



Gregory's turn to write

One of the following didn't really happen this month. Can you tell which one it was?

Three of our boys went on a donkey ride; Sharon cooked enchiladas for Christmas dinner; we came close to burning down the old cinema where our international church meets; none of our Christmas parcels were stolen; on Boxing Day we made an ice sculpture of the Statue of Liberty.

Do you remember back in 2008 we ran a Good Friday Passion Play in several of the markets in the city of Tete? If that doesn't ring a bell, you can watch our YouTube video by clicking [here](#). We recently did something very similar by putting on a mobile Nativity Play in the largest of Tete's open-air markets. We had our 'Mary' astride a donkey with faithful 'Joseph' leading the stubborn animal by a rope. We had a particularly elegant Wise Man, a pair of scruffy shepherds, two thuggish soldiers fresh from the slaughter of the innocents, two shiny winged angels, an odd-looking narrator, and to round off the procession a figure dressed all in black and carrying aloft a wooden cross. Supported by a crowd of well-wishers, we spent two hours moving through the market, stopping every so often to retell parts of the Christmas story. It was great fun, incredibly hot (with the temperature hitting the upper 40s) and there was no question that we got our message across. To see for yourself what it all looked like, check out the latest photos page on our website at <http://kane.elim-moz.org/>

The actors for our Nativity Play were all participants in the evangelism training programme that I ran throughout November. Starting at the beginning of December I chose the five most capable of these young people and sent them out to work as evangelists. They have kept themselves busy through visiting house-to-house, preaching in the markets, selling Bibles, making use of our Saber MP3 player, arranging youth meetings, screening Christian movies - you name it, they have had a go. Right at this moment I have sent them out of the city to spend a week in rural evangelism, being based in two of the smaller towns where we have Elim congregations. Their sheer enthusiasm is invigorating and contagious and if you haven't yet watched our *YouTube* video of their month of training, then I recommend that you do so by clicking [here](#).

Sharon has been busy too in that she organised an evening Carols by Candlelight service at our international church. Mozambican churches don't normally have evening meetings and a carol service was certainly something of an innovation. But Sharon worked hard to train a choir, Stephen McLoughlin from Lisburn kindly recorded some music for us, and we advertised the event widely with leaflets, banners and even announcements on local radio. The carol service went well and we were pleased with the attendance. Moreover the flickering night-lights made for an evening that people will remember for a long time to come. I did however have one niggling fear over the idea of a candlelit service - when I did a flammability test on the carpet and the sponge filling from the chairs, both materials burst enthusiastically into flame and belted out the most obnoxious fumes! We took some sensible precautions and nothing went awry on the night, but it was a salient reminder that Health and Safety regulations are rarely enforced

in this part of the world.

It's very easy to get stuck in a rut, to end up doing the same sort of thing year after year, simply because it's never occurred to you to do things any differently. That's why we believe so passionately in the cross-fertilisation of ideas that come about through meeting new people and travelling to other places. During December we were thrilled to send five delegates to attend a youth conference in Zimbabwe that was organised by our Elim churches there. We would like to express our thanks to the capable Lollita Munembe for looking after our young people. We also had a visit from Pastor Angelino, a Mozambican who works here for the *Church of Pentecost* from Ghana. In its early days the *CoP* was supported by missionaries from the UK, but these days this West African church sends out its own missionaries to many nations throughout the world. I arranged for Angelino to meet with a number of our senior Elim leaders and he spoke powerfully on the importance of building an indigenously led church, one that looks to its own resources rather than constantly having its hand out for aid from abroad. I pray that one day the Elim church in Mozambique might find itself sending out missionaries and evangelists to work in other lands.

As with all missionaries we have our fair share of successes and failures. The following account is, sadly, one of the latter. For three years Sharon has been battling with the Ministry of Health to be accredited to work as a doctor within Mozambique. Nationally there is a chronic shortage of doctors - in nearby Moatize district there is one doctor serving a population of 240,000 - and Sharon has begged the authorities for permission to use her medical skills to make a difference in these rural communities. Nevertheless her every application has been turned down and we have reluctantly decided to give up. It's not as if there's anything inadequate in Sharon's medical experience - while we worked in Zimbabwe, she was the medical superintendent at Bonda hospital. We've tried many different routes. Countless people have been praying for this need. We even have a man helping us who used to work in the very department responsible for medical registration. But nothing, absolutely nothing, has availed. It is a crying shame.

In closing we would like to do something a little bit out of the ordinary. Christmas Day can be a lonely time for missionaries with friends and family so far away. But this year was made so much more special as a number of dear friends as well as several supporting churches sent us Christmas packages in the post, whether stocking fillers or specific presents for the family. It's really hard finding something suitable for one another here in Tete as the practice of exchanging gifts at Christmastime is largely unknown within the culture where we work. So here's a great big thank you to Evangeline Millar, Pauline Winn, Max Rawlings, Mel Price, Kay Walker, and to the churches in Preston and Wyesham. (Several of our family members also sent us Christmas presents and we were grateful for those too!) We were also encouraged by three gifts of Christmas money that were sent through our HQ. On the strength of these, we have been able to book ourselves a week's holiday in January on the shore of Lake Malawi. So we say to all those people, thank you ever so much for thinking of us and for showing the extent of your love.

Just before I sign off, I would like to mention some new material on our website at <http://kane.elim-moz.org/> As well as the aforementioned Nativity photos, you can also find a brand new family photo on the Downloads section of our site. This is large enough to be printed out and posted on a notice board. On the Bonus section you can listen to some entertaining hymns in the Chewa language recorded at our church in Moatize. And for those people who experience difficulty in printing the email version of our newsletter, there's always a narrower edition in the Archives section.

And just for the record, yes, we did have enchiladas for Christmas dinner and they were delicious. But no one round here has even seen a snowflake, let alone crafted the Statue of Liberty, alas.

Grace to you

Gregory and Sharon Kane
Elim International Missions

Prayer Requests

- Thank God for the success of our mobile Nativity Play and our evening Carol Service. In a nation that renames Christmas as Family Day, we took great delight in proclaiming the Saviour's birth
- Pray for Jaime, Rosário, Eduardo, Noé and Onéssimo, the five young men whom we have trained as evangelists. Pray also that their activities would inspire others to become more involved in the work of evangelism
- Temperatures are still very high. Pray for grace to cope with the heat, and that we wouldn't fall sick - especially with a holiday booked for January!
- Josiah has his mock GCSEs in January. Pray for him that he would be disciplined in his studies
- Oliver Heath from Staffordshire will be arriving at the end of January to spend three months with us. Pray that he would travel well and that he would quickly gain a level of proficiency with the Portuguese language
- Gregory has finally finished the novel that he has been working on for the past three years. Please pray that he would be able to secure the interest of a publisher, no mean feat in these difficult economic times

Boring but Important

Would you like to contribute financially to our work in Mozambique? Send your cheque or debit instructions to Elim International Missions, Elim International Centre, De Walden Road, West Malvern, WR14 4DF, or as appropriate to the Irish Missions Director at 1-3 Old Cross St, Newtownards, N. Ireland, BT23 7NW. However - and this is very important - you need to make it clear that your gift is for the "*Kanes in Mozambique*." Your generosity will enable us to continue our different training and development programmes. Elim's charity number is 251549 in England and SC037754 in Scotland.

If you would like to make regular gifts towards our support, you can obtain forms for standing orders and direct debits on the Downloads page of our web site or by contacting Elim Missions on missions@elimhq.net You can also view a YouTube video on how to support us financially by clicking [here](#).

If you no longer wish to receive this monthly update, please send a blank email to kane@elim-moz.org with "*Please remove*" in the subject line.

Our mobile telephone number in Mozambique is +258 82 5167173 and our land line is +258 252 20045. For cheaper calls from a UK land line, check out Telediscount at <http://www.telediscount.co.uk/> Alternatively you can use Skype to call us over the Internet. Our Skype name is *kanes_in_moz* although bear in mind that we don't keep Skype connected 24/7 owing to bandwidth restrictions.

Postal address for letters, magazines and packages: Caixa 21, Tete, Mozambique. Please note that any packages MUST be sent as either registered or recorded delivery so as to prevent postal theft. Letters and cards can be sent as normal mail.

Further information on our life and ministry here in Mozambique can be found on our web site at <http://kane.elim->

moz.org/ If you have difficulty in printing out this newsletter, you can find a narrower version in the Archives section of our web site.

Sharon's Joke of the Month

Magic Trick

A cruise ship hired a magician to entertain the passengers. Since the passengers changed every four or five days, the magician was able to perform the same tricks over and over.

Unfortunately, the Captain of the ship had a parrot who sat around and watched the magician perform his tricks, over and over. Eventually, the parrot learned how the tricks were done and would interrupt the act.

"It's in his sleeve" the parrot would say. "He switched balls." "It's in his pocket." etc.

Naturally, the magician was quite disturbed by the parrot but could do nothing about it, since the bird belonged to the Captain.

Unfortunately, the cruise ship had the misfortune of hitting an iceberg and sank to the bottom of the sea in a matter of minutes. As fate would have it, the magician and the parrot managed to grab hold of the same floating piece of furniture.

For 3 days neither said anything. The magician stared at the parrot and the parrot stared back. Finally, on the 4th day, the parrot's resolve cracked and he said:

"OK, I give up, where on Earth did you put the ship?"

Gregory's Quote of the Month

"I have found that there are three stages in every great work of God: first, it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done."

- *Hudson Taylor*