

Email from the Allens dated 6/6/10:

Once again, much time has passed and much has happened since our last letter. It has been so difficult for us to get internet access these past months that we are almost tired of trying. We have been without the internet since April 19th, and as the problem was being fixed, a ship dragged its anchor over an undersea fiber-optic cable, severing communications within half of the country; but thanks be to God that it came back on this weekend! We have no idea how long this will last, so we are taking the opportunity to send an e-mail letting everyone know that we are still alive and well.

We had a great visit with my parents and are glad that they were able to see a part of our ministry. They were able to experience a Mozambican wedding, and a couple of different church services, as well as attending some of the classes that I teach. The two weeks that they were here went sooooo fast, and it was refreshing to see loved ones again.

In May, we teamed with a local Mozambican to start a children's club once a week, singing songs, playing games, and telling bible stories. We simply meet under a tree in a nearby slum and bought some straw mats for the children to sit on. Many young girls come with their little brother or sister wrapped on their backs. On the first day we had 90 children, and last Thursday we had 110 children, and it keeps growing! God is doing great things in Mozambique, and we are excited to be a part of it!

The Dark Side

Two weeks ago we were robbed twice in less than one hour! One was while we were in a store shopping for groceries. As we returned to our vehicle with our purchases, we discovered that someone had attempted to steal the sideview mirrors off of the car. The thieves only succeeded in breaking the driver's side mirror, so they didn't finish the job. We were already mad at this attempt when we drove to another place 5-6 blocks away. We parked directly in front of a store and went to purchase what we needed. We were not in the store for longer than 5 minutes, but in that time 2 guys succeeded in entering our locked car and stealing all of our groceries, our car jack and tire iron, and tried without success to steal our radio. Valeria started crying out of sheer anger. A worker at the front of the store said that he saw two guys in the car but felt afraid to say anything or even to make any noise. Feeling slightly less than Christian at the time, I called him a coward and said that when good people do nothing, evil flourishes.

As if this wasn't enough, it just gets better! The above events happened on a Monday; on Wednesday of the same week we, by chance, met a friend who had a large crowd standing around him. When we approached to greet him, we discovered that he had just caught a thief who had stolen from him. The crowd standing around had already beaten the thief so that he was

bleeding from the mouth, but then the police showed up. As the officers questioned him, they hit him in the face and stomach for unsatisfactory answers. As the police didn't have a vehicle, and were going to walk both our friend and the thief down to the police station, we offered to drive them all. Wouldn't you know it, since the police now had a "vehicle" (ours), they decided that we should drive them and the thief around different parts of the city looking for his accomplices. So, I'm driving, our friend is in the front passenger seat, and the police are on each door in the back seat with the bleeding thief in between them. Valeria is in the baggage section of the vehicle holding a metal pipe (left behind from the theft of our car jack on Monday) above the thief's head just in case he should try anything. All of this must have looked very funny as we drove SLOWLY down busy streets looking for more thieves (Where were we going to put them if we caught someone??? In the back with Valeria and the pipe???). Finally the police decided that we should make our way back to the police station; but man, what a day!

This last Monday a bomb exploded in our city and the political talking heads are now saying that there are terrorist cells associated with Al-Queida within Mozambique. The bomb damaged almost an entire city block of shops, but it went off at 03:00 A.M., and so no one died. Many feel that it is more than coincidental that this should happen so close to the time of the world cup in neighboring South Africa. Obviously this is a concern of prayer for us.

As you can see, missionary life is never boring. Life is made easier knowing that God is in control, and we have seen daily the evidence of His care for us.

In the service of the King,
Dan and Valeria Allen

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