

**Beyond the Walls**  
**Mozambique, Africa**  
**June 9 – 21, 2007**

Below is an excerpt from Bruce Wood's journal during our trip to Africa...

**Day 6 - Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

Today, Mike (Gill) and I worked together at the hospital worksite in Chicuque, Mozambique, side by side, all day long! Encouraging one another as Greg (Martin) outlined in this day's devotional - 1 Thessalonians 5:11: "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing". Mike and I moved sand from the sifted sand pile to the concrete mixer behind the hospital clinic supply warehouse. Then we moved large rocks to the foundations being dug by the local workers. It was very hard work. The stones were very heavy. Mike and I talked to each other and to the local workers all day, encouraging each other to persevere - to "press on". It was very rewarding to us as we grew closer to these local people even having to suffer through our language barriers. In laughter, there are no language barriers! And we laughed most of the day! Mike and I grew much closer as friends through this work process. Praise be to God! For our midday meal, we were invited guests of an African family to visit their home and eat lunch with them! During this very special time together, we celebrated life together! It was a wonderful experience, one that all of us on this trip will never forget! The smiles, the laughter, the love was so overwhelming! This day, as with each of our days on this trip, the Holy Spirit simply took charge of everything! The joy in the lives of the family that hosted us for lunch was so evident! These are blessed people! You could see it and feel it as you experienced their way of life! Thank you Jesus for bringing our group to this family this day! WE were the ones receiving your blessings from them this day! The afternoon meant more work on the hospital jobsite. This afternoon, Mike and I were promoted to "brick masons"! We were lucky enough to set the bricks in the wet concrete all afternoon as we constructed the walls to this hospital expansion! It beat moving sand and rocks! We were overjoyed at this new assignment! WE HAD FUN! The joking with the workers continued all afternoon, both in English and what little Portuguese that Mike and I could muster! Following dinner at the "guest house", we all assembled upstairs for a devotion led by Alysia (Wood). She asked each of us the question - "Who is more blessed? We as Americans or the African people that we had met this week?" WOW! What a question and the answers were astounding! We, as Americans, look at our "blessings" so often from a material point of view, yet these people that we have encountered this week look at their "blessings" as spiritual, in all that they do! Constantly singing their love and joy for the Lord! All the time singing! Amazing! We truly are learning from them how life should be enjoyed and what our TRUE blessings are each day! Following our discussion, Mia closed with an amazing prayer! Thank you Lord for giving me the chance to be there at that moment! One that I will never forget! During the devotion, Alysia gave out "God Glasses" that were given to her for this devotion by one of her Emmaus reunion sisters and one of our "prayer warriors", Debbie Tufts. The glow in the dark kind! With Big Rims so we could see all at all times! Following devotion time, we all went outside into the yard next to the guest house with our "God Glasses" and entertained the locals walking by the guest house late at night on their way to wherever. The laughter was both sided! It was a hoot! All you could see were these different colored glass rims moving in all directions! It was pure fun! For all participating! Finally, we ended our day looking up at the magnificently brilliant and large stars scattered throughout the "Milky Way" spreading across the African night's horizon.....as we were observing the stars, God

"shined" on us by allowing us to witness a beautiful shooting star streaking across the horizon! On that note, we said our good nights and went each to his / her bed under our mosquito nets with the honey bees humming in the walls all night long! What a day! Praise be to our God! Our one God of all people!!

Bruce A. Wood