

August 2019 Evangelism Outreach to Nampula and Ribaue – Pastor Fernando Alfredo Muinquia

- 1 Introduction:** Pastor Fernando Alfredo is currently the pastor of the Lugela Congregation of the Reformed Church of Mozambique (Igreja Reformada em Moçambique – IRM). He and his family live in Mocuba, approximately 60km South-East of Lugela. The Reformed Church Pretoria-Annlin supported Pastor Fernando's family during his study at the Theological School of Hefsiba and when Fernando started his ministry in Lugela, the Tumbine Synod, Lugela Church Council, Pastor Fernando and the Church Council of Reformed Church Pretoria-Annlin reached an agreement (memorandum of understanding) that Pastor Fernando would be enabled to go for short evangelism outreaches to places further North in the provinces of Nampula, Niassa and Gabo Delgado.

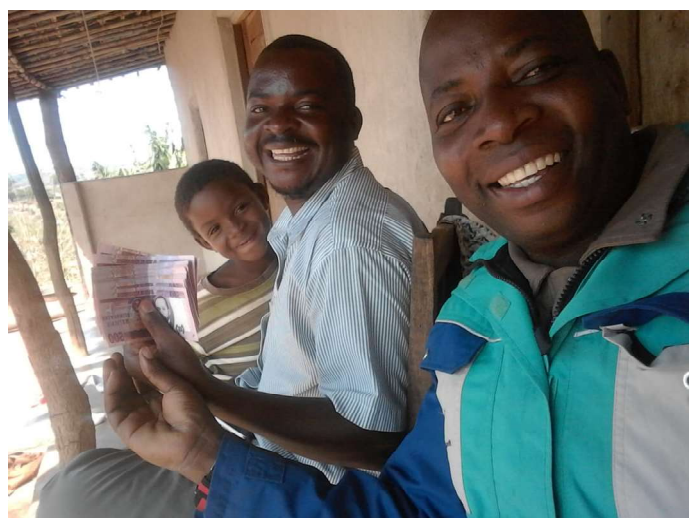
In 2018 Pastor Fernando went to the towns of Nampula and Ribaue three times for ± 10 days for each trip. In May 2019 Pastor Fernando accompanied 2 members of Reformed Church Pretoria-Annlin to Nampula, Ribaue and Alto Molocue and helped them with Discipleship training.

This fifth trip of August 2019 would have included places in Niassa Province, but the Synod felt it was important to strengthen the foundation already laid in Nampula and Ribaue and to go to these two congregations again. This is a view which the Reformed Church Pretoria-Annlin also welcomed and we believe that the Holy Spirit led all the parties to this decision.

- 2 The journey to Nampula:** The distance between Mocuba and Nampula is 373km and between Nampula and Ribaue 138km. Pastor Fernando travelled these distances with his Honda Motor Cycle. The places that were visited in Ribaue were far apart. For instance Napalaca is 62km from the town and the road to get there was very bad.



Location of Mocuba, Nampula and Ribaue



Pastors Fernando and Jussa in Alto Molocue

Pastor Fernando was asked to visit Pastor Jussa Passulane in Alto Molocue which was on his way to Nampula. The Reformed Church Pretoria Annlin donated 25 Lomue Bibles and 35 Hymn books to the congregation of Alto Molocue and Pastor Fernando had to hand the money for the books to Pastor Jussa.



The Honda motorcycle with its luggage, ready for the trip.



New tyres had to be fitted before departure.



Members of the Nampula congregation are being taught.



Teachings at Lancheque.

3 Places visited: After stopping at Pastor Jussa's house in Alto Molocue, Fernando drove further and his first stop was at the congregation in Nampula. He arrived there on Friday afternoon 16 August 2019 and stayed with the congregation over the weekend. On Monday 19 August he went to Ribaue and visited the following four places in Ribaue's vicinity, Lancheque, Ilepwe, Napalaca and Namiconha. He spent 2 days in each of these localities. Napalaca is an isolated community in the bush of the mountains. There is no proper road to them, no school and no hospital. Pastor Fernando described the people there as forgotten people in Mozambican society. He returned to Mocuba on 27 August 2019. On his way back, he again stopped at Alto Molocue and also demonstrated some of the congregation members the practical aspects of Foundation For Farming (FFF).

4 The message: At each location Pastor Fernando started with God's plan of salvation right from the beginning when God created everything perfectly (Gen 1) and the history leading up to the New Testament. He tried to give his audiences a good foundation of bible knowledge and brought the Good News of John 3:16, Col 1:21-23, Rom 6:23, etc. The first day consisted of bringing the Gospel and training the people of what it requires to be a disciple of Jesus. On the second day he trained them the principles of FFF. He

explained the principles following Gen 2:15 where God let Adam live in the garden and he had to take care of the land and also Deut 28.

After the principles of FFF had been explained Pastor Fernando took his audiences to a field and demonstrated the FFF practically. The basic principle is that you do not turn over the soil in your land every year and that you only dig small holes for your fertiliser and seed. Further you need to leave the blanket of maize plants from the previous harvest (God's blanket) to cool the soil and keep the moist in it. This practice has been well tested in Zambia and Malawi and much better yields could be obtained from the crops.



Teachings at Napalaca under a Mango tree



Practical session on Foundation For Farming at Napalaca



People were very enthusiastic about FFF teachings (Farming God's Way)



Practical session at Lancheque

- 5 Reaction to the message:** Pastor Fernando testified that his training and preaching were very well received. At all the places the people were hungry for the Word and were enthusiastic about it. For example, when the pastor started with the people at Lancheque, 13 people attended. Training took place under a Mango tree. The next day the audience doubled.

The isolated people of Napalaca were very interested to know more about our God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Pastor Fernando said that he found peace in his heart that these people, living in the bush, far from everything, could hear the Gospel and gladly accepted it.

A member of Ribaue congregation, brother Namutapa, accompanied Pastor Fernando to all the places and he would do the follow-up work once the pastor returned to his home in Mocuba.

A few people opened their hearts to Pastor Fernando. The Chief of Lancheque for example told the pastor of two super-natural experiences which he had and he asked Pastor Fernando to pray for him. Another person asked for prayer because his wife passed away in 2016 and he had to undergo an operation in hospital which he couldn't financially afford.

Pastor Fernando's last visit was to the people of Namiconha. It was Sunday when he was there and he held a service and preached for them. This afforded less time for training and he therefore could only do the principles of FFF that next Monday and asked brother Namutapa to do the practical training of FFF after he left.

- 6 Cost of the outreach:** The main cost items for such an outreach are gasoline and oil for the motorcycle and servicing of the vehicle. Further cost items are communication (Movitel airtime), meals and resthouse if overnight stay in such facility is required. The cost for this trip was more expensive as the tyres of the motorcycle had to be replaced for 8400 Meticaïs. The total costs including the replacement of the tyres was estimated at 22050 Meticaïs. (± R5000 to R5500, depending on the exchange rate).
- 7 Conclusion:** This evangelism outreach was blessed by our Lord and many people heard the Word of God. The long distances with a motorcycle is very tiring. However, although we acknowledge that it requires hard work from Pastor Fernando's side, it is a cost-effective form of outreach. We therefore thank our God that he gave Pastor Fernando the strength and protected him all along his way. We must continually keep praying for those souls that the Lord had spoken to through his Word and that the congregations of Nampula will not only grow in numbers but that they will spiritually grow in their faith.

Report compiled by Johnny Beumer from the many whatsapps which Pastor Fernando sent out during his visits.

30 August 2019