

# IREACHAFRICA



Most of our base staff and missionaries.

## Annual Report 2023

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# iReachAfrica Ministries 2023 Annual Report

Tracy Evans, PA-C

Director and Founder



Welcome to our 2023, end-of-year report. It's been another, event-packed year of multiplication for us in Mozambique, with many new opportunities to share God's love and His "amazing grace". Check it out!

- Tariro, our Vocational Training Center, is expanding! Terri is developing a new, Hospitality course in neighboring Gondola while Matthew and Abi Fitzsimons assume directorship of Tariro in 2024. We've also submitted paperwork to the government to add two new, vocational training programs to Tariro (see the following report).
- Our four newest missionaries who joined us in 2022 are now fairly conversant in language and culture. They are all doing very well, lending their various areas of expertise to our Health and Nutrition Center. They've resurrected the outreach to handicapped children and their families. We now have 73 families of handicapped children enrolled.
- Past violence between political parties in Mozambique has resulted in people fleeing for their lives. Many are resettling as squatters near us. They are scared, displaced, and living in extreme poverty. Our Community Health Education and Discipleship Program team is penetrating this squatter camp. This team is bringing clean water, public health education and the Good News of God's great love to many!
- The Children's Education and Graduate Program continues to thrive! The quality of these educational programs is exceptional. They gave children an enormous head start while filling their wee hearts with the love of God. Most of these children come from fear driven Muslim and ancestral worship backgrounds. But the love of God goes deep into their tender hearts.
- Discipleship classes and outreaches continue to play a big part of every program, resulting in salvations and deepening relationships with the Lord Jesus Christ. Strengthening local Believers and churches is an ever, ongoing endeavor and the fruit is phenomenal!

Despite many trials along the way, by God's abundant grace, we are growing stronger. The Lord is with us! We trust that 2024 will bring us even greater increase as we focus on "life on life" discipleship. Keep praying for more missionaries to join us so we can more fully reap this ripe harvest. We actually need to build more basic housing for our team, as we are out of room!

Thank you for your partnership in this life-saving, soul-saving ministry!

"Bear fruit that remains."

~ tracy

## Community Health & Discipleship Program

Submitted by  
Mariah Mcglothlin



The Community Health and Discipleship (CHAD) program promotes water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in communities via participatory-style training, catalyzing community-led public health projects, and providing household biosand water filters. Our team also uses community interactions as opportunities to evangelize and make disciples. The CHAD program is led by Mariah McGlothlin and staffed by two WASH trainers and two biosand water filter technicians.

**This year the CHAD program had some new challenges and opportunities.**

- We catalyzed a degree of community development by relying on local leaders to activate neighborhood participation in a sanitation initiative.
- We trained new trainers and partnered with the nutrition center to conduct a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) training course for the caregivers on their program
- We pivoted in response to a cholera outbreak in the area

### Below are our end of year program statistics:

10+ Latrines Constructed: This means better health for families and their neighbors.

56 WASH Course graduates. We have since followed up with all our grads to support them in adopting the WASH practices they learned.

47 Biosand Filters Installed. Our improved user training for water filters during follow-up visits resulted in more consistent filter usage, and thus healthier people.





## HIGHLIGHTS OF WASH ACTIVITIES

We have been encouraged by the progress of sanitation in a neighborhood in Nhambonda. During our WASH course we found out that of the 45+ training participants, 11 of them (and their households) practiced open defecation, and that they all wished to have a latrine. Later we invited those families to participate in a project in which they would volunteer to help construct each other's latrines, one by one. Each latrine needed to be dug to at least 3-4 meters, covered by a sturdy floor resistant to collapse, and protected by a mud brick wall and grass roof. Neighbors indeed turned up to help and two within two months 7-8 latrines were finished. The big wins for us were the cooperation of the community members and our partnership with local leaders that helped activate the neighborhood.



WASH lessons during Cholera outbreak



Clinic staff facilitating WASH lessons

Fulfilling a long-time dream, we piloted a training program to bring the WASH course to the caregivers enrolled with the Nutrition Center. We selected two ladies to be the trainers: a clinic staff member and a recent nursing school graduate. Our team trained the new trainers in effective facilitation skills, then coached the ladies as they daily gathered the caretakers for short, engaging lessons on handwashing, clean water and sanitation. Despite the logistical challenges, the new trainers facilitated all of the basic WASH lessons for roughly 350 of the caregivers on nutrition program. The caregivers bring babies from dozens of communities near and far, so this training gave us a broad reach.





## OUTREACH DURING CHOLERA OUTBREAK

In February a cholera outbreak which affected Mozambique and other surrounding nations spread to the towns and villages around us and the homes of our Mozambican colleagues. The town where we had recently completed the WASH course was seeing cholera run through families too so the CHAD team did a short WASH refresher lesson including a demonstration of how to make oral rehydration solution at home and the importance of treating contaminated drinking water. Our trainers also did short WASH presentations to the neighborhood surrounding our base, and partnered with our preschools to give that presentation to the children's parents.



## TESTIMONY FROM BUCORUSI

The neighborhood of Bucorusi has been dear to our hearts since 2020. In 2022 we facilitated a WASH course for residents who were more or less planning to stay there. But we weren't able to install biosand filters for those families who lived in precarious houses and tents which were liable to fall in a heavy rain storm. Finally in 2023 several of the graduates from our class had built fixed structures for their homes, meaning they were ready to receive their filters!



# Education Program

Submitted by  
Anna Capener



## CRECHE

The Crèche is our 'entry' program. Children start when they are around three and a half years old. 2023 saw many parents and carers coming to register their child - more than we had spaces for! We definitely didn't want to turn anyone away because we have seen year on year what a difference it makes if children complete this program before starting in the preschool. After much deliberation we decided to offer some spaces as part-time, allowing us to accommodate more children. The oldest students were allocated full-time places and the younger ones part-time places. With this solution we did not have to turn anyone away!

It has been a successful year for our crèche students who have grown in confidence through our play-based approach. They love coming to school and the classroom is always full of excited chatter and laughter. Inclusion is important to us and this year we were overjoyed to welcome a non-verbal student with a developmental disability (ordinarily there is no schooling for children with special needs).

The tragic death of one of our crèche students in March after a long battle with his health left us feeling heartbroken but it was a reminder of the importance of the work we are doing here in these communities.



## PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The preschool program runs at both our school sites (Mussunsa and Chipindaumwe). The curriculum is modified year by year depending on the needs and abilities of the students. This year we introduced an 'advanced' group in Mathematics and Portuguese where some of the most academically confident students participated in more challenging activities. The teachers who taught this new material showed an excellent attitude to teaching their groups and we were all amazed at the progress these students made. We are confident that as they go into first grade at the government primary school next year they will have the skills and knowledge that they need to thrive.

One of the ways we seek to prepare the children for the government primary school is by helping them to speak and understand basic Portuguese (at home our students speak the local dialect). This year we have been impressed by the children's progress in this area. Recently we had visitors and the children were asked if they had any questions. The children (in Portuguese) asked the visitors which continent they came from, what their favorite food was and their favorite color!



Education is for improving the lives of others  
and leaving your community better than you  
found it.

Marian Wright Edelman



## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

There are two problems facing children in the Mozambican primary school system. Firstly, many children do not complete primary school - particularly girls. Secondly, a large majority of those who do complete primary school leave illiterate. Our after-school program seeks to tackle both these issues. We encourage the children to continue their studies and we talk about the importance of going to school. Our curriculum is carefully designed to systematically teach the children how to read and write in Portuguese through a phonetic approach. In Mathematics they are taught how numbers are made up (hundreds, tens, units) and this concept is built on to enable them to confidently carry out basic calculations both mentally and written. Our after-school program was well attended at both our sites this year.

## YOUTH PROGRAM

All of our programmes have a focus on teaching the good news of the gospel through regular Bible stories and songs. When the students 'graduate' from our after-school program we want to be able to continue investing into their lives - especially during their teenage years. Our youth program gives us the opportunity to maintain the strong relationships we have built up with these young men and women through the years. They love coming to play football and other games on a Friday afternoon followed by a snack, Bible teaching and a memory verse.

This year we have covered topics such as Jesus' birth, people who encountered Jesus, the parables of Jesus, the life of Joseph and prayer. We also held our annual holiday Bible club in August on the theme of 'trusting in God'. It was well attended and the youth enjoyed learning about trusting in God for provision, protection and salvation. The teachers performed dramas each day and had great fun using their creativity!

## WIDER COMMUNITY

This year Mozambique saw its worst cholera outbreak in more than twenty years. Our communities did not go unaffected. The majority of our school families have access to clean water but often when people are at their fields they are in very remote areas where clean drinking water is not guaranteed. Sadly, in March, a mother of one of our students died suddenly from suspected cholera after being away tending to her crops. We wanted to equip our families with the resources and knowledge they needed to stay healthy so we partnered with IReachAfrica's public health team. They gave a great training at both of our sites on the importance of drinking clean water and we were able to distribute bleach for disinfecting drinking water and soap for hand washing.

# Breakdown of average attendance by program 2023

Creche program	3 - 4 year olds at Mussunsa site	38 enrolled in January 2023 (Mussunsa site only)
Preschool program	5 - 7 year olds across two sites	116 enrolled in January 2023 (Both school sites)
After school program	1st grade - 4th grade across two sites	On average 130 students in attendance (Both school sites)
Feeding program	During hunger season (Jan - April, Sep - Nov) all creche and preschool students fed lunch each school day	Equal to number of creche and preschool students (Both school sites)
Youth program	Every Friday afternoon. Any local teenager welcome to attend.	On average attended by 50 - 60 students (Both school sites)
Holiday Bible club	Same as youth program	Same as youth program



## Health & Nutrition Center

Submitted by  
Bridget Stanley, Clinic Administrator



### **PARTENERSHIPS, GROWTH AND NEW MOZAMBICAN NURSE**

2023 began with a bang! We had community outbreaks of cholera, scabies, parasitic infections and malaria, on top of the usual nutritional needs. So, we reorganized and partnered with Africa 180's Public Health program, as they do community outreaches "in the bush." It was "back to the basics" of handwashing, sanitation, soap and clean water.

Because of the needs of the children with disabilities in our clinic, we have onboarded another Mozambican nurse, Coleta. Coleta was a recipient of the services of our clinic when she was just 4-5 years old, as she was born with a fused jaw and starving. Her awesome mother brought Coleta to the Baby Clinic to receive vital nutrition through a straw. We took her to a mission hospital in Zimbabwe for surgery, which helped for a while but failed once her permanent teeth grew in. Her jaw is locked once again. She speaks through clenched teeth. She had her front teeth removed so that she can drink powdered meals through a straw again. Coleta is very bright. Eventually she graduated both high school and nursing school, then came on staff at our clinic. She attends to the children with disabilities and provides compassionate attention to those most vulnerable in our community. Her mom is a widow, a fiery evangelist and also works with us part time.





## Other changes in our Baby Clinic this year:

- We standardized a Weaning and Discharge Policy. This process includes our Mozambican nurses who provide nutrition education for caregivers. Our goal is to ensure that all children discharged can still maintain a stable weight and are meeting their developmental milestones.
- With the help of our American missionary nurses, we created reorganized our medical charts, using the WHO Child Growth Standards. This documentation enables us to monitor trends in their growth over time, thus individualizing care.
- Mozambique is in a disease ridden, tropical climate. Our two missionary pediatric nurses provide advanced education and training to our Mozambican nurses in accordance with international best practices.
- We have also engaged in discipleship classes with our Mozambican staff. We listen with the compassion and love of Jesus, pray for the caregivers and children, and grieve with those who have lost their precious little ones. What an honor to sit with them and minister to the spiritual needs they have.



## RESTORATION CENTER

In 2023, our Restoration Center served 78 children with disabilities. Only three of the children have died, which is amazing given the severity of their disabilities.

Each patient encounter requires the participation of the parents with the child, so there is continuity of ongoing care at home. The families have responded positively, generating an atmosphere of mutual support and joy in sharing the activities together. This also fosters a strong connection between these caregivers who see that others have very challenging needs, as well. One family even donated a wheelchair to another patient. The Mozambican culture encourages sharing, but often draws the line short of those with special needs, seeing them as a burden and a curse, rather than the blessing of being a child. This gracious outpouring of generosity is an example of how these classes are impacting our lives and the lives of those who attend.

In the span just this year, we have seen children who have improved in their motor, social and language skills. Now the caregivers speak of them with pride for their accomplishments. Families have been able to become more aware of the special care that their children require, through the workshops on feeding children with cerebral palsy, for example, which has helped caregivers develop techniques and care for mealtime.

We are so thankful to witness with our own eyes all the things the Lord has done through these programs this year and we are excited to enter a new year with the Lord's grace in 2024. Thank you for your prayers and support!



## Evangelism & Discipleship Program

Submitted by  
Valeria Silvero



### NEW WOMENS' DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAMS IN 2023

Many of these women had returned to their parental homes, after having been married but had suffered violence or abandonment by their husbands. Although some of them had already heard of the gospel, they had not experienced a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Thus, in January 2023, we began the discipleship course, the first part of which culminated in July. These women are desperately poor, yet they each saved up 30% of the cost of their new Bible, while we covered the remaining cost. It's becoming quite popular, so in September we a second discipleship group of women. Here are some of their testimonies:

**Eva:** she came to our group with a great need for God. She and her little son struggle every day to have a basic plate of food. When she heard about having a Bible she was very excited, so we prayed for her that God would provide for her 30% of the cost. During that week her brother gave her some money to help her buy food, but she decided to keep that money to get her Bible. When she received it she was so full of joy!

**Dominga:** a woman with a lot of initiative to follow Jesus, told us how she got the money. She prayed that God would provide for her, and while she was praying the idea came to her that she could sell her chicken to pay for her Bible.

**Rebeca and Constança:** are two sisters. They visited their aunt and uncle and told them about the discipleship course. They then provided for them to buy TWO Bibles.



*Woman's group showing off their new bibles.*





## LOCAL CHURCH DISIPLESHIP PROGRAM

I started another discipleship group in a local church that has a youth group. In the whole church only three people had Bibles, besides the pastor. So, out of a group of 17 young people who did the discipleship course, six of them were able to save and buy their own Bibles. The joy of the people when they receive their own bibles for the first time is one of the most beautiful experiences I have ever witnessed.



## 22 WOMEN PARTICIPATED IN DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

Throughout the year, we had a weekly meeting with women from two local villages. Among the testimonies we collected, the transformation experienced by having an encounter with God was one of the most significant. Others have noticed the difference in their lives after meeting Jesus.

We've started one-on-one discipleship too, to cultivate meaningful relationships, discover the power of prayer together, and form disciplines of prayer and reading the Word as we learned to walk with God. Many of them recounted how their eyes were opened as they read the Bible and found God's guidance for themselves.

The group grew as the women shared what they were experiencing with their families, neighbors and friends. They then brought those people to the Discipleship Groups and they also had their own encounters with God.

We also opened a small group in the home of one of the women who initially participated. Another women accepted the challenge of teaching the same things she learned with us to others in their local dialect, (as some of the women cannot read).

## RADICAL DECISION OF MUSLIM TO FOLLOW JESUS

Adelina was a Muslim who lived nearby. Initially, she suffered rejection, scorn and insult from her family members when they heard that she had decided to follow Christ and was baptized. During those difficult times, her faith was strengthened. Nothing and no one could take away the experience of having Jesus in her life. One day her father forced her to go to the mosque to help with the weeding of the mosque property which is directly next door to us.

Upon her arrival, they reviewed their member's list and told her that she could not volunteer because she had been deleted from their list. Because she attended the meetings with us she was no longer eligible to be a part of their Islamic community. She returned home relieved because she did not have to be involved. When she told us this, we exclaimed: "Adelina, it is good that your name is no longer on their list, because now your name is written in Jesus' Book of Life!" Adelina now prays for her father and her family. Her radical decision to follow Jesus is making a huge impact on her family and community. Pray with us for her family!



*Adelina in small group bible study.*



*Adelina being prayed for during her baptism.*

## SPECIAL ENCOUNTERS

God gave us creativity ways to add to the “encounter meetings” through art, drama, collage, and pottery.

The testimonies we collected were of great encouragement:

Rosita said: “Sunday was an unforgettable day for me, I had never before felt God as close as that day. During the previous weeks I had been asking God to give me patience. And I heard God telling me ‘I am going to make a patient woman out of you.’ And then I started to cry. It was the first time I heard God answer me and speak to me. Since last Sunday every time I pray, I feel God's presence strong with me like that day.”

Rebecca said : “When we prayed at the end to cast out the spirit of fear, I felt that I needed to be free. I prayed to God with all my heart and asked Him for forgiveness for all my sins, I told Him that I was sorry for everything, and that I wanted to be in His hands. I felt relieved, and eager to pray and read the Bible now.”

Adelina: “I gave my whole life to Jesus and I told Him to do whatever He wanted. I felt God's presence so strongly that I just wanted to cry. After I returned home, I felt a strong desire to read my Bible, pray and I feel the presence of God still.”

Last week Adelina stated that she was very discouraged because it is time to work in the fields and sow seed. She starts very early in the day, fetching water from the well, and felt too tired to read her Bible and seek God. But since that Sunday when she had that encounter with God, she tells us that now it is not hard for her. I am praying all the time and I read my Bible every moment I can find.”



*Ladies showing off their crafts during encounter meetings.*



## SPECIAL ENCOUNTERS TESTIMONIES CON'T.

And one more thing about Adelina, yesterday we had time together to pray. For the first time, she did not ask for anything for herself. Instead, she said: "I want you to pray for God to give me the courage to preach the word of God to others." She lives in a Muslim community.

Eva: "For me these days are very special, I have many problems. Sometimes we don't have enough to eat, and many times I felt that my suffering will never end. But when we were praying, I gave my life to God. I put myself in His hands. I felt a peace that He will not abandon me, that my suffering will end and that He will help me. I felt very encouraged with faith."



## CHRISTMAS EVENT

Two weeks before Christmas I asked the group, "How can we celebrate Christmas?" We brainstormed ideas, and it was born in the heart of them to perform a drama to represent the birth of Jesus and present the drama to their friends, neighbors and families.

We all prepared the drama: reading the gospels, compiling the Biblical stories and putting it together. We made lists of the people we were going to invite, prayed for them, and handed out the invitations. Each of the women brought family members and neighbors. God gave us so much grace to do everything, and the event was a total blessing!

Twenty-two new people came; and with great joy, we received some of the husbands of the women for whom we had been praying throughout the year. We did a drama, a chorus with songs in dialect about Christmas. An evangelistic message was shared and at the end, we set up prayer groups where each of the women met with their guests and prayed for their needs. It was beautiful to see that they were blessing their families and neighbors.



**The Kingdom of heaven is coming to Mozambique!  
Thank you for your prayers and support. It's bearing eternal fruit!**

## Tariro Vocational Training Center

Submitted by  
Terri Cash



Tariro prepares young adults with practical, vocational skills to make students employable. It's a robust, two-year didactic and practical trainings center that also teaches Biblical Christian values and discipleship.

In December of each year, applicants take our entrance exams to test their core literacy and math aptitudes. It is becoming increasingly harder to find students from government high schools who can actually pass the basic exams. We gave it on 3 separate occasions to allow more opportunities yet only 33 passed. Classes began with 27 Metalworks students, including 1 female and 6 Agriculture students, 2 of which are female. (The ladies are usually the best students).

Tariro has a higher success rate than any other vocational training school in the province. We have a 86% fulltime employment record from our recent graduates. Companies like E JL, Tongatt Hulett and Saw Services, request our students for the practical internship. We also teach them to be on time, respectful, eager to learn and hard working. The companies love them!

Calisto continues to lead our Metalworks Program. We welcomed Manuel Chiano and Daniel Domingos to our Metalworks staff this year with the emphasis on maintaining safety standards. This allows for better hands-on instruction, allowing the student to carry theory from the classroom to the shop and apply it practically. Each instructor has his own strengths in math, design and character. Together they are providing the best possible experience for the students while preparing them for a brighter future.

We live in a rich, agricultural area. Alberto and our Agriculture students planted a variety of vegetables, tomatoes, beans, onion, peppers, Couve and Lettuce. They also planted Lemon, Lime and Orange tree starts to sell to the communities around us.

This year we completed the construction of a shade-house that has been very successful for propagating fruit trees, hardwoods and some ornamental trees.

While the forests of the province are disappearing quickly, Alberto and the Tariro Agriculture students have been germinating indigenous hardwoods and replanting. Hundreds of trees around Tariro. Currently there is an initiative to give saplings to the community, in hopes they will give back to nature what has been stripped away, securing a greener future.



We hope to begin animal care education in 2024 by introducing chicken and goat husbandry to the agricultural program.

Our Cement Fence Post Project has been successful. We also began producing hexagon, slip-proof, skid-proof cement pavers. We have replaced many muddy walkways at our various centers. And we also take orders and sell them to provide some income to Tariro.

Every five years we must submit documents to the government to renew our permission to operate as a training center. As with most things in Mozambique, the requirements and guidelines are always changing, but we successfully submitted the final draft on December 18th. These documents include a request to add classes in the areas of general maintenance and construction to our existing programs. The general maintenance course will provide six months of Electrical, six months of plumbing and six months of general construction training. We will also be adding classroom and practical education in the field of hospitality to our current programs. The Hospitality course will be taught at Terri's Bela Vista hospitality center, which is under construction. Both these courses are set to begin accepting students in the 2025 session.

Terri Cash has been directing Tariro with excellence for many years now. There would be no Tariro without her! She has launched many young men and women into the workforce with actual, employable skills and solid Christian character. She's given them and Mozambique a brighter future and hope. Together she, the staff and the students have weathered many trials (including Covid, Class 5 Cyclones, civil unrest, extremely tight budgets, and thefts. As she transitions to Bela Vista to launch that newest program, Matthew and Abi Fitzsimons will assume leadership of Tariro in the new year. Terri will remain on the board and available as an expert consultant. We are very excited to welcome the Fitzsimons (and they're six-month-old baby girl) to Tariro and to our community life.

Together, we go from strength to strength, and you're a part of that blessing and progress. Thank you for your prayers and support in 2023 as we launch into 2024!

