



MOZAMBIQUE-HUB 2006

Having planned fewer events of their own for this year, the leadership could use the first half of 2006 to reorganise, build relationships and thorough planning of the Lichinga conference.

A. GENERAL

1. ADMINISTRATOR

Malcolm Russell, already a member of MozHub's management team, retired from his banking career to step right into the new position as **administrator** for the Hub. His organisational skills are highly appreciated

2. REORGANISING THE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The management structure was **simplified** and **streamlined** thus:

- **Core executive** of 3 members to handle day to day business;
- **Management committee** of 6 members;
- **Panels** (of unlimited size) of **consultants and co-workers**.

3. NEW FORMULATION OF VISION, MISSION & GOALS

Alexander Roy Martin, one of our co-workers, reworked the old formulations and brought them up to date.

See
right

4. MEETINGS OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS

4.1 **Ernst & Cathra Muller** of MozHub's management committee, with **Colin and Elizabeth Sylvester**, close associates of the Hub, attended **Ruvuma Support Network's** annual meeting at Biedouw (18-20 March 2006), in an effort to strengthen bonds and promote closer cooperation.

4.2 Team members also attended meetings of **Mission Partnership Forum**, **Member Care Gauteng Network** and **Transvaal-Mozambique Work Group**.

VISION: *To see all the people groups of Mozambique being reached with the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

MISSION: *To promote and facilitate the Christian mission activities in Mozambique, in order to encourage a sustained thrust with special emphasis on reaching the least-reached people groups, without excluding the other groups.*

MOZAMBIQUE HUB is a voluntary interdenominational network of groups and individuals, served by a team of facilitators, striving:

- *To bring to the attention of and create **awareness** in South African Christian communities and churches, the needs of the least reached people groups, and other people groups in Mozambique, in the opportunity window that now exists.*
- *To encourage closer **co-operation** and effective networking amongst missionaries/workers in Mozambique, as well as mission organizations, agencies, churches, and all involved in the Mozambique mission effort.*
- *To promote and encourage awareness of the need for high quality **care and support** for missionaries/workers in Mozambique, and where/when sending organizations are not able to do so, to assist to provide such care and support.*

Note 1



The team was once again transported by a plane chartered from **MAF**, paid for partly by **sponsorships** raised by the team members and partly from **donations** from the UK, specified for the benefit of missionary activities in Mozambique, and placed at the disposal of MozHub.

B. CONFERENCE IN LICHINGA

Note 2

1. After two previous successful conferences in Nampula, Mozambique (2004 and 2005, in partnership with **Mission Aviation Fellowship**, and **New Tribes Mission** and **SIL** respectively), we decided to have the next event in one of the more remote areas of Northern Mozambique. Missionaries of **Lichinga** suggested that we visit their town.
2. This event took place from **2 to 9 June 2006** at the Anglican Church's **Kuchijinji Conference Centre**, outside Lichinga.
3. In addition to studying the previous years' evaluation forms, we conducted new **surveys** of missionaries' needs, that led us to structure the event in the following way :
 - 3.1 **Marriage Enrichment weekend** (fully sponsored by **Bryanston Methodist Church**, and presented by Clive and Brenda Hawkins of BMC's Counselling Ministry). This was done at the request of missionaries and was well received by the 17 couples that attended.
 - 3.2 A **children's programme and infant care** were provided by the team.
 - 3.3 A **worship service** led by rev Helen van Koevering (Anglican Church Lichinga) and rev Ernst Muller (DRC Florandia/Moz-Hub) that included Holy Communion and rededication of the couples' marriages.
 - 3.4 Times were set aside for **devotions, praise and worship and prayer**.
 - 3.5 A **romantic dinner** at a local restaurant for missionary couples (sponsored by individual believers in SA) – a first for many couples in several years – while the team looked after their children.
 - 3.6 **Workshops, practical service** by, and **consultations** with several **experts** in the team (including vehicle, radio and computer maintenance and repairs, installation of electrical systems, water pump and tank, geysers, etc. etc.);

- 3.7 **Haircuts, facials and foot massages.**
- 3.8 **Craft sessions** with the ladies and children.
- 3.9 Blood pressure and other **medical tests**, injections, advice on health issues (by two registered nurses).
- 3.10 **Workshop on home education** presented by a lecturer in education, Hayley Barnes, followed by private consultations. In addition to giving encouragement, advice and practical help, she also collected information with a few on implementing a long term **educational support system** for mission families (see also **C1**).
- 3.11 The chairman (*who does not possess any of the skills mentioned above*) spent his time in a series of thought-provoking **discussions** with missionaries and church leaders and visits to some very interesting projects in and around Lichinga (see **C2, C4**).



- 4. As usual the attendees represented several **different nationalities, churches, mission agencies** (incl. SIM, YWAM, Visoa Integral/NTM, IRM, Southern Baptists, Anglican Diocese of Niassa, Boa Nova para Africa), **projects** (education, agriculture, evangelism, Bible translation, etc.) and **places**.
- 5. The team consisted of **MozHub facilitators** and several **other volunteers** (about evenly representing Baptist, Methodist and Dutch Reformed Churches in SA). Two of the team members, **Lien Welthagen** (prayer & research coordinator & secretary) and **Roy Martin** went ahead of the team and served missionaries in various ways for three weeks leading up to the conference.



6. CONTINUOUS SPECIALIST SERVICES

While many missionaries receive practical help from their sending churches and support groups, many others do not. Our aim is to help redress this disparity by recruiting **professionals** and other **experts** willing to travel to Mozambique to serve diverse GROUPS of missionaries, irrespective of agencies, churches and nationalities.

- 6.1 **MAF's regular shuttle service** enables such specialists to easily reach several key places in Mozambique.
- 6.2 **Mercy Air** flies regularly to Mozambican destinations.
- 6.3 Mozambique's national airline, **LAM**, delivers good service at reasonable prices (*inside Mozambique's borders - travel by LAM from SA is relatively expensive*).



C. OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES

1. EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEM

- 1.1 **Home schooling** of missionary children is a common practice in Mozambique, but rife with tension and problems.
- 1.2 Many older children are sent to **boarding schools** in SA and other home countries.
- 1.3 **Mission Aviation Fellowship** is taking the lead in investigating better support for home schooling parents.
- 1.4 **Ms Hayley Barnes** (lecturer in Education at University of Pretoria and member of Central Baptist Church) used the Lichinga visit to further investigate the problem and possible solutions.
- 1.5 **MozHub** is involved in the process. A series of workshops is being held with several role players.
- 1.6 Ms Barnes intends to start with a **e-mail newsletter** for home-schooling parents and children.
- 1.7 MAF is looking at the possibility of flying in **part-time teachers** to assist parents at home or at central venues.
- 1.8 **Special events** such as workshops, youth camps, etc. are also considered.

2. NEED FOR A RETREAT CENTRE

Some experts use the name “*compassion fatigue*” to describe the condition that sometimes bring missionaries to the **brink of burn-out**. Regular bouts of malaria and other ailments also take their toll. MozHub started discussion on the need for **places of retreat** inside Mozambique with some other role players, including leaders of the Anglican Church in Niassa. One possible site, already under development, has already been identified.

3. POSSIBLE MEDICAL SUPPORT MINISTRY

MozHub is assisting a **medical doctor** (previously from Malawi, now working in Australia) who is interested in returning to Africa to work with Christian missions in Northern Mozambique, in investigating possibilities and linking up with advisors.



4. CLOSER COOPERATION: MISSIONARIES & LOCAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP IN MOZAMBIQUE.

In addition to missionaries from different agencies cooperating, there is a need for missionaries and their agencies to move **closer to local churches** and **national ecumenical bodies**. MozHub is discussing ways to encourage this with different role players.

5. EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT TWELVE MONTHS

Annual Mozambique Weekend Conference	<i>Heron Bridge Retreat Centre</i> (near Lanseria) Gauteng	20-22 October 2006	Including possible day-session with leaders of missionary agencies involved in Moz.
Possible Mission Conference in Southern Mozambique	Maputo (?)	Early 2007 (?)	- Interacting with missionaries in S.Moz. - Discussions with Moz. Church leadership (Moz Council of Churches, Ev. Alliance, etc)
Mission Conference in Northern Mozambique	<i>SIL Conference Centre</i> Nampula	1-10 June 2007	- Workshop on African Religious Thought - Family/marriage enrichment weekend - Seminars, expert services, etc.

6.OPPORTUNITY WINDOWS

“Everybody just comes in and does his own thing – is it the best way to do missions?” asks a church leader in Northern Mozambique. Good question – complicated issue. Missionaries and church leaders in general are aware that the open doors and opportunity windows presently experienced, are not a given, and that all should strive for “the best way to do missions”.

In principle almost everybody believes in **closer co-operation**, in practice, all tend indeed to “do their own thing”. MozHub will continue striving for good **networks** and strong **partnerships** among missionaries, agencies and churches. Closer co-operation with local church leaders may be more difficult to attain, but we will do our part where possible.

The only **currency** we really deal in as Hub (*excluding switching between rands, dollars and meticaais in Lichinga*) is **relationships**. We are thankful for hundreds of “spider threads” that have been spun during the last eight years, and gladly offer our services to any person or body who share our vision, mission and goals for Christian missions in Mozambique.

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IMPORTANT NOTES

Note 1

1. It is an important principle for MozHub NOT TO INTERFERE with the care and support administered to missionaries by their sending churches, organisations and/or sending cells/support groups. We LIMIT our involvement in missionary care to the following types of situations:
 - a. Where missionaries' support systems are geographically DISTANT and not able to help in certain circumstances (e.g. missionaries from overseas, without agency in SA, have to go to SA for medical, logistical or other assistance);
 - b. Where, in a SUDDEN EMERGENCY, support systems are unable to help;
 - c. Especially, when opportunities arise where GROUPS of missionaries from different agencies, churches and places, can be jointly served in a way that agencies or support groups are unlikely to do on their own.
2. In addition to these guidelines, we also believe in:
 - a. Regular COMMUNICATION about our plans, movements and challenges with missionaries and agencies;
 - b. Frequent SURVEYS among missionaries about their needs;
 - c. FACILITATING help rather than doing it ourselves (although members of the MozHub executive committee find themselves quite often in situations where “hands-on” service is required, and which we enjoy supplying, we like to “keep our hands in”, but more often refer missionaries to people and organisations better equipped to handle their special needs).
 - d. Working in close PARTNERSHIP with other SERVICE AGENCIES (such as Mercy Air, MAF, Mission Partnership Forum, Member Care Network, etc.) who are also geared to serve missionaries of different agencies, churches, etc.

Note 2

1. This “mini-conference” was planned in adherence to the above-mentioned principles and guidelines. We tried to be sensitive to the relationship between missionaries and their own support systems. We offered mainly services directly requested by several missionaries and attempted to spread the assistance as wide as possible.
2. We always try to avoid dates that clash with events of agencies and churches. Because of many factors, however (such as state of roads in rainy season, availability of venues, planes, etc.) it is sometimes unavoidable to stage MozHub events at the same times or in close proximity to other events. In such cases we prefer that missionaries attend the events of their primary bodies.