

The Tete Province Church Leadership Seminar

Exploring a deeper partnership that we and the body of Christ may grow

Friday, June 15

Bible study (Lk 10:25-37); Counseling (AM); Discipleship (PM); giving the Bible libraries (PM)



Sebber teaching on family issues



(left) It was a special joy for me to be able to provide gifts of Bibles, hymnals, and 13 other study materials covering marriage and family, Bible study, and church leadership. Thanks to the money several of you donated to this gift, the seminar participants have received their first personal library. Well done and thanks be to God!

The advanced evangelism seminar's first week ends with two topics: counseling and discipleship. Abusa Moses guides the participants into some of the challenges involved with counseling, ethical issues, the role of their spouses in marriage counseling, and they discuss listening skills. Next week the seminar will address more Bible study skills, preaching, marriage and family issues, and behavior change.

Considering the range and depth of topics this seminar covers, during breakfast I asked Sebber and Nedson to explain what's happening. It was a helpful conversation as I try to understand then communicate the reasons for this training, its function in the Tete Province, and why supporting this with our funds and time may be strategically important.

The Tete Province Presbyterian churches are governed by several sessions, under the jurisdiction of the IPM (Presbyterian Church of Mozambique). Two men pastor 63 churches, and many ruling elders assist them in their work.

This week's advanced evangelism seminar equips the

elders to fulfill their responsibilities. The topics and discussions help people with no formal education to become effective leaders in their communities. You'll recall the village churches are a driving force behind the water wells, clinics, and schools. The people I met this week are learning the value of these projects and will be instrumental in facilitating future projects. As has been emphasized during this seminar, their work is not only for the church, but to make disciples among those who do not yet know the Lord. This is where the mission work begins.

So, how do people end up here? The answer is rooted within the church culture. Following a long period of faithful attendance and work in their churches, certain people are invited to become elders, if approved by the session. At this point, they may be considered for the training in this seminar, but it can take years to earn the privilege of an invitation. Leadership development in the church is a trust handed down by older ruling elders to younger ones. *Elders can attend these seminars as many times as invited by session.*

Eventually, session may invite a few elders to attend the advanced skills workshop. This is a summer-long opportunity, which teaches proven church leaders a skill that results in their and the community's economic development. One of the attendees this week will be attending the next workshop, and he is very excited.

As for funding, while the IPM is glad to have this advanced evangelism seminar it does not provide funds. The Outreach Foundation funds both it and the advanced skills workshop (\$20,000), primarily through the support of a single donor.

There is one caveat to mention. Throughout the year other training opportunities occur locally in Tete Province (see the next page). At \$55,000 these form the major expense, and would extend this training to even more people, yet they receive no funding. Sparse undesignated funds enable a couple of these special sessions. I am challenged by this revelation, and I wonder if wells, roofs, and clinics are worthy of our partnership, is not this training as well, if not more so?

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Course Offerings by category

CATEGORY	COURSE	# OF PARTICIPANTS
CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING	Elder Training	60
	HIV/AIDS	80
	Women's Leadership	60
	Leadership Couples	80
	Youth Leadership	50
	Child Evangelism	50
	Malawi Church Exposure*	45
	Literacy Development	40
	Sustainable Development	20
EVANGELISM/CHURCH PLANTING (101-Local)	Jesus Film	2,000
	Zobue Outreach**	15
	Mutarara Outreach**	15
HEALTH AWARENESS & MINISTRY (Local)	Traditional Birth Attendants	100
	Village Health Assistants	100
	Awareness Campaign	local visits with drama teams
ADVANCED EVANGELISM (201-in Malawi)	(This week's seminar)	up to 18
ADVANCED SKILLS TRAINING (301-in Malawi)		up to 8

Most of these courses occur locally throughout Tete Province in Mozambique. Currently, the Advanced Evangelism (which I am assisting), and the Advanced Skills Training occur in Zomba, Malawi.

*The *Malawi Church Exposure* brings up to 45 elders to visit established churches in Malawi (such as St. James, which was featured in my second journal). For one week, Nedson and other Abusas train elders on how to manage a church, organize worship, run meetings, etc. **Upon invitation, this could be an ideal hands-on opportunity for US pastors and CLP's interested in providing leadership training. Please share your interest with Berry Long.**

***Zobue and Mutarara Outreaches* are evangelism immersion experiences lasting one week each. Evangelists-in-training who have attended the Advanced Evangelism training are provided bicycles and for one week they evangelize an area. Nedson debriefs with them following their week of immersion training.

Friends, on a personal note, it has been my privilege to be your eyes and ears in this first opportunity we have had to listen in on this completely indigenous advanced training. Tonight, without power, I sit next to a candle writing this final missive excited and inspired by what I have learned. Without the benefit of a team or a common language, I am sure I missed several moments. And my voice is but one of many possible voices who would have written better and made more convincing

points. So, for the trust you laid upon me to bring news of this crucial piece of the The Outreach Foundation's Tete Province Holistic Evangelism Project, I say *zikomo kwambiri!* To the glory of God that the gospel may increase where once there was a poverty of hope (Isa 42:6-10a).

Tom Boone