



Sister Conferences Connection  
The United Methodist Church  
Volunteers in Mission

## Dear friend of the Mozambique/NY Sister Conferences Connection:

**We are reaching out to you** because you have shown an interest over time with the Mozambique/New York Sister Conferences Connection.

The United Methodist Church connection with Mozambique dates back more than a century. This year's October Volunteer in Mission trip continues the ministry begun when our Bishop Forrest Stith led a delegation in 1994. Over the years construction projects have included rebuilding a warehouse roof that was destroyed during the civil war; rebuilding educational, medical, and church facilities; and repairing new and old roofs on orphanage dorms, just to name a few. In addition to our presence and the creation of lasting relationships, during their visits our Volunteers in Mission provide such services as English classes, computer classes, and guitar and recorder lessons.

In 2000, Mozambique Bishop Joao Machado asked that the Connection **move our focus to the North Mozambique Conference**. Our first project there was to help fund and build the United Methodist Church in Lichinga. This was first permanent church building in the north since before the Mozambique Civil War. Next we went to Cuamba and helped to build a parsonage there.

**We do what the people of Mozambique feel they need most.** In 2005, we helped to start construction of an Episcopal residence and conference office in Beira, needed because of the rapid growth of Methodism in Mozambique. Since then, this has been our building project. For 2009, the Mozambique – North Conference has asked us to continue this work, and in her Vision Statement for the future of the UMC in Mozambique, newly elected **Bishop Joaquina Nhanala** notes the importance of continuing with the completion of the buildings that have been started.

This Center will provide meeting and training space for clergy and laity in Mozambique-North, a conference office, as well as a residence during the months the bishop is in the North Conference. However, it is a HUGE project. Long ago we exhausted our resources and expertise as a construction crew. The upside of this is that the project injects much-needed funds into the local economy. At Annual Conference in June, Bishop Park presented \$10,000 from the Bishop's Partners In Mission Fund, and Connecticut District generously provided \$10,000 from a special mission effort. But it is estimated that in order to finish the building **an additional \$20,000 is needed**.

**It is important to the UMC in Mozambique** that this building be finished soon to meet the urgent need for centralized training programs, providing a meeting place for planning the continued growth of the United Methodist Church in Mozambique, and the country of Mozambique as a whole. **It is important to the Connection** that this building be finished soon because we would like to be in a position to address other urgent needs, including establishing model farm projects, and also to focus on health and education priorities. Because of the devaluation of the US dollar, and because of inflation, the longer it takes to complete this building, the more it costs.

**You can help.** Our goal is to obtain the necessary funds as soon as possible, so that this building can be completed by 2010, the target date projected by Bishop Nhanala.

The Moz/NY Connection is appreciative for your continued interest and support, and especially grateful for your prayers.

Obrigado... thank you.

*The Rev. Stefanie Bennett,*

*Martha D. Nelson*

*Co-chairs, Mozambique-New York Sister Conference Connection*

Please, send your contribution to Jerry Jones, Moz/NY Connection Treasurer, 57 Sullivan Farm, New Milford CT 06776. Checks should be made out "United Methodist Frontier Foundation", and the memo line should state "Moz/NY Beira building".

All contributions are considered tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law.

Send questions to [moznyconnect@gmail.com](mailto:moznyconnect@gmail.com)

## The future Mozambique-North Bishop's Residence/Conference Center



(seen January 2009)

Of course, the Moz/NY Connection continues to support our other projects in Mozambique. Other opportunities for giving: We currently are providing scholarships to 6 college students. The Farm Project is ongoing outside Lichinga. We continue affiliation with the Caroline Belshe Orphanage in Cambine. Designated gifts may sent to the address above, with the chosen fund clearly marked in the memo or note. Undesignated gifts, always welcome, will be deposited in our general treasury to be used for items highest on our priority, at the discretion of the Executive Board.