

News Update – CEFOBE – Candido and Percina in Mozambique November 2008



The dialogue below is from a series of emails by Chris Lemming to Candido and shows what the present state of the ministry of CEFOBE is in Mozambique – we have to say that it is very inspiring to read what God is doing:

Chris As I understand the situation, there has been a major growth in people becoming Christians in Mozambique but a shortage of people trained to be pastors and church leaders. Your vision and calling is to fill that gap by training suitable people from all over the country to be leaders of the churches which are being formed. Is this a fair summary of the need and your overall vision?

Candido Yes it is. Because of the lack of Biblical knowledge Church Leadership is poor and as a result there are many contradictions and quarrellings among the Leadership and the church split, but at the end you'll find that even the new upcoming church do the same as the old one, that is why, I saw that it is important the train the Pastors and the Church Leaders.

Chris Is Christianity growing in Mozambique?

Candido I can estimate the following way; in one month about 500 people become Christians and more than 20 churches are planted and at least 10 are registered in the government.

Chris Do you run a formal course and how long does it take?

Candido Yes we do run a formal course.

It takes 3 years. The course itself is designed to take 2 years, but because of the shortage of the time, as many Pastors and Church Leaders are busy in their secular jobs during daytime, only by night can some come to attend the classes, so in reality the course takes 3 years.

Chris How many students are involved?

Candido I have been involved the Leadership Training for 12 years and I have graduated so far **650** students. Currently there are a further **234** students being trained.

I thank God for our training program, the reports I receive from the Pastors who have gone through our training is encouraging, because of that the number of Pastors and Church Leaders who are searching for our training is growing.

- Chris What are the particular most urgent needs to help you in your ministry?
- Candido First I urgently need a vehicle which is fit for the purpose of driving over quite rough tracks so that I can visit the various places where we hold meetings and transport all the various materials that are needed. My present car is both unsuitable and is now very old and dangerous.
- AMEN Update:** AMEN have made a one off donation of \$5000 to Candido, which together with other donations he had been given by local supporters, has enabled him to buy the vehicle he needs. We thank God that through the generosity of you, our AMEN supporters, we have been able to bless this exciting ministry.*
- Candido Secondly CEFOBE needs a permanent base for its ministry. With the number of people now involved we need a building with at least three classrooms, an office, a kitchen facilities and washrooms/toilets. Each classroom needs to be big enough to house 20 to 30 students. It would be excellent if there were also a study area.
- Chris You have been renting buildings up to now, why can't that continue?
- Candido Because the ministry has grown and for the credibility of my ministry. People like to see and know where the ministry is based; otherwise they will never believe in the seriousness of the training, since there are many people who try to take advantage in the Christian matters for their own profit.
- Chris How far have your thoughts progressed on finding a suitable building?
- Candido At this time it would cost in the region of \$150,000 minimum to purchase a suitable building and rental is also very high. So we have decided that the best route is to build our own. We have been granted an area of land and have permission to build.
- We have a small amount of money in a building fund and some materials, but this is insufficient to build any sort of Training Centre and provide the necessary furniture and equipment.

AMEN Trustees Comment:

Candido is willing to erect something which is nothing much more than a simple set of huts.

However, we feel that it would be honouring to God and would benefit the ministry of CEFOBE if he were to have a properly equipped building. The estimate for this is £35,000 and we are seeking major sponsors who will help us in this venture.

This is a remarkable ministry making a huge difference in the nation of Mozambique

Gareth, Malou, Chris Chatfield, Janet, Sandra, Chris Lemming