



Update from Chad and Dara Vanden Bosch

July 2024

Dear Friends,

To say the first half of this year has been full is an understatement. We realize that this update is long overdue but at times, we aren't even sure where we are or where we're waking up in the morning.

Ministry-wise we've been busy with our usual responsibilities and hopes. Dara and the palliative care team have surpassed 200 patients on the overall census of the program and have celebrated 10 years of service. This work continues to be so valuable yet challenging. The suffering that people go through with chronic disease is unfathomable to most, and this came to light even more when recently a young woman, after significantly suffering for more than one year, attempted suicide. This was an absolute tragedy but it also reiterates the need for palliative care, symptom management, and comfort care at the end of life. This reminds us to press on in advocating and challenging healthcare systems for the need for palliative care. A common prayer of our hearts is "Lord have mercy."



Dara's team

The ministry of New Harvest Farm continues to grow as we work with local communities to not only improve food security but also draw people closer to the Creator and Sustainer. Our area experienced severe drought during our recent rainy season, which led to wide-scale crop failures for many subsistence farmers. While it is heartbreaking to see so many of our neighbors worrying about how they will feed their families this year, this crisis has led to a new openness to exploring different agricultural techniques. We have seen our agroforestry program gaining popularity and impact as it addresses many of the agricultural challenges faced in our local community. Not only have we established test plots with

nearly 4,000 trees of diverse species in the past year, but we also launched our "Growing with God" agroforestry training program in three new communities. We have also had some exciting results from the "lost native crop" trials we began this year. We have been especially encouraged by our first experience with a native finger millet that produced nearly a 5,000 X multiplication on poor soils in a drought year! This crop could have a major positive impact on future local food security.



Above left: agroforestry training; above right: finger millet

In addition to all of this, our family life has kept us more busy than usual. We were blessed with a visit from Chad's two sisters and three of their children. We had an incredible visit from artist Joel Schoon Tanis and his daughter. During their short visit, over 40 community members were able to help us paint a four-panel mural, telling a story of our hope of restoration for the land and all creation in our area. This can now be viewed by all that pass our busy dirt road.



Also, we celebrated Nede's graduation from high school, we visited Malawi and Capetown, SA. And now, as I type this, I am sitting in our backyard in Holland, MI, enjoying the summer breeze that we haven't felt

on our faces for over 10 years. The last six weeks were a blur of busyness with paperwork, applications, and visas for our family to get to the U.S. but it happened and we arrived in the U.S. on July 1. We celebrated the 4th of July for the first time on American soil and we are settling into what this time of home assignment may look like.

Enjoying ice cream and a trip to Windmill Island in Holland, Michigan

We hope that we will spend the summer months as a family traveling and connecting with loved ones. Many decisions need to be made regarding schooling for the girls, a job and future plans for Nede, and the anticipation of American citizenship for Luzia and Julieta.

We pray that this time will refresh our souls and allow us to be filled up rather than continually pouring out to so many.

In the fall, we hope to visit many of our supporting churches and reconnect with as many as possible to share what the Lord is doing in Mozambique.

As always, we are deeply grateful for what the Lord allows us to do in Mozambique and the privilege it is to depend on him for the entirety of our lives.

Thank you for your generous support, love, and prayers, and we look forward to connecting soon. We are so grateful for this opportunity to be in the U.S. for some months.

God bless you and keep you,

Chad, Dara, Nede, Luzia, and Julieta

Support our mission

RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals like you.

[Learn how we are funded](#) | [Give today](#)

Reformed Church in America

4500 60th Street SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49512

You are receiving this email because you subscribed for updates from Chad and Dara Vanden Bosch.

[View this email in your browser.](#) | [Update preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#).