

OUR JOURNEY TO MANDUA CHARRE, MOZAMBIQUE

This past summer, I traveled to Mozambique with Dr. Cynthia Lee, a nurse practitioner of the highest order. While I preached and taught pastors and church leaders, she conducted a wellness clinic, attending to hundreds of people who may have never seen a doctor.

One would think these ministries of healthcare and pastoral training would be so appreciated that we would be desirable visitors to Mozambique. Shouldn't the visa authorities hasten to stamp our passports? Unfortunately, no.

Before departure, we had asked Conference President Augusto for a letter of invitation to send to the Mozambique Embassy in Washington, D.C.; however, his letter never reached our mission office. Acquiring a visa at the border crossing of Malawi became our forced course of action.



Dr. Cynthia Lee

In Malawi, we drove two and a half hours to the border crossing into Mozambique. The Malawian officials were very congenial, but warned we would not receive the same treatment at the crossing into Mozambique. We prayerfully tried, nonetheless, believing God could open any

doors. The official shook his head and advised us to go to the nearest embassy to apply for a visa. It was in Blantyre, Malawi, five-to-six hours away. We pled with them to no avail. We had no choice but to travel back to Malawi.

In Blantyre by evening, we were present when the Mozambique consulate opened its doors the next morning. My hope was to arrive at the village of Mandua Charre to worship with our brethren in mid-afternoon, but frustrating protocols (bank statements and hotel confirmations) at the consulate deflated all hope.

I was ready to accept that we would not be going to Mozambique on this trip. We drove back into the city and found an Internet café. Cynthia made hotel reservations online for three nights. Then back to the consulate, wait in line, and finally present the documents to the officials. To my relief, they only briefly glanced at our bank statements and returned them to us without visibly suspicious activity.

After a prolonged wait, we were called to the window and told that visas had been approved! Presented with the bill for the visas, I reached gladly for my wallet to clear this all up and get onto the road, but the procedure did not end there. Payments could not be made at this location. We were to go back into the city to an assigned bank to pay the consulate's bank account in US dollars. We waited in a long line there to reach a window to make the payment, then drove back to the consulate to present the receipts. Sometime later, we were called to the window to receive our passports stamped with hard-earned visas.

On our journey to Mandua Charre, there was no time to lose since the two border crossings close at 6:00 p.m. We arrived at the crossing in Malawi at 5:55



Bryce Whiting

p.m. They serviced us, but warned us again of the crossing officials in Mozambique, a 10-minute drive away. If they would not let us through, we would need to drive two and half hours back to a hotel in Malawi. Graciously, one of the guards called a friend at that crossing and received word that they would wait for us.

Soon we were in Mozambique and were escorted into the village of Mandua Charre. Night had fallen, there is no electricity for many miles, but our headlights made out the shining eyes of many friends. Dozens of happy villagers gathered about our vehicles and welcomed us with song. They had waited long for us to arrive, but no frustration was evident in their welcome to us — only gladness. It was worth it all! Thank You, Lord.

Submitted by Africa/Europe Area Director Bryce Whiting.

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PRAYER & PRAISE

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“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

(Lamentations 3:22–23, ESV)

**Join in united prayer with
other Advent Christians**

**Advent Christian
General Conference**



PRAY

1. For work with Converge on our church planting relationship.
2. For our preparation for the Executive Council meeting in February.
3. That the Lord will raise up additional workers, both national and foreign, with a burden for outreach ministry worldwide.
4. For the mercy of God in the areas of famine as a fierce drought has ravaged the crops in Malawi, Mozambique and parts of Kenya and Tanzania.
5. For Conference President Peter Motende, who is sick and has been diagnosed with diabetes.
6. That God will open doors for many opportunities of ministering for the Cristo Salva teams as they share his word in Honduras on January 15 – 22 and January 22 – 29.
7. For our former AC missionaries who are aging and have health problems.
8. That the new building at the Guindy church dedicated by Rev. M. G. Baktha Singh on December 17, 2017 will be a blessing for the community.
9. That training and training materials for the Kenya AC Conference may be

provided as Area Director Bryce Whiting discusses and directs the conference.

10. For church planter Pastor A., who is ministering among Buddhists near Yangon City, Myanmar. He and his wife are helping poor children and orphans and many sick people come to their house. They do what they can to help in the name of Jesus.

11. For Mission Manager in Chennai India, Immanuel and his wife Rani. Rani is showing signs of the onset of dementia. Immanuel is still under significant pressure from several major ongoing matters within the AC ministries and needs our prayers for safety. Pray, too, for the Mission's Advocate (lawyer) Mr. Ravi Paul, who provides much-needed legal assistance.

12. For the leadership of both India conferences — Rev. Francis Thangadurai of the Advent Christian Conference of India and Rev. A. Jerald of the Fellowship of Blessed Hope Churches. Pray, too, for the members of their executive and business committees.

13. For all the leaders of the ministry at Naratchakwai, Thailand — Sister Maeo, Brother Boontaa, Ploy, Parn, Lita, Job, and Guitar. Pray for Maeo's brother Dtee, who drives the mission vehicle and helps practically on the property

PRAISE

1. Praise for God's answered prayers about our work for a strategic plan for ACGC.
2. Praise God for a new year to serve him!
3. God for the Christmas in October funding that ACGC World Outreach received to share God's love with our ministry leaders, missionaries and former missionaries.
4. God for the orphan ministry that is being carried out by our AC ministry leaders. Give praise for our AC churches who are dedicated in serving our Lord through our AC mission work.
5. The Lord for the pastors and Bible women of the Advent Christian Conference of India (ACCI) who serve the Lord and are dedicated to sharing the message of God's love and salvation with all who are in the darkness of their sin.
6. God that 19 new members were baptized and welcomed into fellowship of the ACCI church at Old Pallavaram.
7. The Lord that Yesuway Jeevan Mission (YJM) was able to provide 150 Bibles to new believers in the India Conferences.
8. The Lord that new members were received into the family of God at the church in Pudupakkam, India in 2017.

9. God for the ministry and our leaders in Bihar. A three-day fasting prayer was conducted in five different places. On the final day, 36 people were baptized.

10. God that in Bihar, one of the village men famous for his witchcraft was against the gospel and threatened the villagers by using black magic, but he was touched by the gospel through a pastor and accepted Jesus as his Savior.

Please pray for the following ACGC Directors' and Coordinators' Activities

Meredith Broadway, Coordinator of Educational Ministries

Beth Larkin, Coordinator of Women's Ministries & Event Operations

• January 29–February 1 — Religious Conference Management Association Conference, Omaha, Neb.

Matt Larkin, Director of Student & Family Ministries

Steve Lawson, Executive Director

• January 3-14 — Israel

Justin Nash, Director of Communication

Dawn Rutan, Director of Finance

Jeff Walsh, Director of World Outreach