

# Roland's e-Mail News

## Tuesday, August 24, 2004

Dear All,

Well, tomorrow morning we will be headed on the long drive to Maputo. The trip should take three to four days depending on how long it takes us to cross the Zambezi River. We have been really busy in the last few weeks making new plans for when we return to Montepuez and also for the interim period. It has been good, but I am now pretty tired of meetings! However after being in the car for three days I will also be tired of that as well. We should arrive in Maputo then on Friday or Saturday night. We will spend Sunday (8/29) there, and then on Monday head to South Africa for a check up for Mika's pregnancy and then to Johannesburg to go to the library at the University of South Africa to begin some work for my guided research (the last thing I need to complete my Masters degree). The next Saturday (9/4) we will return to Maputo, and I will be teaching at the preacher training school there this fall starting the following Monday. Please pray for us during these trips. Especially for Mika and the baby. Mika had been having "morning sickness" quite a lot, but has been better the last two months. Pray that she will feel up to the trip.

Tomorrow is also the one year anniversary of us living the States. When I think about whether or not it seems like a year I would say that it does. In some ways it seems a little longer. It seems like a long time since we have seen friends and family. But I think that we have been busy enough that it hasn't seemed quite so long. The toughest thing we have had to deal with is being away from family and friends. Definitely God has given us new friends and new family since we have gotten here, but they still do not replace our family and friends. The second most difficult thing has been that since May last year we have not been in a single house for more than 3.5 months. This trend will probably continue for the next six months as well. This is a little difficult for me since I lived in the same house from when I was born until I went to college. This also makes me concerned about having the baby, since we will still not have a stable place.

This first year has been a year of learning, and God has taught us many things. We went to Portugal and learned Portuguese. We came to Mozambique last December, and did surveys and learned a lot about the religious situation, as well as the people of Northern Mozambique. We struggled through making our decision to move to Montepuez, and then had to leave. God has been teaching us patience and that his ways are not ours. Though we were only in Montepuez for 2.5 months, God also taught us a great deal about the people there. We began to learn Makua-Metto while we were there, and will continue while we are in exile. We have also struggled though sending two couples in our team to the Yao tribe. Again, we are seeing that God has plans that we are not even aware of. We can't know what God has in store for us this next year, just as we wouldn't have predicted that God would have taken us through what he did this last year. However we know that he is faithful. And this we have seen time and time again. Thank you for following along through our updates and seeing what God has been doing here. Thank you for your support of us. Thank you so much for your prayers over this last year, and thank you for the prayers that you will send up for us this next year.

We'll write again soon.

In Him,

Aaron