



Southern African Missions Report

August-September : Forward Movement

Matthew 25:40 "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'"

Greetings All,

As 2019 starts winding down we're busy preparing and planning for 2020, blocking in the traveling times, discipleship programs, teaching slots, missionary visits and also taking time to reflect back on past work accomplished through the help of you, our faithful partners in this mission.

Last month I briefly mentioned Joaquim (our bush to bookworm story) and since graduation he has sent us a personal testimony, written in his fourth language - English (not translated by us!) and I thought others might also like to read this, as seen through his eyes. Trust that you will be encouraged as you take note of all that you have done through your faithful partnership.

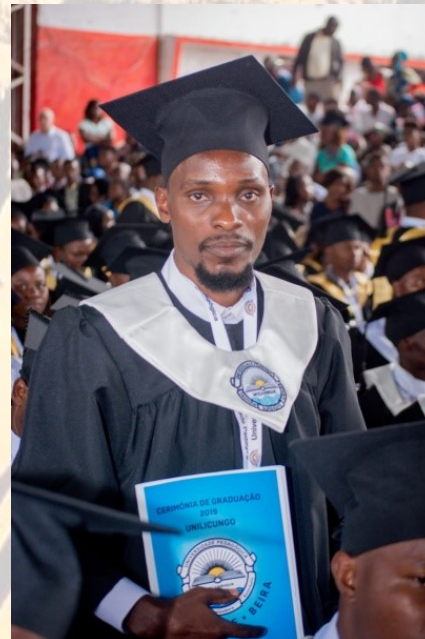
This is my testimony, it is about my life

My testimony begins like this.

I am Mr. Joaquim Vernijo Muamungo, from Mozambique, born in 1989 in countryside, certain area called Sambalendo, that's Mopeia District in the Province of Zambezia. I was born in a very poor family; my parents are peasants, that's why the very first job I learnt was to plow the land and hunt in the forest.

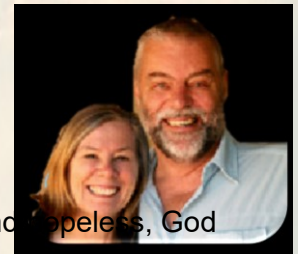
I entered school very late, that is, when I was 12 years old. It was not easy to go to school in those days, mainly for those who were in rural areas, because there were no schools. But as time went by, the government started bringing schools even to those rural areas very far from the cities. I started school very late as I said above; fortunately I did not stop until I finished my form four.

When I was doing grade 7 my uncle came from Quelimane city and took me in order to continue with my studies, but the problem was that he did not want to live with me in his house. He left me with one of his friends and this guy was using me as if I was his manservant, a waiter and because of that it was difficult for me to go to school peacefully, but even though I did not stop. I tried



to tell my uncle what was happening, but he did not show any interest on solving the problem I was going through! Being so, I thought of leaving that family and go to live with a certain pastor

called Silva Daudo. The pastor accepted, there I stayed with him something about two years. When the pastor was transferred I had to go to live with another uncle of mine who was not friend to me, until one day he kicked me out of his house, this time I felt lonely in the whole world going up and down, with no place to lean my head, it happened when I was doing grade 11 (form three), then I had to look for a pastor again for me to live in his house.



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There is where I went to talk to a pastor called Cristovão and he accepted, there I stayed with him for a year and half, again this was also transferred to another church far from Quelimane city, but before he left I had gone to speak to another pastor telling my situation and he allowed me to live in his house, as soon as pastor Cristóvão left I took my stuff to another family. Now I started living with this pastor called Mauricio Lemos Fonseca, when I was doing grade 12 (from four).

When I finished this level I had to feel stuck because I had no financial condition to go to university in order to continue with my studies to do my honor degree. Therefore I left Quelimane and went to another city called Beira, which is another province, trying to find a job opportunity in order to pay for my studies at university one day, because it was my dream, but one thing I didn't know was that God makes a way where seems to be no way out. I stayed almost a year in Beira no job opportunity for, there is I decided to come back to Quelimane.

In Mozambique these days is difficult for a person to have job opportunity if he or she does not have any professional formation. Therefore I was asking for a blessing from God in my daily prayers. The less I expected the blessing to come that's when God blessed me with a great blessing. A year after I had finished my form four, without a hope I went for an exam at university, that is, when I came back from Beira, it was like let me have a go. I wanted to see what would happen then. When the result came out I found that I was one of those who had had good marks and then I was qualified to study there. Yes of course I was very excited and sad at the very same time, because there was a problem! What was the problem now? Money! Who could support my studies, that is, who was going to pay for everything I would need during five years that the course would last?

While I was desperate and hopeless, God touched someone's heart to support me. One day I went to visit a couple of missionaries from South Africa, Eugene and Tina then I shared the news with them. Well I didn't know that would touch their hearts. After I finished telling them the news, I could notice from their faces that they were very happy. They asked me whether there was someone ready to support me, how much I would need for the fees, if the payments were monthly or not, if had a place to stay or not. After having answered all the questions they discovered that I was in need of a support, and then they promised to support me paying everything that I would need for the course, not only they also paid and are still paying my rent. I confess that during the years of my course nothing I wanted to have and they did not give me for university. I thank God for having touched their hearts. Now I have my honor degree, I am very happy and my prayer is that Eugene and Tina be even more blessed, because they really know what is to support people. I know that they sometimes go through hard times financially, but they do not stop giving their hands with little they possess, they have great heart. May God bless them.

Because you, the partners, took the effort to care, a life has been drastically changed. He obviously does not fully comprehend how missions actually work, and that it actually the partners that make missions possible. We are merely the hands and feet that carry the blessings mentioned above and for your incredible part in making a difference out there, we thank you

Keep Shiny,

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