



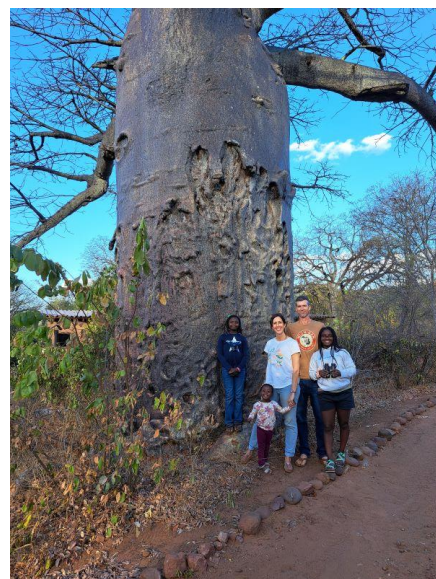
September 2023

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that at the beginning of the year, we were in the U.S. The year started with an encouraging story. When Nede was starting 11th grade in her online academy, she received an email from her Bible teacher. The email said that Chad had stayed at this Pastor's house, years ago, while visiting an RCA church. This RCA Pastor was now teaching at the academy. He had been receiving our dear friends' letters for years, so when he saw Nede's name on his class roster he knew exactly who she was and had been praying for her for years. This was such a special connection and a reminder of how the Church, you, and your congregations, know us and are praying for us. And, once in a while, these connections bring stories like this that show us more of what God is doing.

Fast forward and Nede's more than halfway through her junior year and doing exceedingly well with online chemistry and Algebra 2. We're proud of her and I am not sure I could have done it at her age. Zinha is making her way through 4th grade but she'd much rather be playing with her friends or riding her bike. And Julieta, well, she makes all of the above an extra challenge. She'll celebrate her 3rd birthday in a couple of weeks and we're hoping what we've heard, that the 3s are more difficult than the 2s, is wrong. Nede will soon turn 18. We can't believe it.

This time back in Mozambique has been another time of adjustment. We lived with limitations for so long that it's been hard to accept that we are a free, legal, complete family of five. We are gladly adjusting though and have greatly enjoyed a trip to the beach and a recent trip to South Africa. The trip to South Africa was extra special as we went with Chad's parents and were able to spend a few days in Kruger National Park. Much to our delight, we saw four of the five Big Five—the rhino is what we weren't able to spot. We made memories and enjoyed being awed by God's creation.



Our ministries also continue to keep us busy. We have seen some major changes at the farm over the past months as we continue to shift our emphasis to agroforestry—with the positive results we have seen from our test plots, we are expanding our agroforestry footprint and planning much wider test and demonstration plots at the farm and in nearby communities. It has been so fun to see non-productive and even abandoned fields come back to life and be productive through implementing some simple, new techniques. What is even more

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exciting is that we are using systems that God put in motion during creation. Everything we do points back to God the Creator. We look forward to what the Lord has in store for this project.

The audio Bible project has faced some major challenges over the past six months. The demand for audio Bibles is still huge, but we have faced some unexpected challenges with some staff and our bank. We are working through these challenges, but the unfortunate outcome is that we have struggled to get a new shipment of audio Bibles delivered to Mozambique. We distributed our last audio Bibles in June and, even though we have funding to purchase

more, the bank issues have hindered us from being able to import another shipment of devices. We ask for your prayers that these roadblocks can be passed and that we can get these audio Bibles delivered so that those who desperately desire to hear God's Word can.

I (Dara) have been busy with the compassionate care team. There is never a shortage of people looking for healthcare. It's a constant challenge to stay focused primarily on palliative care. The health system has many obstacles and, unfortunately, people are looking for help anywhere they can grasp it.

We recently had a woman who lived with left-sided weakness after a stroke. We had many lovely visits with her laughing and talking. Her family cared for her beautifully until the very end. Unfortunately, this doesn't happen as frequently as we'd like but when it does, it makes me so grateful for what I have the privilege of witnessing and supporting.

I have recently started doing community art events for anyone interested. It has been a real delight for me and the women that attend. I had planned to do the events monthly, but after the first event, the women told me that monthly was not enough. I needed to do it twice a month, so that's what we're doing. It keeps me thinking as I plan new activities and engage larger and larger groups.



As we look toward the last quarter of the year, it promises to be busy as we anticipate several visitors. I will also be finishing my Master's degree in Art in Medicine, so that has me busy conducting research and writing. I have thoroughly enjoyed studying but it will be good to gain some more hours in my week.

As we reflect while writing these letters, we can't help but feel deep gratitude for how the Lord provides for us. While full of challenges, we feel grateful to have formed our family here and have the opportunity to use our giftings in Mozambique. Thank you for your prayers, support, and love. We are deeply grateful. Bless you,

Chad, Dara, Nede, Zinha and Julieta

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the banking issues to be worked out so that we can receive our next shipment of audio Bibles. Pray that we can receive these audio Bibles soon and can begin making distribution plans.
- Praise the Lord for exciting new endeavors at the farm as we expand into agroforestry. Pray for open hearts as we continue to teach agricultural techniques from a Biblical perspective.
- Pray for the compassionate care team as they continue to provide support and end-of-life care to their patients. Pray for continued strength and encouragement as they continually pour themselves out in their work.
- Pray for Dara this fall as she works on her capstone project for her Master's degree.
- Continue to pray for all of our girls, especially Nede, as she approaches the end of her high school career and looks toward the next chapter. Pray that the Lord will guide her as she seeks his will.