



SAM Ministries

COMMITTED TO SERVE

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we already prepare for another Christmas season, we want you to know that through your Unique Christmas Gifts this past year you blessed many. As you can likely appreciate, the gifts we receive from you take a while to get to the final destination. There are two blessings in this. Firstly, it helps us communicate the love and compassion of Christ all year through as we have a chance to explain the helpful and at times life-saving gifts that are being supplied. Secondly, we are able to ensure the gifts are given in a way that ensures the receiver is empowered rather than simply given a gift. In some cases this is a farmer who gets a cow and a plough after he has had a chance to prepare a corral and show he will care for the animals and use them to bless others. In other cases, it is an orphan child distant from easy access during the Christmas season (which is the rainy time of the year) but who is really in need. Enjoy Rick and Heather Neufeld's account below...

Unique Christmas Gifts — Jesus' Love in a Maize Sack.

On a trip to central Mozambique in May, we were privileged to be a part once again of handing out orphan care packs sponsored by many generous donors thru our Unique Christmas Gifts campaign. This year we had enough money for 64 packs, as well as donations of various items that allowed us to provide each child in two separate church orphan programs with at least a small gift. In the first town of Sinjal, our Pastor Monitor and Supervisor, Pastor Pires, took great pride in organizing the over one hundred orphan children that attend his program into lines who then received their small gifts—toothbrushes, pencils, and some balloons. The orphans in the greatest need received full packs of mosquito nets, blankets, school supplies, toys, hair and body hygiene products, sweets, stuffed animals and even a few balls.



In the second town of Baue, the local elected community leader came to see what all the fuss was about. She was impressed that people from as far away as Canada had sent money, toys, toothbrushes and other small items to the orphans in her town as a way to show Christ's love! She was even impressed that we had packaged it all in maize sacs since "they (could) even use the bag!" She made sure to tell us that she was impressed that Christians were showing God's love to the children in her community, as well as training the church leaders, as it was making a big difference!

Handing out the orphan care packs is always a good time. It is so fun to see the looks on the children's faces as they dive deep into the bags to see what treasures are waiting for them. In Baue the kids were ecstatic over the mosquito nets, "now we wont get malaria!" one boy yelled as he clutched his net. Even the children who did not receive full packs enjoyed the fun. It's amazing to see how they share with each other and celebrate in the joy of others.

Thank you again to all who participated in the Unique Christmas Gift campaign last year. Please know you have brought joy and the tangible love of Jesus to each of the children who received. **By Rick and Heather Neufeld**



In Brazil your unique gifts helped respond to specifically needy children and families over the past few months. Besides the critical help that this provides to the families, is an opportunity to explain the amazing gift God has given us in Christ Jesus and the gift of forgiveness and salvation He is holding out to us each day!



Your unique Christmas gifts are not merely a nice add-on or detraction from the work the mission is doing, they are **an awesome way that you meet a specific need** which is represented in and through the ministry we are engaged in each day! When you help a poor woman with a sewing kit, you empower her to make items of clothing for her family or make a craft she can sell and earn something to meet a critical need. When you provide a cow and/or a plough or ox-cart, you help a poor pastor to better grow food which enables him to feed his family more effectively and be better able to spiritually feed his flock. Thank you yet again!



The biggest Unique gift this past year was a gift to enable the completion of the Chitundo Health Post. This is now almost complete and here a team from a church in Polokwane, South Africa is painting it. This health post will serve over 5000 people, most of whom are children and some of them children sponsored to continue their studies in this community of Chitundo. The community leader here is a man committed to Christ and has mobilized his community to partner significantly to make this project a success.

Your gifts, both small and big, are enabling significant development and discipleship in both Brazil and Mozambique. **May you be encouraged and richly blessed is our prayer!**