

## Mozambique Silent Auction 2008

By Bev Wilson

“Wow!!” Since the arrival of our new Senior Pastor, John Allen, this 3-letter exclamation has quickly gained in popularity as Trietsch’s way of expressing the wonder and joy of God’s blessings. And “Wow” certainly describes this year’s Mozambique Silent Auction which, by every measure, was an incredible success.

Our goal this year was to raise \$25,000 for missions in Mozambique including:

Center of Hope

Youths for Christ

Audiology

Chicuque Mission

Ultimately the auction netted over \$40,000 to improve lives in Africa. But the blessings don’t stop there. One wonderful byproduct of the annual event is that it gives so many people the chance to be a part of this important mission. Trietscher Martha Smith got involved because several of her friends were helping out and co-chair Linda Doherty recruited her to help again this year. Martha reports, “Any time you are involved in helping people, you are able to appreciate the blessings you have been given. Our church has a wonderful heart for all the missions it sponsors and so many people, not only those in Mozambique, benefit from that.” This was Melva Jones’ first year to work on the auction. Says Melva, “I heard they needed help setting up on that Friday and Saturday, so I decided to volunteer a few hours. In a very short time, I was hooked. The whole experience was very fulfilling. It is a real privilege to serve the Lord by serving others and I am looking forward to being involved again next year.”

This year’s donors outdid themselves as well. From the moment worshippers entered the Connection Center and were surrounded by the bounty of items up for bid, it was clear that God was moving to help us reach our goal. Over 550 items were donated for the auction including gift baskets of every description, original works of art, travel, dining, and entertainment packages, a flight with a former Blue Angel, and even the chance to hunt for wild hogs. For some participants, this was their first time contributing to the event. Long-time leader Joseph Moore and auction co-chair Peggy Swann shop year round and actually store items in their attics for the next year’s sale.

But, at the end of the day, all auctions need bidders and we were certainly blessed in that area. Everyone who walked away with a treasure did so with the knowledge that their purchase would contribute to God’s purpose. In fact, several successful bidders added sizable donations to the cost of their purchase.

So what’s next? Our mission teams will be traveling to Africa this summer to deliver gifts from the heart of Trietsch. Linda and Peggy would like to thank the TMUMC staff, the auction committee, those who donated and purchased items, and those who supported the effort with prayer. Mission team member Marilyn Hurlbut sums it up best, “I think this entire operation is a beautiful illustration of each person using his/her gifts and talents to add to the whole ....and for God’s glory.”

In other words, WOW!