



**December 2023**

Dear Friends,

Our situation is no different from yours, I suspect. How can the end of the year be upon us already? If we think back, we were in the U.S. for the first three months of the year—which was busy with appointments and anticipation for what felt like a premature return to Mozambique. This feels like a lifetime ago. But, as you do, we settled back in and picked up the pieces that we had stepped away from for five months. This primarily included diving back into homeschooling, reconnecting with palliative care patients, meeting new ones, and starting a new vision at the farm.



Fast forward to December and here we are, the girls have completed another school year. The compassionate care team is working towards having cared for 200 patients as a project in total and agroforestry seems to be the best hope for our area where the rains have yet to fall and we anticipate a very difficult growing season which, unfortunately, equals hunger to many.

Last week when Dara was visiting an elderly woman, we mentioned that Christmas is coming. Her response was, "We're usually eating a lot of corn by Christmas. How can it be Christmas already? There is no corn." Yes, the world continues to change and one of the greatest challenges we face is to adapt to and be creative in addressing the needs that are so abundant to all we work with. This is where the new agroforestry emphasis at the farm aims to serve. We hope to point our neighbors to the Creator and build resilience and food security by using diverse mixtures of perennial and annual crops.



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In this season of Advent, it feels like the right time to look back on the year and offer our gratitude for what the Lord has done.

- We continue to be ever grateful that we are a legal, free, family of five. After the hard years we went through, this still feels surreal.
- We have all been healthy, apart from the common cold and cough.
- We've had visitors and have felt the love of friends and family who connect with us via virtual calls and technology.
- We have lovely staff we work with and continue to pour into and disciple—of course, this is challenging but they are special to us and we grow to love them and want better for their lives.
- We know we have countless people around the world who have invested in us, cared for us, prayed for us, and financially supported us. For this, we are humbled and honored.
- Dara has started doing art with community women and this has been an enriching, positive experience for everyone involved. It's a joy.
- Dara completed her MA in Arts in Medicine from the University of Florida and is deeply passionate about its potential and all she's learned.
- The Lord has given a renewed vision for New Harvest Farm and a new and exciting way to reach into our local community.



As Christmas day approaches, amidst the busyness and family and friends, our prayer is that we would find time to be still in the Advent waiting and hear from the Lord personally. May this not be just another Christmas, but a time of deeper growth and change.

From our sweaty home to yours, may you know Jesus in a new, fresh way, and may your time with family and friends be rich. Thank you for being a part of what God is doing in and through us as individuals, as a family, and here in Mozambique. Much love as we enter 2024.

Dearly,  
Chad, Dara, Nede, Luzia and Julieta

### **Prayer Requests:**

- Praise the Lord with us, once again, for legalizing our family and giving us the freedom to travel.
- Praise the Lord for the compassionate care team as they continue to bring health and encouragement to many who are in desperate need.
- Pray for a shipment of audio Bibles that we expect to receive in January and for the distributions that will follow.
- Pray for rain as the beginning of the rainy season this year has been severely delayed. This will have a big negative impact on food security in our local area. Pray that the rains would come and continue long enough to produce a crop.



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