



**As** part of a Christian Fraternal here in town and being a Portuguese speaking, the official language of Mozambique so far, I was invited to attend the baptism of a group of inmates two of whom were Mozambicans, António and Rodrigues.

**They** were supposed to go through the immersion in water and the weather has just gone extremely cold. Perhaps the Lord allowing some degree of sacrifice as a test of willingness?...

**At** 09:00 we were at the prison gates to start the process of entering in. One would think it's easy to get in since there are so many inside, but it's totally the contrary, lot's of papers to fill out, no cellphones, no cameras, body search, carry-on searched, everyone looking at you with that suspicious look, the works.

**The** main prison was built in 1884, 133 years ago. We can see traces of the distant past by the very old but conserved heavy wooden entrance castle type gate with its steel huge hinges and locks.

**After** crossing different layers of thick steel bar doors we were inside where everything is barren and impersonal, with a touch of decadence.

**The** young guys were happy to see us. I imagine in those conditions anything that breaks the routine is welcome and greatly appreciated. We sang songs, we prayed and, when it was finally decided where the baptism was to be performed we moved the stuff there and started to fill up the tub, an improvised plastic container into some sort of a baptismal tank.

**Gloomy** was the day, and very cold as well as the water. One by one the guys stripped their clothes minus the barely acceptable and in they went sinful to come out in shivers and cleansed by faith and prayers.

**More** songs and prayers followed by prophetic words, visions and encouragement. I was told later that the two Mozambicans who had until that point been on the quiet side due to not understanding English so well, after having me speak portuguese they were much more open and participant. I'm glad I could be of service.

**Now** we have a fifth column who can continue work after hours.