



Insight News

Nichol's Notes

Greetings in Christ!

Welcome to a new year of ministry for IRI.

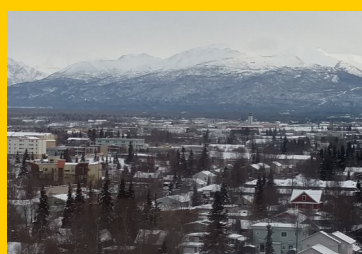
2017 was an amazing year for us here at IRI. Our ministry is continuing to slowly but steadily expand. The work in Mozambique is growing at an impressive rate—at least the amount we can measure. So many people in Mozambique have begun

to spread the developmental concepts we have shared that we are no longer able to keep track of it all. This is good; it is exactly what we hoped for when we started. We want the Mozambicans, and everyone we minister to, to take what they learn and apply it to their lives, but we also want them to be able to pass what they have learned along to others. That is exactly what is happening. Of course, once people own the ideas you help them develop, you can't control them. Thus, we now only know a part of what our ministry is doing in Mozambique, but what we do know is exciting. I want to take a look at just some of the exciting things that happened in 2017, and give all our supporters an idea of what we are looking forward to in 2018.

First, we had the opportunity to send Cody and Marie, our partners in the Philippines, to Mozambique to work with Leonard. While they were there, Leonard had them help him interview some of the Mozambicans he was working with to learn about the results of IRI's ministry. Through these interviews, we found that the nationals identified one very significant lesson that is changing many Mozambicans' ideas about God and His people: the distinction between natural and supernatural.

Mozambicans live in a very tangible world. They are focused primarily on the present, and even religious experiences are largely grounded in actions and behaviors. They believe in spirits, but spirits are tied to the natural world, and are not seen as something apart from the natural order. Understanding that the world was created by

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Welcome to Alaska in January. AI reports -2 degrees upon landing (not much different from Casper) but expected to get MUCH colder (with a whole lot less daylight). Quite a difference from Moz but loving people just the same.

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Mission Activities

Al and Jason are in Nome, Alaska working with native American tribes there and will be heading to Elim and North Pole, Alaska in a few days to continue the work there. February will find them back in the lower 48. Al will be doing a 3 day workshop in Torrington, WY in February and then flying to Hong Kong in late March/early April to work with Linda and Scott Smyth of Cross Cultural Connections. In May Al continues his journey on the South Africa and Mozambique. It will be a busy Spring with no let-up in sight through the rest of the year.



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God, who is supernatural—that is, He stands outside the natural world—is an incredible revelation. It means that God is not simply a god that is a part of this world, and may “belong” to specific people (such as whites), but that God stands over and above everything, and has a relationship with everyone. In our Western churches, we take this knowledge for granted, but in Mozambique this idea is very hard to understand. The Mozambicans don’t really have a frame of reference for processing this distinction, and so they tend to assume that God is a part of the natural world. From what Leonard learned, this meant that the Mozambicans believed that God “belonged” to the whites, who shared “their” god with the Mozambicans in a way similar to the way you might share your fries with your friend. Now, the Mozambicans are excited by the idea of a God who isn’t part of this world, but is greater than everything in creation, and who “belongs” to everyone (or, more accurately, everyone belongs to Him). This has had a dramatic impact on how Mozambican Christians worship and relate to God, and this has been reflected in the growth and spiritual development of the churches.



We have, at last report, over 350 villages who have been taught ABC thinking, and have begun to finally understand the full truth of the Gospel. They are able to take the word of God and make sense of it in their lives and culture in a way they haven’t been able to do before, and the results are incredible. In addition to church growth and development, these churches are also helping their local communities develop socially and economically. The churches develop businesses, help orphans and widows in their communities, and are making plans to build local schools. By initiating and leading this development, they present a visible witness to the wisdom and compassion of God. In these communities, being Christian no longer

means following a white person’s religion, but instead being a Mozambican Christian.

Leonard has been working with many of these villages, but has also been initiating projects of his own. He acquired another farm at Selva that he is using for financial development. In addition, he uses the farm



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Our new tractor. Now we just need to raise funds to transport it to Moz.

to provide hands-on training to Mozambicans so that they can develop their own businesses and create new jobs. In addition, the shoe business that Leonard has been developing has located a site for a shoe factory. This is a Mozambican factory, not a mass-production Western factory, just to be clear. The workers there make shoes by hand and by using sewing machines. In

related news, IRI just received a professional-grade treadle sewing machine for the factory, which will help increase production tremendously. We have also acquired a \$25,000 tractor for \$10,000 dollars. One of our big projects over the next two years will be to secure the funds and materials to ship these tools, along with others tools we hope to acquire, to Mozambique so that Leonard can make our office there 100% financially independent.

On top of all these things, we had the pleasure of being able to hold a seminar in South Africa with people representing several South African tribal groups. The seminar was a great success, and the participants have asked us to return not only for more teaching, but so that we can help them translate IRI's materials into their native languages.



2017 has been a busy year! God has accomplished quite a bit through our ministry, and he seems to have more in store for 2018. This summer, Al and I will be headed to South African and Mozambique to follow up on the work from last year. We also have projects and visits planned in Alaska among the tribes there (I am writing this newsletter from Anchorage), visits planned to Hong Kong, and several seminars planned in the United States. Please continue to pray for us and for God's work in Mozambique and around the world.

Jason

Visit us on the web at <http://www.insightagentsofchange.com>

From the savannahs, villages and churches of Mozambique to



The tropical land of the Philippines and



. . . The frozen lands of Alaska, our mission continues.



Thanks for your unwavering support.

- ☑ Leonard continues to work to get his documents to enable him to obtain a visa to visit the USA.
- ☑ Pray for Jason as he has moved from Spokane to Southern California to continue his studies in his Doctorate program. He is still looking for an affordable apartment. His car also broke down and is in the shop to replace the head gasket. This extra expense has placed a strain on his budget. Any help will be greatly appreciated.
- ☑ Velma has found a full time job but the amount of walking required is taking its toll. Please keep her in prayer to be able to withstand the rigors of this new job.
- ☑ Please pray for the health of both Al and Jason. Jason is experiencing flu like symptoms while in Alaska and is struggling.
- ☑ Please pray for additional travel funds. With the work in Mozambique growing and more requests from other countries to present seminars, expenses are increasing.
- ☑ Please pray for seed money for various Moz development projects. The list of needs is growing. Thanks to all who have donated to these worthy endeavor.

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Prayer Partners

One of our greatest needs at this time is to replace some of our travel funds that we used to purchase the tractor. (See picture on page 3). As you can see from the picture below, a tractor will greatly improve production and allow us to meet the needs of many more Mozambicans.



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.

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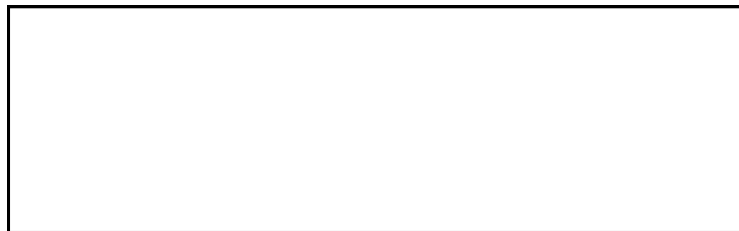
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