

**BUILDING COMMUNITIES**

# Mark and Helen Van Koevering

*Mission Companions in Mozambique*

**In their own words**

*‘A new vision and a new style of leadership in the diocese is, I think, what is making the difference. We have been keen to find ways for getting all people involved to ensure that women, children and young people all have a voice.’* Bishop Mark Van Koevering



**Country? factfile**

**Capital:** Maputo

**Languages:** Emakhuwa 26.1%, Xichangana 11.3%, Portuguese 8.8%  
 Other indigenous 53.8%

**Religion:** Catholic 23.8%, Muslim 17.8%, Zionist Christian 17.5%, other 40.9%

**Export:** aluminium, prawns, cashew nuts, cotton, sugar, citrus, timber,

**Further reading:** :  
<http://www.anglicanchurchsa.org/>

**USPG in Country?**

USPG has supported work in Mozambique since the foundation of the Diocese of Lebombo in 1891. In 2008, USPG was able to send over £80,000 to support a variety of projects in the Province of Southern Africa, of which Mozambique is a part.

Registered charity  
 in England (234518) and in Ireland (CHY 7998)



## About this Project...

▶ **Target: 21,090/ €28,110 | Project 339**

The Diocese of Niassa is one of the poorest dioceses in the world and the poverty of the people is compounded by their isolation.

In their first three years as USPG Mission Companions, Mark and Helen have made a huge impact on the diocese and on the people of Niassa. Mark van Koevering is the Bishop of Niassa, which covers the vast northern half of Mozambique. Helen, his wife, is a priest in the parish of Lichinga. She is also Mother's Union President, part of the parish council and on the parish training team. They have three

children - Jake, 14, Matthew, 12, and Kylie, 9.

Since Mark became bishop, the church has implemented projects to train catechists and leaders, to create jobs and prosperity, to combat HIV/AIDS and to provide clean water. The church has also experienced amazing growth, with many new congregations planted throughout the diocese. Mark said: 'We have been keen to find ways for getting all people involved, and in particular to ensure that women, children and young people all have a voice.'

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