

January 2026 Update

THE BARTONS

Church Planting Missionaries to
Mozambique, Africa



Dear Pastors, Churches, and Partners in Ministry,

2026 BEGINS: Happy New Year! We are entering into a new year and a new season for our family as we will be celebrating our first full year here in Mozambique in just a few short months! With that being said, our goals are to continue with our language classes with a greater emphasis on practice and day by day communication as the year progresses. We were so thankful to have had the opportunity to visit South Africa to celebrate Christmas and the New Year with our family while having the chance to ask questions and learn underneath the team of veteran missionaries that serve there. It was such a refreshing time and a great help! I also was privileged to preach two separate times at two different churches which was a great blessing. When we returned back to Mozambique on January 13th, **the country was in the middle of an extreme crisis with torrential rains causing severe flooding** throughout the city where we live and all of southern Mozambique. Certain areas were forced to evacuate amidst the rising floods and unceasing rain that continued to fall, but we praise the Lord that our house only had minimal damages and we are safe! Many Mozambicans have suffered because of this traumatic event, so please join us in prayer that God would help the people to recover from this horrible tragedy and that we might have greater opportunities to preach the Gospel because of this in some way. People are hurting, and our hearts are burdened now more than ever to preach Christ to those that are looking for hope. Thankfully, over the last week or so the weather has improved drastically allowing for the recovery process to begin!

DIVINE APPOINTMENTS: While in South Africa, the Lord scheduled us a divine appointment with a Mozambican young man there. One of the missionaries there, Kevin Hall, went out visiting and met a young man they referred to as "Blessing" who was living in the area. He discovered that he was Mozambican, and because of this, he wasn't able to talk with him at all as the young man didn't speak any English. This opened the door of opportunity for myself and my brother in law, missionary Noah Wilkerson, to visit his home a few days later and share the Gospel with him for over an hour in his native language that he hadn't heard in his nearly four years of living in South Africa! He was extremely excited to speak to us in Portuguese, and couldn't believe he met two Americans speaking his language with him. We told him that only God could have arranged our meeting, and **he told us it was his very first time EVER to hear the Gospel message!** The next Sunday, he came to church with us for the first time and I sat next to him and did my best to translate the sermon for him into Portuguese. During the time of invitation, he raised his hand as being a believer in Christ sure of his eternal destination. After the service we asked him what happened, and he told us that after we left that day through our conversation and the tracts we had left, **he had trusted Christ as His Savior!** Praise the Lord! Pray for us as we try to follow up with him with discipleship materials in his own language! He is pictured below and his name is Nelito. Thank you for praying for our family, may God bless you as you serve Him in 2026!

In Christ, The Bartons

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the recovery of Mozambique after the flooding!
- For our Portuguese classes that are starting back this month!
- For opportunities and open doors to plant churches!
- For Nelito to grow in Christ!

PRAISES

- Opportunities to preach God's word at two churches in South Africa!
- Our family and home was safe during the floods!
- Opportunities to share the Gospel with others!



Southside
BAPTIST CHURCH



SENDING CHURCH
Southside Baptist Church, Knoxville, TN
Pastor Luke Wilkerson

SUPPORT
Vision Baptist Missions
P.O. Box 647 Dawsonville, GA 30534

WEBSITE
TeamMozambique.com
EMAIL
barton@teammozambique.com
PHONE
865-314-3293