

MOZAMBIQUE

KID MISSIONARY CHALLENGE





kid missionary challenge

**Six-part Project Guide for the children of Mozambique
and missionaries, Weston and Allison Stover.**

LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

This Kid Missionary Challenge Project Guides are created to present an opportunity for partnership with a specific missionary, via designated giving, culturally specific prayer, and similar serving opportunities to the featured missionary. Use this six-part Project on a regular basis to *bring missions to life by developing a heart of generosity* in your kids' ministry! Our hope is that you will use this simple tool to teach your kids about evangelism, both in the global and local context. Each part includes:

Topic – describing the focus of the project guide

Introduction – providing context or background for the project

Prayer Needs – listing actual needs of Weston and Allison

You can download all media for this Project Guide at the link below (case sensitive).

bit.ly/KMCStoverMedia

GPS - GIVE PRAY SERVE

KMC exists to help kids *give, pray, and go (GPS)* with missionaries around the world. One of the ways a heart of generosity can be measured is through a few actionable items: how are the kids in your ministry giving? How are they praying? How are they serving? We want to measure the effectiveness of a child's missional heart through their own desire to give, their own desire to pray, and their own desire to serve. You are leading kids in *prayer* for the children of Mozambique. God is calling many of them to *go* across cultures and tell people about Jesus. Consider *giving* toward those who are ministering to the unreached peoples of Mozambique. A giving form is attached at the end of this Project Guide and we hope that you consider contributing toward this excellent ministry. The Project goal is **\$10,000**; once that goal is met, remaining funds will be donated towards critical needs – such as food, Bibles, water, clothes, medicine, shelter – for missionaries on the field. Donations to the critical needs fund may be made at any time throughout the year.

As your commitment is an agreement between you and God, it is understood that you may revise it at any time. Once a need is met, we reserve the privilege of redirecting funds to the BGMC Critical Needs Account. If the pledged amount is not met, BGMC reserves the right to redirect the church or district's undesignated funds.

PART 1

Topic – Mozambique

Mozambique is in southeastern Africa. It is across the Mozambique Channel from the famous island nation of Madagascar (you might have seen the movie - haha). The people (called Mozambicans) are from many different tribes that existed before they were united into one country. Therefore, they speak many different languages - around 40 can be found in Mozambique alone! However, they are united by a common language - Portuguese - that was introduced to the nation during colonization, when Mozambique was part of the Portuguese kingdom. Today, though Portuguese is the official language, only the educated and those who

live in large cities tend to speak it. Other people still speak their mother tongues, which means that a person who lives in the rural north may not be able to talk to a person in the rural south!

Mozambique is a subtropical nation. That means it has hot, humid weather most of the year, but it is not jungle like some countries in Africa. It is mostly made up of low tress' and bushes, although you can find some smaller mountains in the north and central parts of the country. And there is sand - lots of sand! Mozambicans don't even have a word for "dirt" like we Washingtonians understand dirt. Many of them have never seen dirt like that. They grow all their crops in sand, which makes it very hard to grow enough food to feed the 30 million people who live there.

Mozambique was one of the last countries in Africa to gain independence, meaning they sent away the European colonists. After independence, they immediately went to war... against themselves! These two wars (against the Portuguese and between two groups of Mozambicans) lasted about 26 years. They finally found some peace in 1992, but fighting occasionally starts again because everyone wants to rule the country for themselves. These wars have caused the nation to become extremely poor. In fact, Mozambique is the 8th poorest nation in the whole world. They are the 10th most corrupt nation in the world, which means that it is difficult to trust the president or anyone with power because they will probably use it for their own benefit, rather than for helping the people.



In spite of all of this, Mozambicans can be very friendly and happy people. They love to have fun and laugh. Sometimes they are really quiet, but if you get a group of friends together, they will suddenly become very loud, with lots of laughing and joking. We love this about Mozambicans. They are very loyal to their friends.

- Pray that Weston and Allison will learn Portuguese very, very well, so that they can easily communicate with Mozambicans.
- Pray that they learn some of the local, tribal languages, like the most common one in the city: Changana.

PART 2

Topic – Weston and Allison Stover



We are Weston and Allison Stover. We are from Washington (Weston is from Issaquah and Allison is from Lacey). We were not Christians as children because our families did not practice a Christian faith. Jesus called us to Himself a little later in life.

Allison decided to follow Jesus when she started going to a youth group in 8th grade. Weston didn't start following Jesus until he went to college, where he met some wonderful Christian friends who introduced him to Jesus. We both developed a love for Africa before we knew Jesus wanted us to live there! We fell in love when we found out that both of us were called to missions in Africa! God called us first by making us love His people, and then showing us we could love them by giving our lives to serve them. Even though it is difficult to be away from families in the U.S., we know we are obeying Him in Africa – and that's the most important thing!

We just had our first child – a daughter named Leona Coeur. Leona is a name that means “lioness,” which is a great name for a girl who is growing up in Africa! Her middle name, Coeur, is a French word that means “heart.” We hope she grows up to be courageous like a lioness, but gentle and loving with a soft heart. We are excited to see what God will do in Leona’s life!



Our role as missionaries is to serve and lead university students. Mozambique does not have many university students. That means that the ones they do have are being prepared for the most important jobs in the whole country. We know that if Mozambique is to become a place of peace, justice, and mercy, it must have leaders who love Jesus and follow His example. So we are working with these future leaders – the college students – to introduce them to Jesus and train them in His ways. If they love Jesus, then they will choose to honor Him with their



leadership, and they will not choose to steal from the Mozambican people like the leaders before them did.

- Pray that our daughter, Leona, will grow up loving Mozambicans and knowing that she is a missionary, sent by God to serve the people around her.

PART 3

Topic – Fun in Mozambique

In our experience, Mozambicans love two things more than anything else: soccer and food! They don’t have much sports equipment, but luckily all you need to play soccer is a ball! Sometimes, they don’t even have a ball, so they will get a whole bunch of plastic grocery sacks, wad them up, and wrap tape around them to create a fake soccer ball. Even though they don’t have much, they are very good at soccer because they play it all the time.



In Mozambique, every major holiday is celebrated with lots of food. It is the tradition to have a barbeque with all your relatives and stay up late into the night on these special days. Most days, the food is very simple: rice, cassava root, and a mashed potato-like mush called “xima.” However, on holidays they will save up their money to buy chicken, beans, salad, chamussas (which are like tiny Hot

Pockets), and cake. They make some of the most impressive-looking cakes!

Another thing kids like to do is go to the beach. Because Mozambique is a very long, narrow country, most of its people live close to a beach. You can always see kids playing in the water. Since they don’t have swimsuits and usually only have one set of clothing, they often swim naked, which is kind of surprising to Americans!

- Pray that kids in Mozambique will learn to enjoy Jesus as much as they enjoy soccer and eating.
- Many kids are forced to sell peanuts or beg for money in order to help their poor families. Pray that these kids will have their needs provided for by God.

PART 4

Topic – Christianity in Mozambique

We have several different religions in Mozambique that you may have heard of. Of course, there is Christianity; about 30% of the country says they are Christian. This includes people who go to the Catholic church. About 17% of the nation are Muslims, though in the northern areas, almost 100% of the people are Muslim. These Muslim communities are very protective of their religion. If someone tries to plant a church in those places, that person will often face a lot of hardship, with the community attacking them in many ways to force them to close the church.

The biggest problem faced by missionaries though is witchcraft. Almost all Mozambicans believe in some sort of god. The problem is that even if they are Christians who believe in God or Muslims who believe in Allah, they often will still go to the witchdoctor who performs spells and ceremonies that worship the ancestors. Most Mozambicans believe that their dead ancestors can provide spiritual guidance and protective – as long as they are kept happy in the “afterlife.” Thus, they will pay witchdoctors large amounts of money to make sacrifices to the ancestors for them. As Christians, we know this isn’t true – it is a trick Satan often uses to confuse people and draw them away from Jesus. But it is a practice that runs deep in the history of Mozambique, so it is difficult for them to give it up completely to follow Jesus alone.

- Pray that Mozambicans will not be easily tricked by people who claim to have spiritual answers, but are really just stealing money and hope from people.

PART 5

Topic – Needs for the Church in Mozambique



The Christian church needs discipleship. Discipleship is simply learning what it means to follow Jesus more and more every day. It is getting better at being obedient and saying “yes” to Jesus. Discipleship happens when mature Christians are willing to help younger Christians learn about Jesus, study the Bible, serve others, and

become more like God. It is a lot of work to disciples someone - you must be committed to them for a long time. Because of this, many people find it easier to simply have church services. Church services are good, but they are not enough to make a disciple. Somebody needs to spend time with them one-on-one and help them understand specifically what following Jesus means for their life. This doesn’t happen much in the Mozambican church. Instead, pastors like to take power and keep it. But Jesus taught us that it is better to give

power away to those who don't have it.

Another need of the church is good leadership. This will be a result of good discipleship. It will take college students who are willing to give up great jobs and lots of money, so that they can serve God's people and reach the lost.

Finally, the church in Mozambique needs vision. In a poor country like Mozambique, dreaming about the future is a luxury. Most people just try to make it through the day.

But Jesus also came to give us a vision of what the church could be: a great, sacrificial, growing, loving family that worships God with one voice and one spirit. We want the

church to be able to have this vision, because it will inspire them to continue to expand the church across the country and continue to look for those who are far away from Jesus.



- Pray that God will call many university students to be trustworthy leaders in the church and in government. These Christian students are the hope of Mozambique!

PART 6

Topic – Project for the Stover's

During our first two years in Mozambique, God spoke to Allison about a way she can minister to Mozambicans while also providing them practical help at the same time. In Mozambique, there is little understanding of good health and sanitation practices. Diseases are spread very easily because people don't know how to prevent them. It is common for children to die because parents have a lack of information or a false understanding of hygiene. A program exists called Community Health Evangelism or CHE. CHE is designed to train women in good health practices and share the Gospel through this training. Allison will be training women who will train other women, all the while proclaiming the name of Jesus.



However, these women and children live in some places that are hard to get to. You can't walk there, nor can you get there with just a small car. Sometimes, you have to drive for miles through the deep sand, through forests and bushes and tall

grass to arrive at these villages. It is important to have a car that easily get in and out of these remote places.

Since Weston will be working with the university students in the city, Allison will need her own car to be able to serve the women and children through CHE. That is the project we are raising funds for: a good, dependable vehicle.

Here's one of our favorite things about this: Allison can take Leona along to play with the other children while she talks to the moms about health! We want Leona to understand that she is a missionary just like her parents. Therefore, we don't want to leave her home all day with a babysitter. We want to take her along to share the gospel with us. Leona couldn't share the gospel very well with college students who are 20 years older than her, but she can share Jesus with her little kid friends while Allison works with the parents of those kids!

- Pray that Allison will get a reliable vehicle that will take her where she needs to go.
- Pray that God will open Mozambicans' eyes to good hygiene and health practices, as well as to the truth of the Gospel!



kid missionary challenge

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