



Top picture is Elias Makhule United Methodist Church  
Lower picture- the parsonage.

## Mozambique

Most of you are aware that, it was voted by the Administrative Board to do a full 3 year covenant with a church in Mozambique. It is with great joy and gratefulness to God, for how richly Eastwood Memorial UMC has been blessed, that we share the information we have received regarding the church we are now in covenant with.

The name of the church is Elias Makhule UMC, and the Pastor is Vicente Alberto Mauaie (prior: Joao Amosse Doce). The District the church is located in is the Inhambane Central. The church is located 15 kilometers South of Maxixe. In this district there are 8 local churches, the membership is 816 and the average attendance is 230. There have been 115 new converts and 406 Baptisms, and 99 have been confirmed. The languages spoken are Portuguese, Xitswa, and Bitonga.

There is no electricity in the chapel or the parsonage, but some houses in the village do have electricity. The chapel is a thatched structure-all grass with a floor of mud. There are no pews, but a few benches and members and Pastor bring chairs and mats from home to sit on.

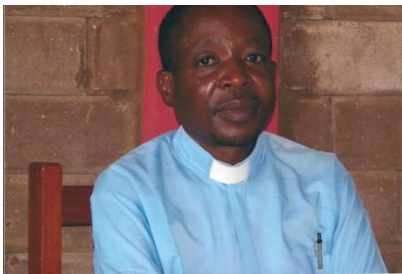
The parsonage is a semi-permanent structure; one bedroom and a living room; cane for the walls; cemented floor; zinc sheets for the roof and no furniture at all. The pastor is in need of a motor bike to help with visit local communities and to evangelize.

The people of the village live on small businesses such as flea markets, and selling coconuts and cashew nuts. Agriculture is the basis of family and church sustenance. Most women have small plots of land for gardening outside the village and work in the nearest flea market and bargain agricultural products. Men and the youth do a lot of fishing and cut firewood.

Development activities are:

1. Church group meetings, women, youth, men, youth and children every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays, including Sunday worship and church events.
2. Workshops on evangelization, stewardship, Christian education.
3. Charge conferences; baptisms, reception of full members.
4. Spiritual revivals, Support and visit the sick and homeless and pray for them
5. Agricultural practices, growing corn, cassava, groundnuts, fishing

As you can see they are an active church, but with some constraints; weakness of members in contributing for tithe and other church apportionments as they solely depend on agriculture and fishing, diseases such as malaria, rheumatism, HIV/AIDS, lack of Christian education materials, especially Bibles and Hymnals, written in the local language, this contributes to absence of Bible classes, mobility difficulties for pastor because of the long distances between local churches, and last of water and adequate health care.



### **A message from the pastor of this Church to the Covenant**

**Partner:** Friends in Missouri, Greetings from your brothers and sisters in Christ! We pray that all in God may be good for you and that the work of God continues, as you continue making disciples. We still feel the joy to be in covenant with you, and pray that we can develop in many ways, as we think and support each other in our ministries, and use the tool of prayer to heal and save people's lives. Our strength is never diminished because of the constraints

we are facing. We are still faithfully strong and get the Word where needed. We pray for you and your ministries. Thanks for being our friend and for all you do to make a huge difference in our church in particular and to the Mozambique church in general.

In God's love,  
Joao Amosse Doce