



# Making it all happen

## *Developing church leaders to build communities*



*Pastor Carlos (pictured right) sitting with two of his ruling elders, each responsible for 7-11 churches.*

Behind strong communities, historically, there has been a church playing a vital role. In an environment where there are 66 churches served by only 2 **pastors**, training of lay leaders is essential. Lay leaders are integral both to the church and the villages in which churches are located. The work we have witnessed and which The Outreach Foundation supports happens only because of the leadership development program. As Nedson and Sebber have explained, without this integral component, the other parts of the holistic evangelism project in Tete Province fails. Basic training equips lay leaders to lead all aspects of church life.

Today we were able to spend time with two elders whom Pastor Carlos a few years ago identified as elders capable of advanced

leadership training. Both men had been subsistence farmers before their training with The Outreach Foundation. Through their training they learned carpentry, theology, church management, business skills and evangelism. Now they not only serve several churches each, and evangelize surrounding areas to build new churches, but have begun to develop the economy as carpenters in their communities.

The money the elders earn supports themselves, their churches, farms back home, and employs people to work their farms. One elder has expanded his carpentry business to include apprenticeships, a shop in town, and carpentry businesses in other villages. The workers the elders employ not only assist the economy, but give them more time

to evangelize and do church work, which is what gives them the most joy.

Advanced leadership training involves three steps:

1. Exposure (1 week): the churches select 45-50 people each year who might make good elders. They are exposed to established churches in Malawi, and meet to discuss their learnings.
2. Evangelism (2-4 weeks): 15 people are selected from this group to attend the annual evangelism training in which they learn several church based skills including preaching, budgeting, leading meetings, and evangelism/church planting.
3. Skills school (3 months): 4-8 people are selected annually to learn a trade (carpentry, tailoring, fish-farming, and rug weaving), and how to use that trade to empower their communities, develop the economy around them, and become self-sustaining. As did Paul, their work is a door for the Lord to be known.

These elders also provide leadership within communities to facilitate and support Sebber's health, water, and sanitation education, and her training of midwives and nursing assistants.

This week we saw many water, health, and education projects, but today we have been blessed to see and share with you that the engine driving all this work of The Outreach Foundation in Mozambique is **the training** of amazing and humble church leaders glorifying God through their talents.