



# 2023 Year in Review



## Chad Vanden Bosch - Mozambique

### A glimpse at what your support made possible:

During a recent audio Bible distribution in the northern part of Mozambique, we heard another encouraging testimony. “Who came up with the idea to put the Bible on a radio so that we who never had the opportunity to read to listen?

Whoever it was...God bless them! We who are old and cannot read have always felt excluded, sometimes even in the church. I am the mother of two pastors and I go to church, but I always had doubts. Thanks to this audio Bible which I listen to every day at home in my mother language, my doubts have been erased. I no longer feel excluded. Thank you and bless you and please bring more!” Your generous support continues to make God’s Word available for those desperately wanting to hear. Thank you!



Alberto has come to New Harvest Farm every Friday for two years to participate in our Bible-based agricultural training. Alberto has always had a keen interest in agriculture and knew from a young age he wanted to own a farm. Alberto completed his agricultural training at a local technical school and began farming—but was finding very little success. As he participated in the “Growing with God” training program, he began spending more time observing and seeking to understand God’s creation and the natural cycles that were put into place by God himself. Within this new framework, what he was seeing in his fields started to make sense and he became an early adopter of both regenerative agricultural techniques and agroforestry. Recently Alberto gave a testimony of how these new methods and understanding brought his farm not only from debt to profitability but also how his faith and depth of understanding of the Lord has increased. The most exciting thing is that Alberto is now a professor at the technical school he attended and has the opportunity to share his knowledge and experience daily with his students.



## **Our challenges of 2023**

An unexpected challenge we faced this year was a series of technical issues with our bank account in Mozambique, which significantly delayed a large shipment of audio Bibles into Mozambique. A perfect storm of banking rule changes along with new legislation for the import of goods meant that the shipment's arrival in Mozambique was delayed several months. This meant that audio Bible distributions scheduled for 2023 had to be pushed back to 2024.

Another challenge has been the late arrival of the rainy season here in central Mozambique. The rainy season, which is also the main agricultural season, usually begins in early to mid-November and lasts through March. This year there was not any significant rain until the final week of December. This is the latest start to the rainy season in recent history. Not only will this have a major negative impact on the subsistence farmers in our locality, but it has also been a major challenge at New Harvest Farm. Our plans for a major expansion into agroforestry have been hampered by the lack of moisture and the constant need for irrigation, which we lack the infrastructure to facilitate. Not only have we had to use lots of manpower to irrigate, but we have lost a portion of our newly planted trees to the extreme heat. This sets our plans back, which could affect the wider rollout of our "Growing with God" training program into new communities.

## **Please Pray**

- Pray for our family as we put plans in place to return to the U.S. in June/July for furlough. Pray that we can set our projects up to succeed while we are away and that we can finalize the paperwork we will need to apply for U.S. citizenship for our youngest two daughters.

- Pray for the distribution of 800 audio Bibles in four languages early in 2024. These distributions will take place in the northern region of the country where there has been an extremist insurgency occurring. Pray for the safety of the distribution team and that the audio Bibles would find fertile soil.
- Pray for rain to come to central Mozambique. Pray for wisdom for the New Harvest Farm team as they walk with their subsistence-farming neighbors through this difficult season. Pray that, despite the lack of rain, or maybe even because of it, people would be open to participating in the “Growing with God” training program.