minimum as often overnight the gauge overflowed. The storms were dramatic with thunder crashing overhead and lightning cracking through the sky.

*For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.*

Psalm 27:5



Storms, storms storms....

God meets all our needs. He protects us when we need it and I thank Him.

Compared to just 10 years ago, weather patterns are now chaotic and it's no longer possible to plan for crops around the traditional rainy season. Where flooding and cyclones occurred around every 5-7 years, we are now experiencing this type of weather, late rains etc., every year.

Rains in our area only started in February, rather than in December, and we then had cyclone Freddy, twice, bringing extensive flooding followed by cholera outbreaks.

I spent time rebuilding the farm road, wading around in water up to my knees, and days spent in my tent waiting for storms to cease. Munhope (guard) and I were checking on each other a few times a day and otherwise, I had Dolly and the cats for company. Others were at home stranded.

As the farm is off grid, we had no power cuts and I am so thankful that the solar energy did not run out and neither did my phone credit but food and cooking was a bit of a challenge.





Due to the weather, I spent significant time with the three churches accessible by road



**Pastor Pries, Evangelical Semente de Abraao church. Pastor Pires is trained to deliver FGW Biblical teaching. 19 widows and 27 orphans in this church.**

Storms and flooding meant that I spent time with only three churches, all in Dondo. It was a great blessing to spend this time with them and to be there with them during such a difficult time. Two churches are new to Growing Hope and we were able to spend every Saturday together looking at the Farming God's Way biblical messages and watching the FGW videos on my iPad. Preparation of the church vegetable gardens was during the week in between, as rain allowed.



Pastor Matteos (yellow shirt), Grace de Christo Renovada, a church linking with Growing Hope for the first time. 10 widows and 16 orphans. This church was completely destroyed by Cyclone Idai in 2019 and they have been building it again since then (left). Saturday afternoon FGW biblical key teaching, L.





Pastor Gabrielle, Pentecostal de Cristo, another church linking with Growing Hope for the first time. 22 widows and 38 orphans. Below, left, preparing the church vegetable garden and, right, introducing leaders and some church families to Farming God's Way.





They have had difficulty germinating vegetable seed so far this year. Sowing started late due to the storms and flooding but there is some germination which is encouraging for all. Grown in three sections for annual rotation are **root**: carrots, onion, turnip and beetroot, **leaf**: lettuce, cabbage, cove and kale, **fruit**: tomatoes, aubergine, cucumber and sweet peppers.



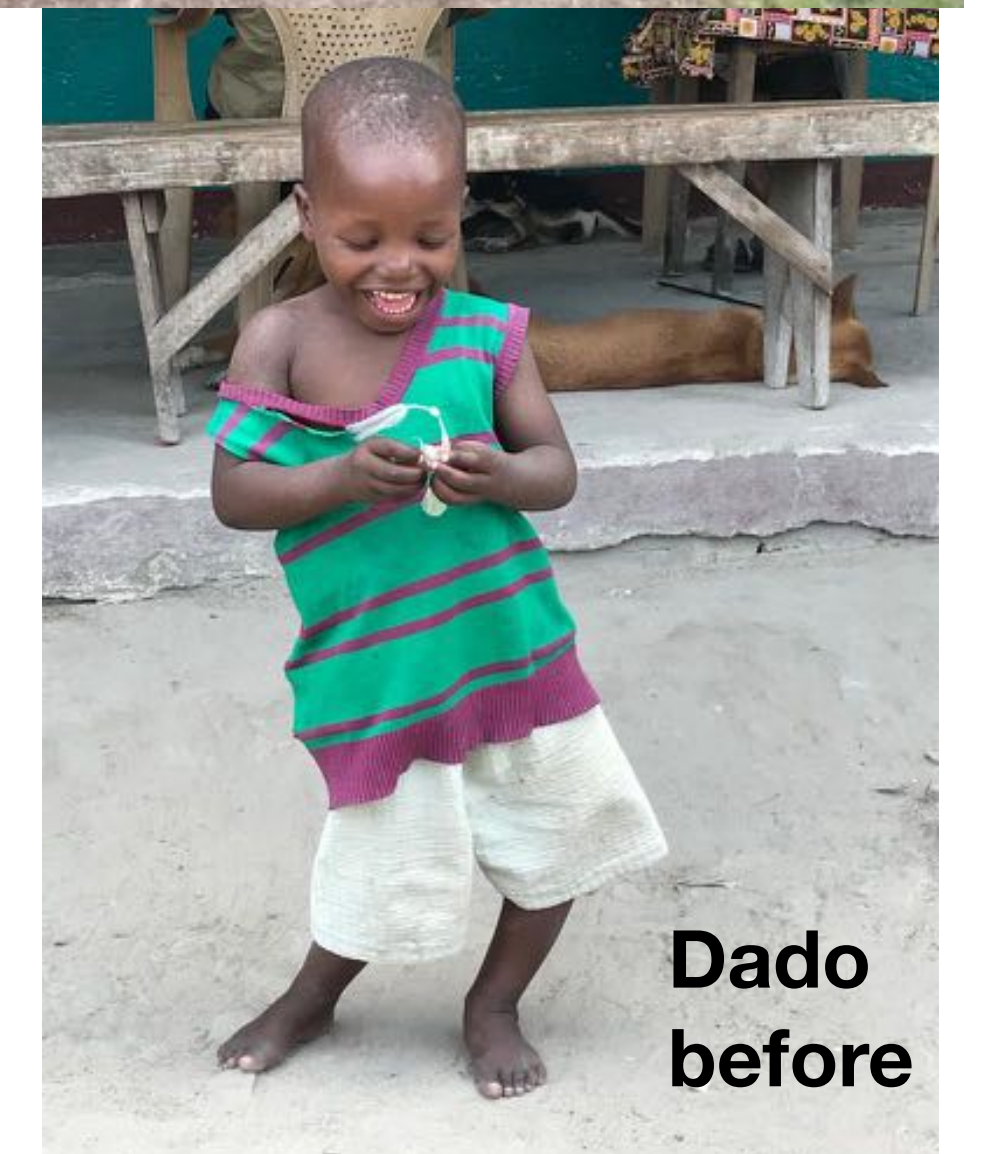


**FOM:** We give thanks as the FOM team has had a great start to the vegetable growing season. We built a small nursery by the FOM field and sowed seed in March, improved the drains around the field and waited for the ground to dry enough to transplant seedlings.





**FOM:** Catching up with Pastor and Mama Rego. I had some good conversations with Pastor Rego as we discussed how God has been faithful over the past couple of years. Below L, building a new dorm for boys and centre, boys helping. They also hope to build a nursery school for orphans and community children. God's amazing love and blessing as Dado's legs, both crooked when younger (bottom R) are now straight (centre bottom), with P Rego, R. We continue to provide vegetables and support the church garden managed by Antonio, top L, and Luis receiving seed. This provides significant nutrition for the 70 children and the Rego's are extremely thankful for the abundant gift of vegetables.





Please pray for the small Growing Hope team: Armando, the supervisor, David in Dondo and Paulo in Caia. I spent time with them training, listening and discussing the immediate programme and longer-term vision. I hope to visit the five churches in Caia in July. Last year was not possible as the road was impassable.



**Armando, second from left, leading FGW training day.**



**David with his wife**



**Pastor Pedro Manuel, Caia**



**Paulo collecting seed to take to Caia**



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My huge thanks for your prayers. I did receive my visa, an answer to prayer, and was very much protected during the storms. Time with Pastors and their teams were fruitful.

British Airways did not accept the visa and would not allow me on the plane on 2nd February so I had to return to Sevenoaks and plead with the Mozambique High Commission to write a letter confirming my visa was valid. After three visits to the HC, I received a letter which was very useful for the next flight 10 days later and on arrival at Beira airport, where I had to have an interview before being admitted.

After several visits to immigration in Beira they issued my long-term visa which can be renewed easily in March 2024.



I thank each of you for your prayers and I hope you will continue to pray for Growing Hope, all involved, our brothers and sisters in Mozambique, FOM and for me.

I have booked flights to return in early July until early September. Please pray for good conversations, biblical teaching, the visit to Caia and that I would be an encouragement to the church leaders and the team.

With a thankful heart,  
Janet

