

Episode 11

Faith In Action THE COX MOZAMBIQUE MISSION

[BEGIN MUSIC]

THOMAS S. MONSON: I extol those, who with loving care and compassionate concern, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and house the homeless. He, who notes the sparrow's fall, will not be unmindful of such service.

NARRATOR: The Mormon Channel now presents, Faith in Action.

[END MUSIC]

INTERVIEWER: Welcome to Faith in Action on the Mormon Channel, a show about welfare, humanitarian aid and service around the world. Today we welcome M. Bruce Cox and Sister Linda Cox who recently returned from serving in Mozambique. This is a country in southeastern Africa bordered by the Indian Ocean to the east, Tanzania, is that right? To the north. All right, welcome Brother and Sister Cox.

BROTHER COX: Thank you very much.

SISTER COX: Thank you.

INTERVIEWER: It's nice to have you here. Let me do a little background. The Church was legally recognized in Mozambique in 1996, it looks like, and the missionaries were, arrived about 1999. So it took about three years for missionaries to arrive there.

BROTHER COX: Right.

INTERVIEWER: But during that time, the Church people in Mozambique benefited from Church Humanitarian Aids. So this is not something that's new. The Church has been going in there for quite a few years.

BROTHER COX: No, we've had missionaries there, senior couples, directing the humanitarian effort since that time.

INTERVIEWER: Mm-hm

BROTHER COX: We were just the last in a series of people to have been there.

INTERVIEWER: OK I noticed that, that you're from Arizona and I always like to ask sisters here...Sister Cox when you open that envelope, is it like a manila envelope or is it just a letter or when you open that envelope when you see "Mozambique" what is the first thing that comes into your mind?

SISTER COX: Well this time we were quite excited because we really were planning on going to Mozambique. Again.

INTERVIEWER: OK...mm-hm

SISTER COX: This is our second tour, [LAUGHS] of a wonderful adventure.

INTERVIEWER: So you've been to Mozambique, and this was the second time?

SISTER COX: Yes. Yes, correct.

INTERVIEWER: OK...Doing the same thing?

SISTER COX: Our assignment was different.

INTERVIEWER: Mm-hm!

SISTER COX: But the people never change. [LAUGHS A LITTLE]

INTERVIEWER: That's right! We'll talk about the assignment in just a moment, so, now did you mention to me earlier that this is your third mission?

BROTHER COX: Yes it is.

INTERVIEWER: OK...and the first was?

BROTHER COX: Our first was in Brazil. We served for a year and a half in Rio de Janeiro, in the employment services office there.

INTERVIEWER: Mm-hm...

BROTHER COX: Helping people to... find work. Had a wonderful time, learned more about that program than I had ever known and fell in love with it. Employment is a, is a, real soft spot in my heart. We've...we did enjoy it, and learned a great deal there.

INTERVIEWER:[2.42.5] What a wide range then from Brazil to Mozambique.

BROTHER COX: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Two different worlds...basically.

BROTHER COX: Well we were, we were expecting to go back to Brazil on another calling. They had recruited us to go back to Recife and when the call came and it said "Mozambique" the first question was "where is that?" And it was a little bit, I think a little frightening, I think to a lot of people...

INTERVIEWER: Mm-hm

BROTHER COX: ...going to Africa is a, there's a little bit of fear. But boy I'll tell you, there's no need to be fearful of going to Africa, that is a wonderful part of the world to visit and to be, to *serve*. [LAUGHS A LITTLE]

INTERVIEWER: In my mind when I see Mozambique I see this arid, drought stricken land and people kind of living in huts and that's the first thing that comes to my mind. Is that not the case?

SISTER COX: No, no, no. [LAUGHS]

INTERVIEWER: OK...

SISTER COX: Although there is a, a *vast* variety of living conditions.

INTERVIEWER: Mm-hm.

SISTER COX: But, most of where we served, the people had homes, very humble homes. They didn't have all the luxuries we have, which has been, has proven to be quite a lesson to us in understanding and appreciating the blessings that we do have here in America. But, the land in areas we served was *lush*, there was lots of vegetation. Of course close to the ocean there was the humid weather.

INTERVIEWER: Mm-hm

SISTER COX: ...and many times you have to fight off some of the little [LAUGHS] bugs that come in and that's part of it, too, but the people are survivors [SHE SOUNDS A LITTLE CHOKED UP] wherever they are. We've learned to grow and admire all the things that they're able to do with the little bit that they do have.

INTERVIEWER:[4.38.5] Are they a nomadic people, or do they, are they moving constantly or go into an area and just stay?

BROTHER COX: No, no, this is an area where people *stay*. They live. They are a, they, if they have enough land, well they're mostly subsistence farmers.

INTERVIEWER: Mm-hm.

BROTHER COX: They're, the country is evolving rapidly. There's about 20 million people in Mozambique; A growth of over 5 million in the last ten years. So there has been a great deal of growth. Mostly it's internal. Forty eight percent of the people are 14 years of age or under.

INTERVIEWER: Wow.

BROTHER COX: Nearly half are under fifteen and so...it's a young country. Great deal of poverty, but not abject poverty. We never saw anybody starving.

INTERVIEWER: Mm-hm.

BROTHER COX: It's a country where people learn to get along without...as much as we think

they need. But they get along and they, they're happy, a lot of happy people.

INTERVIEWER: That's a commendable existence, isn't it? That we do with what we have and, and...Is there much Western influence in Mozambique? Do they see television? Do they see movies? Do they see "how the other half lives"?

BROTHER COX: Oh yes. Oh yes. The city of Maputo, which is the largest city in, in Mozambique is about a million and a half people. A city that, which has grown, growing rapidly. Lots of people think they can find work if they come there, and there is very little. And so it's, the outskirts around the city are being, and within the city itself are [SIGHS] becoming more and more, filled with poverty. People in, in real poverty. But somehow they subsist. They get things. They're survivors. They see a supermarket in the middle of town and some of them go there, but most of them don't. They live off in the things that they grow and can acquire individually in whatever way they do. They don't use a lot of money.

INTERVIEWER: Does the government offer any assistance to them? Is there any help from the government? You've got all these 15 to 20 year olds kind of, I see in my mind's eye, milling around this huge city. Is the government trying to help this situation?

BROTHER COX: They're trying to keep them in school. They try and keep the, the youth in schools. And they're doing a pretty good job. There's schooling, their educational system is...[SIGHS VERY HEAVILY]...on a scale of one to ten it's about a two and a half.

INTERVIEWER: Mm-hm

BROTHER COX: [STRUGGLING FOR WORDS HERE] Their methods of teaching are very poor. They, they, "I'll tell you what it is and you tell me back what I just told you" sort of thing and...they don't teach people to solve problems. They don't teach people how to grow into situations but at the same token they're picking up on technology. In the city of Maputo I would guess that half the people carry a cell phone.

INTERVIEWER: Is that...you know I was...

BROTHER COX: [LAUGHS]

INTERVIEWER: ...interviewing someone a few days ago and I don't remember what country. We've done so many, but I was just *shocked* that there would be so many in that country. Same here. Mozambique with cell phones...

BROTHER COX: Oh yeah! None of whom can call out...because of, the calling plans are all based on what you call not how many, what you receive. And so all of the cell phones and the companies have a procedure that says "please call me". Doesn't cost you anything to send that message, so we used to get lots of those little messages. "Please call me." [MAKES A SOUND EFFECT FOR A TEXT MESSAGE] They have a little advertisement for that for their cell phone

company and give us a phone number so being the good kind of people...usually we would respond and they gave us a chance then to, to communicate. And they gave *them* a way to communicate directly. So it's changed their lives to be able to call each other and to send little messages, *lots* of text messaging because that's cheap.

INTERVIEWER: Let's go back to the first time then. Mozambique. You get off the airplane and that, that first apartment that you go to. Is it part of a mission home? Is it part of a complex that the Church owns? What are, where are you living?

BROTHER COX: Go ahead.

SISTER COX: It was in an apartment [LAUGHS] We've...depending on, on how the apartment is, prepared to serve our needs, we may, we found ourselves moving from one area to another at certain times. And also our responsibilities would change from one city to another and we would find ourselves going out to another adventure!

INTERVIEWER:[9.40.3] Let's talk about those responsibilities. The first visit, what were you doing? The first time in Mozambique, what was your charge?

BROTHER COX: We were called officially as proselyting missionaries, to do whatever the Mission President wanted us to do.

INTERVIEWER: Mm-hm

BROTHER COX: We were assigned in the city of Beira which is the second largest city in the country which is halfway, if you go north and south, it's midway north and south. The Church is only located in two major cities there. Maputo which is the capital, which is right at the southern tip end of Mozambique and Beta which is halfway up. We were assigned there and we worked with the organization, we had six branches there and we worked with the members with other, the missionaries, we did some visits, we never initiated any visits on our own during our entire mission, but we went to quite a few visits with the young missionaries. They needed lots of help in teaching marriage, marriage is not a big deal in, in Mozambique. Since we could not baptize anyone who wasn't married, we worked a lot in that city on getting people married. We had to find the procedures, how to do it, to go through all their, each step that had to be done and determine what it cost and so forth. And we kind of had a little fund that we put together with our family to help some of these people get married, because it was little bit costly for them, it cost them fifty or sixty dollars to get married and

INTERVIEWER: That's a lot of money!

BROTHER COX: Oh it was! A significant amount. And so as we worked with it, we probably helped fifteen couples, families, become families legally and lawfully married so that they could be baptized and then we, some of them now have gone to the Temple so, it's, we've seen some great changes in their lives as well.

INTERVIEWER: You're listening to Faith in Action on the Mormon Channel. Today we're visiting with Brother and Sister Cox who recently returned from a Humanitarian Mission in Mozambique, South Africa. Going back to the marriage thing, so there is not a stigma attached to not being married then in Mozambique?

BROTHER COX: No, there's not. They have traditional marriage and they have the legal, lawful marriage. And their traditional marriage is sometimes, they have a ceremony of their own but it's just within the family. Two families get together and they support one another and they have a little ceremony. But there is nothing recorded anywhere about it and so all they know is that this time they are married.

INTERVIEWER: Mm-hm. Are marriages predetermined? Is there a predestination of families? Kind of getting people together sometimes? Or...

BROTHER COX: Ahhh, some are scheduled that way some are just, when they find the right one or they think they've found the right one. Marriages are not very firm and solid and fidelity is not big factor in, most, amongst most of the men there.

INTERVIEWER: So the missionaries have their work cut out for them.

BROTHER COX: Oh they do. They do yes.

INTERVIEWER: Interesting.

BROTHER COX: And what fun it is to see when someone has, has really accepted and now all of a sudden they start to see the potential of an eternal marriage with a family *and they change*. I remember the one couple in Beira that we visited with, and we worked with them for probably *six months* before we were finally able to get them married and baptized, just visiting almost every week for a little while. The missionaries, the young missionaries, couldn't devote that much time to them over that period of time but we were able to go out and visit with them each week and spend a little time, give them a little lesson, encourage them, and after they were baptized and were coming to Church regularly I remember asking Brother Matsini that day, [LAUGHS] I actually asked his wife, I says, "is there any difference in him now than before he started to learn about the Church?" Oh her eyes lit up and she says, "oh yes! Now he comes home after work."

INTERVIEWER: [LAUGHS A BIT]

BROTHER COX: And they didn't even have a family, but, but he was, he had caught the vision that this was where he ought to be. And what a change in his life.

INTERVIEWER: What a blessing the Church is.

BROTHER COX: Oh, really. Oh yes.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. Yeah, isn't that interesting? The missionary, is there a language barrier or

are they speaking English what language...are they multi-different languages in the country?

BROTHER COX: Oh yes. [LAUGHS]

SISTER COX: Portuguese.

BROTHER COX: Portuguese is the *official* language of Mozambique. It was settled by the Portuguese years ago and in 1972 they liberated themselves from Portugal *but* there are approximately, I'm gonna guess, fifty to seventy-five other languages spoken in the country, all native dialects and each area has two or three and a lot of the people can speak two or three languages. Part of our problem is oft times that did not include Portuguese.

INTERVIEWER: Mm.

BROTHER COX: And so our young missionaries who were trying to teach, some of them are even learning a few of the, of the dialects words and things along so they could surprise them with a word or two. The only word I remember is "Carimando" which means "thank you" and I think that was in two or three of the dialects, there were some of them that were somewhat related.

INTERVIEWER: That's a good word to remember, isn't it? Yeah.

BROTHER COX: [LAUGHING] Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Carimando?

BROTHER COX: Carrimando...gotta roll that r there. [LAUGHS SOME MORE]

INTERVIEWER: [LAUGHS ALONG FOR A MOMENT] What are the meetinghouses like there? We're talking branches, so do you have actual chapels? Or do you have a converted home or what, where do you meet generally?

BROTHER COX: Most of the buildings are rented facilities. They are usually; they start out almost always in a home that we have modified so that it can handle a small branch. At the current time there are six branches in the city of Maputo and there are six in Beira. In Beira we have two chapels now. They constructed chapels. One of them is a stake center size and it's the first building that was built in Mozambique, beautiful facility, they can seat six hundred people for district conferences and they've nearly filled it up a couple of times for conferences. They have *just* finished a second chapel in that city. I don't know if they're in it or not they're just finishing it up when we saw it a couple or three weeks ago I was very impressed that they had nearly finished the whole chapel. Gonna be a beautiful thing. In the district of Beira there's also one other town which is about eight hours away from the city of Beira. It's a town called Marromeu. Marromeu is a sugar facility. They grow, the reason for the city being there, the town, it's about sixty thousand people. The reason for it being there is that, that there is a sugar plantation with *thousands* of acres of sugarcane under cultivation and they mill where they process it. We have a

beautiful chapel in that city as well. A constructed building.

- INTERVIEWER: You're listening to Faith In Action on the Mormon Channel. Today we're visiting with Brother and Sister Cox who recently returned from a humanitarian mission in Mozambique. OK, we talked about the proselyting mission now the second call comes and it is for a humanitarian mission? Is that correct?
- SISTER COX: Correct. That is correct.
- INTERVIEWER: OK, tell us a little bit about that.
- SISTER COX: Wonderful opportunity and, and in very many unique ways. The, one of the favorite things that I felt like, we really accomplished something was in working with the family poultry projects where a few families were selected to kind of test the idea and feeling of being able to find out how responsible they want to be if they were given some poultry. Could they perhaps care for them? And laying hens were the first, was added to this assignment. We were curious to know how they'd take care of the chickens and also how tempted they might be to want to eat them instead [LAUGHS] instead of allowing them to lay eggs and it's, it's interesting. As you work with people and learn to love them you can see one of the *great* opportunities that the Church gives to these people is to teach them how to serve one another. I never expected this to be an opportunity where they would be serving one another but families needed support of other families and we had six which by the way the, the women are, *I hate to say this*, but the women were the stalwarts. They were the ones that accepted the responsibility and they are the ones that, that care for their families.
- BROTHER COX: Let me just interject here. The women were selected, the program was set up to benefit *single mothers* or women who did not have men in their household...
- INTERVIEWER: OK...
- BROTHER COX:to help to give them a source of income that might be of assistance to them. And so it's not all...we didn't, we had some good men, too...
- SISTER COX: [LAUGHS PRETTY HARD]
- BROTHER COX: ..but they weren't in this project.
- INTERVIEWER: Mm-hm.
- BROTHER COX: This was a women's project.
- SISTER COX: Correct. And, it took some encouragement it demanded some time on our part, to watch and to encourage and to serve them and show them how it was to be done and watch them blossom and to some marvelous ways of being able to care for their families.

INTERVIEWER: Was it successful?

[A LONG SILENT PAUSE]

SISTER COX: Well...

BROTHER COX: Not completely. Not completely, no.

SISTER COX: [LAUGHING]

BROTHER COX: No, we found that we lost chickens from it, somehow, we don't know how. They disappeared. We had designed some cages that could be locked up with, they were metal cages so they really couldn't get the chickens out but they never, we never put locks on them. And we had them, these ladies working together, we don't know if some of them were using them for other purposes or what...they never were able to save enough money to pay for new chickens which happened, you need to do after about a year...

INTERVIEWER: So that concept escaped them somewhat.

BROTHER COX: Yeah! They couldn't see the future of it. We did have two couples, two families, our branch, former Branch President in that branch, who was working with us and he had lost his work and became an entrepreneur. And said, "I have a chicken coop out back!" And so he was raising fryers, and thought that it he could have one of these cages, if we could work it out and he could get fifty hens, he could make it go. Well, he was! And he recently purchased 125 more chickens using his own money that he had saved for it and is seeing some real success with it. So we know the concept can be done, but at, but, but we don't think that these other people were invested in the program enough to make it *theirs*. So, that's one of those things that, that in the evaluation we were able to point out that this needs to be done. Make it *mine*. Not yours.

INTERVIEWER:[21.24] Mm-hm. It's probably generational somewhat. It's going to take one or two generations to get that vision to see where this all is going to take us at some point, so...

BROTHER COX: Yes, I'm sure of that.

INTERVIEWER: And the other projects that you were involved in while you were there?

BROTHER COX: Well, we were involved in two or three that were really quite interesting. One was a water project where we had wells drilled in the ground to provide communities with a safe source of water. One of these organizations was in the community of Beira we had an organization there called "Care for Life", which was running a program in several communities, six or eight *communities* where they teach people how to set goals and achieve them. And what a difference it made in their lives! Well, one of the things that they needed was a way to raise gardens and to do that they had to have a better source of water than they had available there. Most of them had some small dip wells that would oft times go dry. And so we, we partnered with that organization and we put in fifteen wells

and one small electrical system and in that, in those various communities. And then to see the results and when you go there to see them working those pumps for the first time or the second time you know it just, awww their...it's just thrilling to watch them getting excited about it and they go down and taste the water and it tastes good and it's clean water, it's all been proven to be good drinking water as opposed to that dip well which may have been, you know, just a few hundred feet away from this, that's only ten feet deep, or ten or twelve feet deep, and gets everything in it [YOU CAN HEAR DISTASTE IN HIS VOICE]. So we watched them, we did that project, we did two or three others. We're in the, we left a project *just beginning* it was another well drilling project, these are some of the Church sponsors clean water projects all around the world, and we were able to be involved with about four different projects of clean water. *Great things.*

INTERVIEWER:[23.34.0] Do they have a big party when that well is...finally comes online?

BROTHER COX: Oh boy, do they!

INTERVIEWER: Everybody celebrates...

BROTHER COX: Oh yes! And it's so much fun to see them sing and dance and...there's never any instrumental music...but the ladies sing and they get out and dance and they, oh they have fun! [LAUGHS HEARTILY]

INTERVIEWER: You were talking about not enough electricity needed to run air conditioning in the Chapel. So this, the infrastructure problem. There's still not really, how about roads and other things that we just take for granted?

BROTHER COX: There's a road from, from Maputo to Beira. We drove it when we got there on our first mission the second day we were there. We were on the left-hand side of the road. Dodging potholes that looked like it was, they were, you know in this paved road, I could not believe that we were, you know, where we were. I was wired as I drove that time and it was such a stressing thing. Since then when we came back the second time we went halfway on that same road and found it to have been almost all redone so we said, " Oh! What a wonderful thing!" They are making major improvements. They recently opened a brand-new bridge across the Zambezi River. It's a multimillion dollar bridge that they had to put in. Until then getting across the river would take sometimes two, three, four, days because of the ferries. And they had to, had to do this, the trucks would line up to get across. They would take one truck at a time in each direction. And it would take them two or three days. Now they can drive across it. And so the traffic north and south and the communication is going to be improved dramatically. In the cities, when it rains, it washes out all the potholes and you get a, they have lots of problems. But things are improving. We saw lots of improvements along the way, over the first time we were there. And so...they're trying.

INTERVIEWER: And so there is a taxing authority, there is some government that is trying to make things better for them and...

BROTHER COX: Oh yes. Oh yes.

INTERVIEWER: And is it a steep tax? For those who *have* as opposed to the have-nots?

BROTHER COX: Yeah, the have-nots don't pay anything.

INTERVIEWER: Don't, don't, so...

BROTHER COX: So they [LAUGHS] so they try to get everybody who has to pay everything they can. And lots of high import duties and export duties and things of this sort because those are the people who are passing money along, and...

SISTER COX: And most of the improvements show up just shortly before an election.

[EVERYBODY LAUGHS]

INTERVIEWER: One of those deals, OK. I'm just looking at some Church statistics, it's the last number I had here I had 4800 members in, in Mozambique. It had six, eighteen congregations. And one mission there so the Church is growing, since 1999.

BROTHER COX: Yes, it has grown quite a bit. We have, have not seen, we've had a lot of baptisms, interestingly the last thing they said was, "we've baptized enough for a whole, for another, double the number of branches we've got but we still have the same number of people coming to church." So they're working a great deal on inviting people back. And it seems like when we invite them, a lot of them come!

INTERVIEWER: And well it would appear that there's a lot of obstacles also as you're baptized then, to come back to church, and to become, and so there's a lot of things to overcome.

BROTHER COX: Well, transportation is such a big thing. If they don't live relatively close to one of the meetinghouses it's hard for them to come.

INTERVIEWER: Is church an all day affair because of the distance you travel? I know in some countries they'll have lunch there and they'll have parties or something after church, is that the case in Mozambique?

SISTER COX: Not that we're aware of!

BROTHER COX: We never attended any meals at our, or anything...

SISTER COX: But if there were occasions, I suppose that they, you know, they'd take advantage of that opportunity of being together and not have to walk them several miles back to church again.

BROTHER COX: Well the last branch we were, the branch we spent most of our time with this last time, when it came our time to leave, well now nothing had happened and they called a special meeting to pay tribute to Elder and Sister Cox Sunday afternoon. An hour after the church meeting was over, and then they invited everybody to hang around and, and we had a meeting that we got way more

tribute than we deserved for anything. But we really had learned to love that branch a lot, so.

INTERVIEWER: Sister Cox one of the first things you said when we sat down was that it was a safe place. You never felt threatened, and yeah we go back to the, probably one of the big stories of Elder Russell M. Nelson and his wife Wendy. Attacked while in Mozambique. Is that just something that just out of the ordinary for this country.

SISTER COX: Absolutely! It was, it was a surprise to us. We were involved with, with the situation after it occurred and of course the details have been repeated several times I'm sure in different conversations but...it's important to be cautious. And the missionaries are always told how to take care of themselves, what to watch for. Quite honestly we had a few episodes ourselves where you have to just be careful and not take, take for granted your safety. Make sure things are locked up. People look for opportunities and thinking that if it's not locked up it's theirs to take if they wish. And because of the you know the situation where, they do not have a lot of things, and they see Americans or white people as having a, more than them. They feel like, "well they can always buy another one." So they will take what's available if the opportunity arises. So...but, in the same sense, we were mingling a lot with the members of the Church and we have been able to see as they learn and grow and understand the principles of the gospel. They're becoming better people. We have felt that. They're improving in ways that only the gospel can, can help in assisting them to do that.

INTERVIEWER: It kind of sounds like in the country the rule is that there's no rules. And so you're having to overcome all of this, just a little step at a time, now, through the missionary program and through membership in the Church.

BROTHER COX: Yes.

[GENERAL LAUGHTER]

SISTER COX: You know, what can you say? Of course without, you can see the way Church is. It's there for a purpose. It's the Lord's work and He directs it and you can see that He's in charge and you have, all of us have been able to witness the little miracles and big miracles as, as the gospel is taught to these dear people.

INTERVIEWER: How about a miracle from each of you. Your favorite story or something you remember that just really touched you and, as you look back on your missions in Mozambique, the proselyting mission and the humanitarian mission. What stands out for you?

BROTHER COX: We had several experiences with, where the right people were at the right place, which always seemed to be just above and beyond what you really expected. We were doing a, what we call a neonatal resuscitation training session in the country of Angola. Our mission also included the country of Angola which is on the opposite side of Africa, nearly the same position, but just straight west there. Angola has been a difficult place. We have not had

missionaries there until just recently, we've only got four there, in the whole country now. But we were there and this was the second time that we had been teaching, they had been, had received this neonatal resuscitation training. Dr. Petty and his wife were the ones who gave it the first time three years prior to, to, 2009. And when we went over this time, they, the first time, they had, they just had all kinds of problems trying to get anybody to accept their presence or to help out or to do anything. But this time when we got there, we walked right in and had an appointment with the Minister, the actual Minister of Health, and he had been involved at the closing ceremonies three years earlier, and had seen what had been offered. And this time his word was, "do whatever they need to have done and make sure it turns out well." Well, the final results were we had approximately one thousand who received the training in at least four major population centers in Angola, and it's going to make a major difference in their, their, infant mortality rate. And he saw that and understood it and said, "whatever they need to have, you make sure it gets done!" And so, all of a sudden things just opened up. And it was a real miracle to see how well it happened after we had the right person primed for it.

INTERVIEWER: The Lord has His time and His way of getting things done.

BROTHER COX: Oh yes!

INTERVIEWER: Sister Cox, anything?

SISTER COX: Well I, you have to pardon, I have a soft heart for one of our wonderful branches and that's, the branch was called T 3, and we kind of adopted this branch over the time that we spent in this last mission. It's in an area where water is needed and oftentimes not available. The, the branch building had water that was hooked up by the...

BROTHER COX: ...to the community water system...

SISTER COX: ...yeah, the community water system. But oftentimes there was no water in the faucet. And of course without water if we wanted to have a project such as, such as gardening or raising the chickens in that particular area, well it was, it was a real problem. And it just happened that at the right time there were those that were involved that located a well rigging company that happened to have some free time on their hands and offered a wonderful price to be able to dig a well in this, right on the property. And because of that the area now has flourished around the, the Church property. And sisters, the women, the men are, are taking sections of the property and planting vegetables that they're so proud of. They can see things growing, they're excited about seeing that there really is hope and they can do wonderful things right there on the property that was not available before because the water was not there to do so. The sand now has provided plants that we would have never imagined. You know, the desert is truly blossoming, like a rose in Africa!

[LAUGHTER]

[BEGIN MUSIC]

INTERVIEWER:

What a great blessing that is. You've been listening to Faith in Action on the Mormon Channel. We were visiting today with Brother and Sister Cox who recently returned from a humanitarian mission in Mozambique, South Africa. This is Faith in Action, on the Mormon Channel. Thank you for coming by.

[MUSIC FADES AND ENDS]