

Roland's e-Mail News

Wednesday, December 22, 2004

Dear Family, Friends and Supporters,

We hope that you are enjoying the holiday season wherever you are! We wanted to drop you a quick e-mail to give you a quick update on what we were up to this year.

As you know, we started this year out as new comers to Mozambique. We spent first 3 months getting permanent work visa, purchasing cars, learning to get around and conducted surveys of Northern Mozambique in search of a place for our team to relocate. After many weeks of talking and visiting with people, surveying, meeting to share findings and prayers; our team has decided to move to a city called Montepuez in Cabo Delgado province.

We enjoyed our new home in Montepuez. We also started learning the local language, Makua-Metto, and started to participate in church work there. Also during this time, we found out that baby Roland was on the way. Most people were welcoming to us but some people, especially some leaders of the Mosque were nervous and suspicious of us. There have not been many foreigners who want to live and learn the local language and it seems that they didn't have a category to put us in. This year was the year of the national election (which was just held this month) and a rumor was spread that we were a part of the opposition party. In June, we were given notice by the administrator of Montepuez to leave our homes within 48 hours until we get our paperwork straight with the government.

After June, our team moved to Nampula, a neighboring province and continued communicating with the government to complete the paperwork and to build relationships to let them know that we don't have any political ambitions. In August, two of our families on our team decided to serve the Yao people in the neighboring province of Niassa. The separation with these families happened over many discussions, tears, prayers, love, and blessings.

During this time of waiting to relocate back to Montepuez, our family moved temporarily to the capital, Maputo, to assist the Boa Nova leadership training school. Aaron taught Christian Home to 13 students for the "fall semester." Students were leaders from all over Mozambique. It was a good experience also to expand Aaron's command of Portuguese.

When the semester of school ended, we moved to South Africa so that Mika can be closer to the doctor who will be delivering our son. We are currently house-sitting for British missionaries who have gone home for the holidays. Mika is 37 weeks pregnant this week and our son will be delivered by C-section on January 3rd (if of course she doesn't go into labor before). We are enjoying our time reading books, sleeping in, going shopping and all the things that people told us that we should do before we have a child! However, we are looking forward to having a baby Roland in our family.

Our current plan is that after our son is born, we'll apply for his passport and visa so that he can come back to Mozambique with us. Meanwhile, both sets of delighted new grandparents are traveling from the US and Japan to see their first grandchild. Our teammates are still in conversation with the government about our return to Montepuez and things are looking brighter now that the election is over. We would like to ask for your prayers that we would be able to return straight to Montepuez after we leave South Africa. We should be leaving South Africa around mid-February.

Thanks for all of your love and prayers this year. You might be hearing from us again very soon with a picture of an American-Japanese looking boy. May God continue to bless all of you and have a blessed holiday season. We miss all of you.

We have also added new pictures to our picture website under the categories "Mika's Pregnancy," "Maputo," and "Life in SA." The website is: <http://photos.yahoo.com/aamroland>

Merry Christmas!
Aaron and Mika Roland