

Mission to the Makua of Mozambique

Our Lives in Montepuez, Mozambique!



News Updates May 2004

On the first week of April, our team moved to **Montepuez**, a city about 6 hours from where we were before, to live among **Makua-Metto** people. Here is a little update on what we are doing.



Moving to Montepuez



Our apartment, 2nd floor

We moved in to a 3 bedroom, one bath, second floor apartment in Montepuez. We have fairly continual electricity, unlike some parts of the city. We can have running water if we go down stairs and turn on the pump, but we can't have it on all of the time, so we bucket flush the toilets and use the pump only to take a shower. The apartment is very comfortable and we are thankful for it. The apartment also came with a guard at night and worker during the day. You are expected to have a worker and guard here, both for your own security, and to help people here out by providing Jobs. Our day worker cooks for us about 2-3 times a week, which has been a good experience. Her specialties are coconut chicken with rice and grilled chicken with garlic and lemon (from the lemon tree in the back yard!), and curried goat. She cooks in the back yard with a coal stove and it has been very interesting learn how she does all of that.

Language Study

We have begun **Makua lessons**. Our language teacher, Carlos is a Metto man who also speaks English, Portuguese, and some other tribal languages in the area. He is very sharp. He accompanied part of our team as a translator during the survey trip a few years ago. He is not only our language teacher, but is also a cultural insider and a friend to us. God has truly blessed us with knowing Carlos. Aaron and I have been having class with him 2 hours a day 5 days a week, or at least that is our goal. We are using a language guide that SIL translators have created. We are trying to first learn the greetings and pronunciation. It has been difficult for us because this language has no resemblance at all to anything we know, except for the occasional Portuguese loanword.

Language learning is slow, but it is going. There is a Makua phrase that people use a lot, "vakhani, vakhani," which means "little by little." That is how our language study is going: "vakhani vakhani."

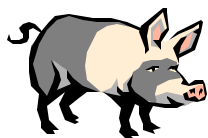


The church of Christ in Montepuez

The small church here has been very welcoming of us and we are very thankful. Church members have been very open in having us be with them and it is very sweet. The national missionary, Gemindo, has been a great blessing. It has been hard for the guys to let people here know that we are not prepared to teach and preach extensively yet because we don't know the culture and language. Several people have preached in Portuguese with Makua translation and it seems that every Sunday, someone from our group is up there doing something. This is great but we are trying to be cautious about giving ourselves time to learn before we teach.

Here is a taste of what the church experience here is like. The church service starts at around 8:30am and lasts to around 12:00-1:30 pm without any stops. There are three "sermons": the "Main" sermon which lasts from 30min to an hour, a "Lord Supper" sermon, and "Offering" sermon which, each lasts about 20 minutes. If there are baptisms, there are pre-baptism sermons, intra-baptism sermons and post-

baptism sermons, which take about 15-20 minutes a piece. It is a good language listening practice as well but when we get back from church, we are usually dehydrated and exhausted.

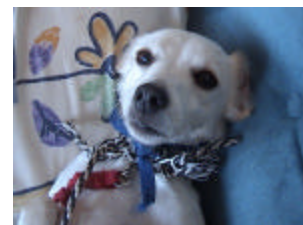


Pigs for God!
when they are ready to do the evangelism, they will sell the pig, and then use the money for evangelistic trips. This is a very creative cultural way of saving that shows their dedication to doing this. May God protect the pig and make him grow so that they can sell it for more than the amount they bought it.

God has taught us a lot just by being at church. During giving time, some people will bring corn, cassava, etc. to the offering, because they don't have money. They are collecting special food from each of their farms so that they can bring it to the sick in the hospital. They want part of their collection to be set aside for evangelism but, usually they end up spending the money on something more urgent. So, to prevent this from happening, the church is buying a pig with the money, and then when they are ready to do the evangelism, they will sell the pig, and then use the money for evangelistic trips. This is a very creative cultural way of saving that shows their dedication to doing this. May God protect the pig and make him grow so that they can sell it for more than the amount they bought it.

Our Dog Yappy!

We now have a dog, her name is Yappy. She is not a very good guard dog at all because she is such a people pleaser, but she has been adding a humor and friendship into our lives during this stressful time.



Yappy, proud after chewing through the 7th leash

So, what is next?

Soon we will move with our building process. Our team is discussing how to approach this issue. We ask for your prayers for wisdom and understanding so that we don't prematurely close doors that should be left open and don't force open doors that are closed.

Prayer Requests

Culture Shock	We are in the middle of it!! We miss the states and ALL that is there in the States like listening to news; going to stores like Wal-Mart, a once stop store where you can get almost everything you need; and eating chicken without having chicken heads and feathers in your back yard. We miss simply talking to people, besides each other, without thinking about how to say it right in Portuguese! Please pray that God will give us endurance during this time to do things that are productive and good. Pray that we will not be overly harsh on others and ourselves during this time.
Team Unity	We are 12 different individuals, and our differences get more pronounced during cluster shock. Pray that we'll give each other lots of love and grace and let the small things go. Also pray for our decision making process as we continue to have to make decisions in the midst of culture shock.
Safety	As many of you already know, our apartment was broken into a few weeks ago. He is our protector, our guard is not, neither is the police, but God Himself. Pray that God will keep us safe, as well as for our faith to increase that God is our protector.

We love you and miss you a lot! Thanks for your support and love!
Aaron and Mika Roland

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