

Roland's e-Mail News

Sunday, March 24, 2005

Hi everyone!

As Aaron wrote in the updates, we are back in Mozambique. It is much hotter here than it is in South Africa so far but we are doing well. I wanted to share with you Josiah's first experience of a church in Mozambique. It was a hot and humid day and inside the church building was worse. Though church building wasn't full, in average 4-5 people were sitting on what I would call a 3-4 people bench. There are no windows for this church building and the doors that are open didn't help cool the place down either. Josiah sat on dad's lap in one side of the church building while mom sat with other ladies at the other side of the church building. After about an hour of the sweating and hearing youth and ladies sing, daddy brought Josiah down to mommy because "Josiah is hungry." When he came to mommy, what he really wanted was the same thing as us... a relief from heat! Josiah wasn't comfortable much, wiggling and threatening to cry. A couple of the Mozambican ladies picked him up and tried to settle him but didn't quite work. What ended up was one of the lady had him lie on his back on her legs and shake him while another lady fanned Josiah. Though he was still sweating, he fell a sleep. About 30 minutes later, church was done and went to "announcements". Our family was reintroduced to the congregation with Josiah. There was another baby who was born recently as well and they have decided to have us with our babies up at front for prayers. After the prayers for the health and future of the babies, an older Mozambican lady who like other ladies her age, wearing a long cloth around her as a skirt, a matching cloth to cover her head, started singing, clapping hands and dancing around the front of the church. She took Josiah from our arms and put him in one arm and danced around the church building for good 5 minutes while the congregation clapped and watched this lady dance with joy. Josiah's mom and dad were quite stunned, seeing their son jiggled in her arm. Josiah had look of surprise/frown but didn't seem to bother him that much that he was going up and down and in circles. The whole congregation was excited and cheered as this lady went up and down the isles, singing her heart out in her language. Finally, she started to dance towards me and gave Josiah back to me. Everyone clapped and smiled. When I held Josiah back in my arms, a lady sitting close by me said to me "now he is an African."

Josiah probably will continue to go through many unexpected experiences as we stay here in Mozambique. But Aaron and I pray that he will learn many things here, along with us, that we could not have taught him if he was in his own country. Mozambique is his home now, and he is learning how to be a part of this community just like we are learning. May God continue to bless Josiah with experiences that will shape him to be a man of God.

We miss all of you and thanks for your prayers.

Mika