

## **News from the Orphanage in Cambine**

**S:t Peters församling in Stockholm, who supports the Orphanage in Cambine (CBO), asked Renate and Claus Härtner, missionaries in Mozambique, to describe the situation.**

“We are fine, despite Corona, of course. Nobody knows, how the situation in Mozambique is really like, because there are only few tests available and there exist very few laboratories to analyze them. We heard that every test, even taken in our province Inhambane (500 km away from the capital), goes to Maputo to get the result - therefore it takes almost a week, until you know, if you are infected or not. Enough time to spread the virus in your environment....

Only about 1.000 to 1.500 tests are made per day, therefore you will only find few cases of infection - but when 300 from 1.250 tests come out positive, which happened the week before last week, this means that nearly 22% were infected! This harassed me...

The official dates are around 10.000 infected people and 72 deaths (within more than 6 months), this seems little, but nobody knows how many people die at home with „respiratory problems“, that will never be detected, if they actually died of Corona or not.”

### **How are you handling this situation?**

“We try to keep safe, we put our masks on, wherever we go and hope that nobody will infect us. The schools closed in the end of March and are still shut down; only the exam classes (12th grade) started and 10th grade will begin next week, the rest will maybe wait until the new school year, what starts in February.”

### **What about the children?**

“The kids at CBO needed to be reduced by order of the government, therefore we sent all kids „home“, those that have some family members left. We remained with 30 children, that don't have anybody, most of them are the little ones (from 2 1/2 up to our handicapped men of 34 years). They are told to stay on the compound, fortunately we have enough space around our houses to go with the swings or play soccer.”

### **Can you do something to cheer them up?**

“On 16th of June, the „Day of Mozambiquan child“, we had a little break with a party and a cake, that was donated by a friend and supporter of CBO. The kids did like this very much, as the day by day is a little bit boring now without any activity outside.”

### **How about studying nowadays?**

“They do their tasks in housekeeping and on the fields; to continue with learning and studying is more difficult, as we don't have the possibilities of online teaching. Even the idea, that teachers distribute papers with some exercises to do, did not work steadily. I hope, that they will remember something, when school starts again next year, because they nearly lost a whole year!”

### **Do you have any services at your church?**

“The churches have also been closed, no pre-school programs and youth meetings have taken place since March. Services on Sunday started for the first time 3 weeks ago, but only 50 persons are allowed to enter the church with special hygiene requirements (I think, you all have to follow these procedures in Sweden), so they do 3 services one after another and still don't reach all members.

**What about your own situation?**

“Next year Claus and I will return to Germany, next August after (then) 7 years. The Church is already looking for somebody to substitute me, but has not found anybody, yet. German „Weltmission“ will not sent another couple as missionaries to Mozambique.”



We send you warm greetings - while temperatures fall in Sweden, we are facing our hot summer. Stay blessed! Renate