VOLUME 12 ISSUE

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nsiert RESPOURCES INTERNATIONAL

# **Insight News**

#### Nichols' Notes

Introduction

Relationship. In our organization, we use this term on a daily, often hourly basis to describe the work we are doing. While our official job description is helping people to develop and understand, the reality of our work is that it involves building and growing a huge number of relationships: our relationships with God, with our friends and partners in the U.S. and overseas, with other business and organizations, and with ourselves (sometimes, building a good relationship with yourself is the hardest part). This summer,

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I was provided the opportunity to build my relationships with Leonard and the people of Mozambique.



Shoe shop under construction



Leonard teaching

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#### Mozambique Debrief

I spent about a month (June) with Leonard in Mozambique. This provided me an opportunity to see firsthand several of the accomplishments of our Mozambican office and meet with many of the pastors and other Mozambicans Leonard has been working with. It was an incredible experience and I am thankful to God and to Leonard for the opportunity. Leonard's ministry revolves around relationships - those he builds with the people he coaches and disciples, and the relationships those people establish as they go about their work, whether that be work on behalf of IRI, or their own ministries.

#### General

Leonard's work begins with helping people build a better understanding of themselves, God, others, and their environment. Most importantly, however, is building their understanding of their relationships with all these aspects of their lives. Several times a week, Leonard meets with various people from the local area, as well as travelers from northern Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and other countries. These people have heard about the work IRI is doing and come to Leonard to learn how they can better understand their world. Developing understanding is hard--new ideas take time to grow into a usable form, and many times, a new understanding brings a significant amount of change. This change may be as simple as reorganizing how a church service is run, or as complex as completely re-

building a person (or community's) life. Change is always painful, and requires trust, and we work hard to build that trust with the people we work with. While I was there, Leonard met with different people almost every day, often for different lessons and for different lengths of time. He is also being introduced to new people regularly. After church one Sunday, he and I were introduced to a pastor who runs five different churches in the Chimoio area. This pastor had been told about IRI's work by some of Leonard's students, and had come to see if he could learn anything from Leonard. When I left, Leonard and the new pastor were trying to



Leonard and visiting pastors expoloring the new shop building





## Mission Activities

Jason is now in back in the States. He will continue to work on his Doctorate in the fall. Al and Jason are scheduled to go to Nome, Alaska the first week of September. They will be in Nome for 2 weeks working with various groups then travel to Elim. They have been invited by the school system in Elim to do teaching with the student based on the Insight material. They will also be working with the locals as well. Velma plans to meet them there to work with the younger students. They will return mid October.



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#### Nichols' Notes cont.

figure out a time they could meet to talk about the work they are doing.

#### Chimoio Shop

In addition to teaching, Leonard also oversees several projects and businesses. He uses these projects to train Mozambicans in useful skills in addition to the teaching mentioned previously. These businesses also provide IRI Mozambique with income, so that Leonard can send out teachers to more remote villages that also want to develop their understanding and relationships. One of these projects is a shoe making business. Currently, this business operates out of Leonard's



Farm land near the airport—the site of the future headquarters

house, but he is in the process of moving the operation to a small property in Chimoio. This property, when fully renovated, will have room for the entire shoe making workshop, a storefront for shoe sales, and guest rooms for visiting pastors. There is also a church on the property that they will be renovating along with the workshop and storefront buildings.

Selva



Office hut at Selva

Leonard also has several areas of farmland near Chimoio that are used to raise corn and other crops for sale to local villages. These projects not only help in the ways we've already discussed, but also supplements the food these local villages have, reducing the amount of starvation in the region. During my trip, I was able to visit three of the main agricultural projects Leonard is heading up. One property, which is located near the Chimoio airport, is also the proposed site of IRI Mozambique's future headquarters. Once complete, the airport compound will serve as a home for Leonard, a training center, a stopping place for visiting pas-

tors and students, along with any other functions Leonard thinks it needs to perform. Another property is in Selva, and I was able to meet both the Mozambicans who run the farm, and some of the local villagers and community leaders. Everyone was very excited about the possibilities for the farm, as Leonard has been working on steadily improving the land for the benefit of the local village as well as the work IRI is doing. There is one building on the property that the locals have designated as a local office for IRI.

#### Macate

The final area Leonard and I visited was Macate. This farm is run by pastor Paulino, who



The Macate Church

has been working with Leonard for several years now. It is unique for a number of reasons. First, Paulino has his own church that is currently in the process of renovating itself. While I was there, I learned that after church each Sunday, the church members work in the afternoon to create bricks for the building. While the process is slow, eventually, the church will transition from the wood and thatch building you

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see in the picture to a brick building--all of which will be funded and constructed by the local community. Second, the church works with the local prison on a regular basis. While at the Sunday service in Macate, I learned that several members of the congregation were prisoners, who were headed back to the local prison after the service. From what I could tell, the church members treated them the same as any other members of the church, and these same prisoners often work with Paulino as part of their community service. Finally, Paulino sat down with a mission organization that builds wells and water towers and taught the organization's workers about the needs of the Macate community so that the mission could build the most effective water system they could. This was the first time that organization had a Mozambican village actively engage them to help them understand what the village needed. Paulino has done a phenomenal job of helping his church and the local community develop, and he is one of the pastors that Leonard will send to more remote villages as needed. He is a tremendously hard-working man!

Unfortunately, I couldn't visit all the projects and places that Leonard has been working with. Because of the limited time we had, I couldn't make it to northern Mozambique (though I know there were several places that wanted Leonard and I to visit). We have estimated that there are over 300

villages that have been impacted by our work in Mozambique, with a conservative estimate of

around 30,000 Christians who are transforming their lives in one way or another for Christ (the



Jason and Pastor Paulino at Macate's new water tower

churches in these villages average around 100 people:  $300 \times 100 = 30,000$ ). Next year, Leonard and I plan to visit some of the more remote and distant places that Leonard works, and see what kinds of changes have occurred there.

#### **Hong Kong Notes**

Finally, I was able to stop in Hong Kong on the way back and work with our friend Scott Smyth. Scott has been looking for ways to develop people in Hong Kong. He is also helping us with our Cantonese translation of Dr. Cook's book The Thought That Counts. While I was in Hong Kong, I spent several days with Scott and another friend of IRI's, Olivia, working on the final edits for the current Cantonese edition. The work was quite challenging, especially since the book is meant to introduce new concepts, which means there aren't always words in Cantonese or even English to easily express what Dr. Cook was trying to say. The work we have done on The Thought That Counts has made me really appreciate all the hard work that goes into Bible translation. Many thanks to Scott and Olivia for their help on this project!

#### **Future**

My travels aren't over for this year. Al and I are currently planning for our trip to Alaska in September, where we will be working with friends in Nome and the tribe in Elim, Alaska. We have received encouraging reports from both groups and are really looking forward to seeing what we can learn through our ministry there. One of the best parts of our ministry is the fact that although we work to help others develop, the relational nature of our ministry means that the people we work with help us to continue to develop as well. In this way, God keeps us growing and keeps us humble. I want to thank all our friends and partners for their tremendous work and help with our ministry, and I hope that we can continue to help them with their work and ministry for many years to come. God bless them and our partners who provide funding so that we can continue this tremendous work in Christ.

#### Jason

#### Al's Health Update:

Al continues his recovery but is doing well. He has been cleared by his doctor to travel so his trip to Alaska is on. However, he did have a place on the back of his neck removed which turned out to be melanoma. The doctor are hopeful all of the cancer was removed but are conducting further test. Updates will follow as we get further information. Please continue to pray for his health and well being.

#### PAGE 4 Please Pray for these Things:

- ☑ Jason and Al are scheduled for two to three weeks in Sept to do a seminars in Nome, Alaska, and work with various groups. They will then be going on to work with the school system and tribal members in Elim, Alaska. Velma plans to meet them in Elim. Please pray for their efforts in Alaska.
- ☑ Please pray for extra travel funds to become available to offset Velma's travel cost to Elim, Alaska.
- ☑ We are very thankful for the gift of the commercial sewing machine, tractor and disk needed in Moz. Our greatest need concerning these items now is funding to actually ship them to Moz. Your prayers and donations are greatly appreciated. Anything you can do to help will be a special blessing to Leo and the brothers and sisters in Moz.

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#### **Prayer Partners**

#### **Tractor Update**

Due to the size of the donated tractor it could not fit into a shipping container. We were able to trade it in on a more powerful but smaller in size tractor that was shippable. There was, however an additional cost of \$8000 which we need to raise. We are still also raising funds to purchase a container to ship the tractor and of course the cost of shipping. Those two items will cost an additional \$10,000. Good news: a double bladed disk, which will eliminate the need for a separate plow, was purchased and donated by one of our supporters. Please be prayful concerning these needs.

The greatest thing that you can do for Insight Resources International is to actively pray. We believe that Prayer is the cornerstone of this ministry and without it we cannot stand against Satan's attacks.

### Growing Human Potential One Worldview at a Time

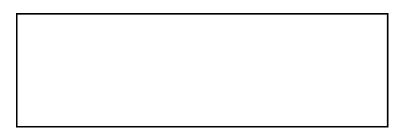
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