

mozambique fall mission trip update

By Mark Kotlarczyk

It never fails! Every person I have ever spoken to says the very same words. "I went to minister to them, but what I didn't expect was to be ministered to." I was privileged once again to lead a small team to Calvary's long-time sister village of Chinhangane, Mozambique in October.

Our teachings for this trip focused on Bible stories of faith and stewardship. It was amazing while speaking the words of these teachings to witness the Holy Spirit unlocking the truth of each story. While teaching, I was made aware that as the words flow through the translator from English to Chingane, they again flow through the Holy Spirit that translates their truth onto the hearts of each person. At the end of each story, I was given the sense of accomplishment, contentment, obedience, and peace that the Holy Spirit had used this teaching in their spiritual development.

What I was un-prepared for was what occurred at the end of the third teaching. When the Bible reference was given, many purposed to write it down. For those that had a Bible, some wrote it in the front, some on a scrap paper, others on a notepad. But what hit me like a brick and brought a tear to my eye was two women who had no place to write it down, and instead, painstakingly inked it onto each other's forearm. Thank you Lord for reminding me anew of the value and importance of your life-changing word!

"Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart." Proverbs 7:2-3

christmas giving

OPPORTUNITIES calvarygr.org/christmasgiving

This year we have partnered with two local ministries to support their efforts to come alongside those in difficult life circumstances and provide a dignified Christmas experience. Your involvement can be as simple as ordering some gifts on Amazon!



Donate gifts to the Urban Family Ministries Christmas Shoppe and to Dégagé's Christmas Store via their Amazon wish lists. There are also opportunities to serve by offering your time to price gifts, do inventory, provide snacks, shop with people and wrap gifts. All the links to buy gifts or sign up are at calvarygr.org/christmasgiving.

congregational care

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED PRAYER LIST

If you have been hospitalized, or anticipate hospitalization, and would like to be added to the prayer list, please call the church office at 956-9377.

Butterworth: Linda Hamlet

PRAYER CHAIN: If you need prayer, contact Don & Cindy Marrell (cmarrell@calvarygr.org) at 450-9622.

BEREAVED

We extend our Christian sympathy to Greg and Susan Mangione and family at the homegoing of Susan's father, John Byrer, on November 10; and also to Pepper & Wayne Meulendyk at the homegoing of Wayne's father, Robert, on November 15.

NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee requests your input, in helping identify qualified, godly men for consideration for the offices of Elder and Deacon. Nomination forms are available at the Welcome Center (at the center of the Crosswalk), or send an email with the nominee's name and the reasons why you are nominating him, to nominate@calvarygr.org.

November 19, 2017

9:00am & 10:45am

Doctors for Jesus

Mark 2:13-17

Jim Samra, Senior Pastor

RESCUED
RESTORED
READY
STORIES OF REDEMPTION

FOR THE RECORD

	Projected Offerings	Actual Offerings	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Last Week	\$ 135,577	\$ 264,176	\$ 128,599
Fiscal YTD Sept. 1 - Nov. 5	\$ 1,543,844	\$ 1,599,993	(\$ 56,572)
Open Door Project		\$ 17,175	

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welcome

If you are visiting today, we are glad you are here. For information about our many groups, programs and events for all ages, pick up a copy of the quarterly *Calvary Life* magazine, visit us online at calvarygr.org, or stop by the Connection Point (located in the Gathering Place across from the main Sanctuary entrance). We would love to meet you! If you need hearing assistance, listening devices are available at the Welcome Center in the Crosswalk.

grace BEYOND

MORE THAN A BUILDING PROJECT

On December 17, we will have an opportunity as a church family to celebrate how God has led us through our Grace Beyond journey and commit to where He is leading us in the future. As we prepare for that day, we encourage you to pray about how God is asking you to respond.

Ask God if he is asking you to make an initial pledge, extend your current pledge or simply fulfill your existing pledge. Take these options before the Lord and ask Him where He has you. We believe prayer is powerful and effective and that God will lead you as you come to Him.

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH IN WEST MICHIGAN

Recently God has provided Calvary with an opportunity to come alongside Sunshine Church during a season of transition. It is our joy to assist them in this season, in order to see Christ's church grow in West Michigan. While they are meeting at Christ's Chapel (Cornerstone University) we have offered them opportunity to use our building as needed. We have also recently provided them with a financial gift to aid them with costs associated with the move from their previous campus. Please be praying for the Sunshine Church community in this season.

coming events & announcements

Christmas at Calvary December 15 at 7:00pm | December 16 at 3:00 & 7:00pm

Tickets on sale at mycalvarygr.org
We are excited to present an incredible weekend for the church to celebrate together in music and drama this December. *Christmas at Calvary* includes performances by our choir and orchestra centered around a timely and important Christmas story that reminds us all to take another look at how we're celebrating this season. Our music will feature beloved holiday classics and modern favorites. All seating is general admission; tickets are \$5.

Young Adults Christmas Soirée December 8 | 7:30-10:00pm | \$12 Downtown Market (435 Ionia SW)

Come and enjoy an evening filled with delicious hors d'oeuvres, beautiful ambiance and a charming band as we gather together to celebrate Christmas in twinkling downtown Grand Rapids. This is a semi-formal Young Adults Christmas Party (ages 18-34). Invite your friends! Purchase your tickets at mycalvarygr.org by Dec. 1.

Advent - Begins December 3

Advent is the beginning of the Christian Year. Walking through the Christian Year provides us with the opportunity to practice what it means to be like Jesus by following the pattern of His life and death. Advent is a time of waiting in hopeful expectation

for the birth of Jesus. The time when Immanuel, the Savior, will come to dwell with the people he will deliver. A church-wide Advent Guide will be available beginning November 26, allowing us to walk through this season together.

College: Christmas Carols Kick-off November 30 | 7:00pm | Room 208

Come kick-off the Christmas season with us with decorations, special food, and of course, Christmas carols!

Family Service Next Sunday

For the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, nursery will be available. Children preschool age and older are encouraged to attend the service with their families. If needed, room 124B will be open for a limited number of preschool age children. Middle School Ministry (5th-8th grade) will not meet.

Men's Breakfast December 2 | 8:00am | \$5

Jim Hoekwater, a Calvary Elder, will speak about testimonies of the Lord he has seen throughout his lifetime. Pay at the door.

Help Archive Calvary's History

We are looking for a volunteer to help archive historical items from throughout the years of Calvary Church. If you are interested in assisting with this project, please contact Stacy (sarmbrester@calvarygr.org) at ext. 5095.

this morning

The ordinance of communion will be observed in this morning worship service. If needed, gluten-free bread is available at the back of the Sanctuary prior to the service. We will also collect an offering for our Benevolent Ministry following our time of communion.

this week at calvary

- 1 Explore Calvary**
Today & November 26 | 10:30am | Just show up!
Meet others who are new to Calvary along with some of our staff, tour the building, and ask questions about Calvary Church. The class is different each week.
- 2 Houston Mission Trip (March 2018) Info Meeting**
Today | 12:15pm | Room 255
Trip participants will partner with Jon Shepherd to share the gospel in a cross-cultural setting, mainly to Muslims in Southwest Houston. This meeting is an opportunity to learn more and meet the trip's leader.
- 3 UNITED (High School) Fall Thanksgiving Party**
TONIGHT | 6:00-8:30pm | Room 208
High Schoolers, this party is for you! We will feast on fall favorites while giving thanks for an awesome UNITED year so far. There will be fall-tastic games and a great guest band you won't want to miss!
- 4 Widows Coffee**
November 20 | 10:00am | Room 108
Come enjoy fellowship with other widows over a cup of coffee. Gwen Capcia from Starlight Ministries will be joining us again. RSVP to Katy (klambert@calvarygr.org).
- 5 Third Monday Prayer**
November 20 | 11:30am | Room 114
Join us tomorrow to hear updates from and pray for our missionaries around the world. Bring your lunch and meet in Room 114 (Entrance G) at 11:30am.