

Mozambique Children's Messages

Children's Message

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Join me for a minute, and get comfortable. Cross your legs, lie down, be still for a moment. Close your eyes, and imagine with me. Imagine you are in a country in Africa. Imagine yourself in a land of dusty, bumpy roads that make you bounce like you're on a rollercoaster. Imagine villages instead of cities, thatched huts instead of brick houses. Imagine a forest of palm trees, and markets bustling with people selling fruit, baked goods, and clothing. Imagine walking for your water every day, making your own bread, and walking to school each morning.

Through our church, we partner with a church in a place like this – a country called Mozambique. In this country, many children are orphans. Without any parents, there is no one left to care for these kids. Our sister church in Mozambique works to provide homes for these children though, and they live with adult caretakers and go to school to prepare them for jobs and to teach them how to support themselves when they grow up.

Today we wanted to talk to you about these kids in Mozambique because we noticed something unique about the older children when we visited there. Older children – teenagers and pre-teens – care lovingly for the younger ones. Even though the older children are not actually related to the younger children, those who live in an orphanage form a large family where everyone cares deeply for everyone else. Teenagers carry the babies. Pre-teens teach toddlers to walk, holding their hands so they won't fall down. School-age children teach games they learn on the playground at school to the younger ones.

These children do not have a lot of the things we have in our country. Toys are broken wheels and sticks, soccer balls made of trash, and empty water bottles attached to a long rod. Schoolbooks are a treasure, and each child has only one or two sets of clothes. Getting a new pair of shoes is like Christmas morning to them. And yet, these children are content, grateful to God for being alive, for being loved, for being looked after. They are grateful for food, for shelter, for community. As partners with Mozambique, we in Missouri are helping these children to grow up safe and happy. Just as your parents pray for you, please remember to pray for your brothers and sisters in Mozambique, because they are a part of God's family just like we are. Next time you are tempted to complain, to focus on what you *don't* have rather than what you *do*, remember your brothers

and sisters in Mozambique. Remember the showers of blessings the Lord has given you. And tell Jesus how grateful you are for the love you have been given.