

Mozambique Prayers

OPENING PRAYER

Father God, Your Word tells us in Ephesians 4:23 to be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and we come before you today, humbly approaching your throne, confessing our deep need for a purified mind. Help us to realize the areas in our thought life we refuse to give you control of. Change our autonomous, god-complex filled hearts and increase our awareness of the poverty in our lives today. Thank you for the blessings you bestow on us as we get to know our Mozambican brothers and sisters. The depths of their faith serve as a tremendous example of how we can love you better, Lord. The more we get to know Christians in Mozambique, the more we learn new ways of living, of understanding, and of worshipping you. Together with our brothers and sisters in Mozambique, teach us to continue to contribute toward our common goal: establishing your kingdom in this world. Amen.

Original content written by Betty and Walt Whitehurst. Edited by Amanda Pelletier.

PRAYER (Psalm 9:18-20)

Leader: Our Mozambican brothers and sisters struggle to sustain themselves in a country led by corrupt politicians and lack of development.

People: We confess we forget those in need and take our many blessings for granted. Plant in us a genuine desire to serve the oppressed and glorify your name.

Leader: Many of our brothers and sisters in Mozambique live on less than a dollar a day.

People: We confess we idolize our own wealth and success and forget the poor.

Leader: There are children in Mozambique left without family and the comforts of home.

People: Transform our tendencies to abandon your children, to abuse the blessings you've given us and to live only for ourselves.

Leader: We see and hear of the ravaged forests and the stripped farmland, bringing hardship to the people of Mozambique.

People: Change our concerns to be for your creation – from an inward focus to an outward perspective, in awe of what is around us rather than what is inside us.

Leader: Thank you for the precious blood of Jesus, which wipes away all of our iniquities and holds the power to transform our selfish hearts and minds. Open our hearts to the needs of your people, O Lord. Turn our thoughts into action.

Forgive us when we choose to shield our eyes and ears from the problems of the world. We thank you for your mercy and forgiveness.

All: Amen.

Original content written by Meghan Roth. Edited by Amanda Pelletier.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (I John 3:17)

Lord, we thank you and praise you for The United Methodist Church in Mozambique, which has seen tremendous growth in the past fifteen years. We ask you to reveal your plans and will for us as we strive to bring forth your kingdom. Scripture teaches us that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, but we confess that we have done little about our Mozambican brothers and sisters who suffer every single day. Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we confess our lack of concern for those who live in extreme poverty in Mozambique, where many families struggle to have one square meal a day. Your Word asks, "How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help?" God, help us United Methodists in Missouri to learn how to share our abundance with the people in need at home, in Mozambique, and around the world. Amen.

Original content written by Betty and Walt Whitehurst. Edited by Amanda Pelletier.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (Matthew 5:16, 1 Corinthians 16:13-14)

Jesus said "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." In Mozambique, the United Methodists travel door to door to tell people about the Good News of Jesus. They are unashamed of the Gospel, they stand firm in their faith, and they are courageous and strong, doing everything in love. Lord, help us find ways to let our light shine before others, as we serve and as we give. Give us unreserved, generous hearts. Amen.

Edited by Amanda Pelletier.

PRAYER FOR CHICUQUE HOSPITAL

God of Comfort and Healing, we bow with gratitude for the gift of Chicuque Hospital, standing as a healing refuge for the injured and the ill. We remember how it was nearly swept away by devastating floods that swirled too closely, cutting deep ravines on both sides of the hospital's walls not so many years ago. You spared Chicuque Hospital by your grace, enabling your ministry to continue binding up wounds, dispensing medicine, and healing from your Divine Hand.

God of Compassion, we see Chicuque's patients – mothers, fathers, children, the aged – and we know that they belong to you as beloved children. We look into their eyes and see worlds of uncertainty and sometimes fear. We thank you that in Chicuque Hospital fears are lifted and uncertainties are met with encouragement in the human touch extended by caring medical professionals. We thank you for physicians, nurses, administrators, laundry workers, maintenance staff, and custodians who labor to provide the services offered that carries such big responsibilities. God of Boundless Love, we pray for all who come to Chicuque needing your healing touch – victims of HIV-AIDS, children with diseases brought on by malnutrition, and those suffering with diseases, some with no known cure. God of a Hopeful Future, we bless your name for Chicuque Hospital, for the vision and labors of servants that serve as a facility of healing love. Please instill the desire in all who have heard this hospital's story to be generous in helping to provide the resources it needs; lead the medical professionals who have the skills to care for the needs of the people; and let it continue to witness as a retreat for the sick and a channel for healing. We acknowledge you as the ultimate healer, and we confess your grace and strength are the core sources of energy driving our prayers and the labor at Chicuque Hospital. We praise you, O God, and thank you for letting Chicuque Hospital healing continue with strength, dignity, and effectiveness for all it serves. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Great Physician, we pray. Amen.

Original content written by Jack T. Martin, Jr. Edited by Amanda Pelletier.

THREE PRAYERS

Submitted by Rev. Maisa Gomes de Oliviera, missionary of the Brazilian Methodist Church serving in Cambine, Mozambique. (Translated from Portuguese)

Prayer by a seminary graduate in Mozambique

Dear God, The Lord is good and looks after us. Even when we don't know what to do or how to pray, the Lord takes care of us! This year there was almost no rain in my farm; it did not produce well. But we didn't miss the bread on my table because the Lord spoke to the heart of my brother, who lives far away, and he helped us so we were not hungry. Thank you, Lord, because you are good and you take care of us. Amen.

Prayer by an orphan at the Cambine Orphanage in Mozambique

Father in heaven, I don't have my parents anymore. They already have gone to heaven. But the people who take care of me here in the orphanage told me that you are father and you are the one who is watching over us now. Thank you, God, because there is someone who doesn't even know me, but helps so I can have something to eat, to wear, and a place to sleep during the night. Please help them so they will always help us. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Prayer by an agricultural missionary at Cambine, Mozambique

You are faithful Lord! I worship you because you are always going to be faithful. This moment I want to thank you because it doesn't matter where I am, you'll always be with me. If it is in the Amazon River or in the middle of Africa, you'll be there. Your spirit always follows us. In this special moment, I want to remember all my brothers and sisters who have been praying and contributing to the development of my missionary ministry. Thanks for all the wonderful things you have done. You have discovered in the heart of my American brothers and sisters the will of being instruments of the Lord to bless us. I hope that the Lord's blessing remains with them so they can always listen and be obedient to the Lord. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.