

Liz and Sergio Vilela

We need each other!

October 2020

www.bmsworldmission.org/lsvilela



1 Thessalonians 5:11: "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

Dear friends, we bring greetings from Beira, Mozambique. In this continuing difficult time, we hope this letter will encourage you and bring you hope. God made us for relationship and we need each other, offering support and being together in whatever way we can. We are doing this here at the moment through giving food, visits, and training online, as well as other things.

We started a food distribution project for families that have suffered because of the effects and consequences of Covid-19, which many of you have contributed to. Here we didn't have lockdown but we have had several government restrictions and because of this, many have lost jobs. The project's aim is to bless 1000 families with a 25 kg bag of rice, 2kg of beans, 2ltrs of oil, 1kg of salt, 1kg of sugar and 2 masks. The idea is also to clarify the importance of using masks and about the seriousness of the disease. Many people think that the disease is not here and so they don't take the necessary care. We asked Church Leaders to choose families from the church and also people from the community who are in a precarious situation, for example, widows, orphans, people with disabilities or have no working family member. It is a challenge because almost everyone in Mozambique needs this support but we have to do this separation. We were delivering food to a lady and I started talking to her and I said it's not much but it comes from the heart and I hope it helps. She looked at me with tears in her eyes and said "this is a big help, because I didn't know what I would eat tomorrow."



Life here is getting back to normal, in some respects. Churches that fulfil all the requirements have reopened, children are now allowed in one of the supermarkets, beaches are now open. Only the school years that have exams have restarted at the schools that fulfil the requirements and the next few weeks will determine whether the other years will restart. Chloe and Joshua continue doing school at home. Chloe enjoyed learning about mummification (see photo) in history. Joshua loves doing cartwheels around the house and getting dirty.

It's nice to be able to go to our church which now has two services so everyone can fit in due to spacing the chairs out. We alternate services as children aren't allowed. We are doing well, but we are ready to get out of the city and have a holiday in December.



It is always a great opportunity to give training on safeguarding, for people to open their eyes to new ideas and ways of looking after children in a way that will have a greater and more positive impact on them and their families, demonstrating God's love to children, not just through words but by offering a safe and loving environment. At the beginning of October Liz and Joao Paulo began some training with the PEPE coordinators that will happen on Saturday mornings throughout

October and November. We give thanks for Zoom, which is a great tool for us to use. The first session was very positive and the participants were all engaged and enthused. We hope this will encourage the coordinators to take on a more active role in promoting good safeguarding practice within PEPEs and also extending that to families and communities.



I (Liz) went to visit one of the women from our church. I followed her as she weaved between different houses and plots of land to get to her house, a simple house made of brick with probably two bedrooms. It was about 9:30am but something was already cooking on the charcoal outside, while the teenage girl who helps them was washing up and preparing food for lunch. In the house lives the lady, her husband, her three children and the girl that works for them. We sat outside the house to have a catch up. It was in this conversation that I realised how important going to church is for Mozambican women. This lady's husband works and she stays at home and church is the only real reason for leaving the house. Women here don't have time or money to do leisure activities or something for themselves. They give their lives for their

children, husband, work, etc., which is why church is so important to them. This lady really missed being able to go over the last 6 months as it was the highlight of her week, to be with others, worship and learn more about God and feel supported. She had a dream of becoming a doctor, but that never came to fruition. She knows how to braid hair and hopes that this will help her to earn some more money for herself and the family.



Please pray for:

- people who are struggling to feed their families at this time
- rest and rejuvenation for our family
- a long term impact on the coordinators who are participating in the PEPE safeguarding training
- for the lady and her family that was mentioned, and that women can find that fellowship and support that they need at their local church

We thank you for being part of this mission of seeing lives transformed through your prayers and donations, and we thank you for your support for us as a family.

May God bless you,
Sergio, Liz, Chloe and Joshua

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