

THE DAILY MISSION

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Note to Speaker: Please feel free to adapt these notes to your own style. There are three versions of the PowerPoint: 1) Change image on mouse-click; 2) Looped with text; 3) Looped without text. You can order a DVD with all three versions and a short film by calling Supporter Care on 0845 273 1701.

The Daily Mission

New beginnings in Mozambique

SLIDE 1

The Daily Mission
New beginnings in Mozambique



SLIDE 2

Mozambique is undergoing a new beginning after years of political turmoil.



SLIDE 3

First, there was the long struggle for independence from Portugal, finally achieved in 1975. This was followed by 15 years of civil war, fuelled by groups supported by South African and Rhodesian governments that were opposed to Mozambique's independence.



SLIDE 4

It is a country facing many hardships. Life expectancy is just 42 years, largely a result of the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS. It is also ranked as one of the world's most impoverished countries.



SLIDE 5

But now there is hope. The country has been at peace since 1992 and there are many signs of new life. Many people in Mozambique are experiencing a new beginning.



SLIDE 6

This is Otilia Soures, aged 46. She has lived through a time of both national and personal change, and is a symbol of new beginnings that can be seen throughout Mozambique today.



SLIDE 7

This is Otilia with some of her extended family and neighbours. She lives in this three-room house, in Lichinga, with five children. Two years ago, her husband walked out on her. Finding money to feed her family has been a constant challenge. Only one of her relatives is able to provide financial help.



SLIDE 8

But these hardships are something that Otilia is facing with patience and faith – and with the support of the local Anglican church. Otilia was baptised as a baby and brought up in the church. Many years later, she had a profound spiritual experience that changed her life. She underwent a powerful spiritual awakening. She felt reborn and said she started to care about other people.



SLIDE 9

Her revived faith has inspired Otilia to become active in her community, despite the hardships she faces. Otilia is a woman for whom life is an opportunity to live out God's daily mission to care for others.

Otilia took up voluntary work for a local project that cares for AIDS orphans. She buys and sells fish to raise income for the project.



SLIDE 10

Here Otilia is studying. She has also started a correspondence course in theology, which is strengthening her Christian beliefs and equipping her to relate more meaningfully with those around her.



SLIDE 11

Otilia was encouraged to take the theology course by USPG Mission Companion Helen van Koevering – shown here – who leads the church that Otilia attends.

Helen is the only ordained woman in Mozambique and as such she is something of an inspiration too. She is an example of what women can become in the new Mozambique.



SLIDE 12

Historically, women in Mozambique have had few rights, but all that is changing. Women now hold positions in government and new legislation has been designed to protect women from the whims of men who seek to divorce their wives and leave them penniless.



SLIDE 13

Helen introduced an innovative approach to bible study, which doubles as literacy training – something that is having a massive impact in a region where about 65 per cent of woman are illiterate.



SLIDE 14

Helen is also encouraging women to have a voice. For example, Helen and her husband Mark – who is the Bishop of Niassa Diocese – are encouraging women to help on decision-making bodies that were previously a male-only domain.



SLIDE 15

This is Mark van Koevering, who is also a USPG Mission Companion. He was consecrated as the Bishop as Niassa in 2002.



SLIDE 16

'New life' is the theme that Mark van Koevering has adopted as the slogan for all the work of his diocese.



SLIDE 17

He is referring to new life in the country, new life in the diocese, and new life in small communities.



SLIDE 18

New churches are being built. Clergy and lay preachers are being trained. Culturally-relevant forms of worship are being introduced. Development issues are being discussed.



SLIDE 19

Women like Otilia and the work of the van Koeverings are all signs of hope in one of the poorest countries in the world. They are signs that, through Christ, new life is possible.

SLIDE 20

'This is an exciting time. We pray that the country will continue to develop.'

Bishop Mark van Koevering

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SLIDE 21

USPG urgently needs your gifts of money, time and prayer to enable the world church to share God's love.

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SLIDE 22

For more information:

Tel: 0845 273 1701

Email: enquiries@uspg.org.uk

www.uspg.org.uk

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Tel: 0845 273 1701

Email: enquiries@uspg.org.uk

www.uspg.org.uk

USPG: Anglicans in World Mission

200 Great Dover Street, London SE1 4YB

Tel: 0845 273 1701

Email: enquiries@uspg.org.uk

www.uspg.org.uk

USPG Ireland

Gobadruish, Mohill, County Leitrim

Tel: 071 965 1998

Email: uspg@ireland.anglican.org

www.uspg.ie



**Anglicans in
World Mission**