

The Flame

To Be a God-Centred Anglican Church, Clearly Growing Spiritually,
Numerically, and Holistically

Rooted in Jesus Training in Zambezia

by Elke Hagedorn

What happens when you heed God's 'nudge'...

It all began with a nudge. I was asked to advertise on our rather large online bible study, that Bishop Martin and Colleen Breytenbach were looking for one or two people to join their team going to Zambezia, Mozambique to teach the well-known Rooted in Jesus discipleship course in May 2023.



I was happy to do it of course, however, throughout that evening I kept feeling a nudge and a little voice: "why not you?" I didn't even know what Rooted in Jesus was about, never mind where Zambezia was! The last time I visited Mozambique was in 2005 to enjoy the beaches in the South...

The Rooted in Jesus Discipleship course is a tool that is used throughout Africa and encourages people in small groups to learn about what it means to believe in God Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, to live out this Faith and then to disciple others. It is more than head knowledge but aims to change hearts and actions.



What makes it especially fantastic is the fact that it is designed for people to interact, engage actively, learn through practical demonstrations, and learn memory verses. The inspiration for the course stems from Matthew 28: 19 and 2.Tim. 2:2 – go into all the world and make disciples... who in turn will make disciples. Bishop Vicente Msoa asked for the course to be taught for the first time in the new diocese in Zambezia.

The meeting place was Mocuba – a little town in Mid -Mozambique. Our conference venue consisted of a church with a corrugated roof, newly built yet unfinished school classrooms and a newly built yet unfinished house for the bishop... and lots of sand, building materials, a few trees and a lot of sun.

People washed in a nearby river, slept on ground sheets on hard floors in the school and church, and ate outside under the trees. Plastic chairs were carried from the main venue in the church to classrooms for small group teachings. And it was in this place, that the Holy Spirit changed all of us from the inside out:

- i. For the first time I can honestly say that I could see and experience the love for others that Jesus spoke about and showed to everyone open to receive.
- ii. we heard stories of people that struggle with alcohol misuse, not having a drop throughout the week and experiencing the joy of soberness and purpose.
- iii. we saw God move time in such a way that, although we always started 'much later than planned', we were amazed every day of what was achieved.
- iv. I saw people visibly change in stature as they learnt about discipleship and were filled with the Holy Spirit and a sense of purpose; and
- v. I experienced again the power of intercessory prayer. We had 50+ people connected via WhatsApp, praying for daily needs and praising God for every day.



The number of believers in Mozambique and other African countries is growing rapidly! People are coming to Faith in Jesus in huge numbers. The Rooted in Jesus discipleship course is bearing much fruit throughout our continent and the need for discipleship and for resources such as bibles is growing all the time. Seeing the Holy Spirit at work in a small place such as Mocuba gives me hope. We have already heard of 4 Rooted in Jesus groups that have started and we pray that they continue. I pray that more of us say 'yes' to God's invitation to join him in expanding God's Kingdom Family, whether it be

in our neighbouring streets or under trees somewhere in another country, whether it be through leading a team, serving in a team, interceding or sponsoring... thank God that He is innovative enough to use whatever we give, maximise it and use it to his Glory!

Rooted in Jesus Training in Zambezia

by Revd Tebogo Monyai

It was a great experience to work closely with supportive and prayerful team members. Having people around you to encourage you and allow you to voice your concerns and questions was one thing that made the whole experience less stressful. I am grateful to Bishop Martin, the team leader, for ensuring that both the experienced and the inexperienced were valued and listened to equally.



The practice sessions showed how talented and spirit-filled some of the members are, sharing their faith Boldy and praying for each other. I learnt so much about their culture and tradition and during the workshops they were able to express their concerns and grievances and they would give each other advice as most had experienced the grievances that some were raising.



On Friday I was overwhelmed by the responses that people gave during the last teaching, sharing most of the things that they had learnt. With all the barriers of language and lack of context and understanding, God was there because the people of Zambezia were more transformed.

My expectations

I had expected most of the lessons to be fluent, as we were led to believe that all the participants would understand Portuguese, but this was not the case. A simple announcement such as "We are going to the workshop groups, please go to the same place as yesterday, but you will have a different facilitator" caused confusion that could only be resolved after almost half an hour with Daniel's help (he also had to emphasise this several times before they got it).

My suggestion would be to get competent people for the first training, who can then go back and teach those who do not know the dominant language so well in their mother tongue.



The team

Back left to right: Father Edmund/ 'Mund' Thompson (UK), Bishop Martin Breytenbach (CT), Bishop Vicente Msosa (Moz), Bruce Woolley (priest Dbn)

Front l-r: Daniel Magagnin (Relay Trust UK), Colleen Breytenbach (CT), Khwezi Bengani (priest Pta), Tebogo Respeito (priest Limpopo), Elke Hagedorn (CT)

