



## MISSION TO THE MAKUA

CULTIVATING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

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Martha shows off the  
reason she feels so  
“hot” in Mozambique!

## *The Surprise Wedding*

Visiting rural Africa is a big lesson in being flexible. As a way of being flexible I always plan on preaching on Sundays and if they ask someone else to preach I can save the sermon for another day.

This plan has worked pretty well for me until the other day when I was visiting some rural churches. John, a Mozambican evangelist and I were on a weekend trip going from church to church. On Sunday morning I was asked to preach and was told that there would be a wedding afterward. Just to clarify I asked to make sure that I was **not** doing the wedding. They replied that they could arrange for me to do the wedding and let someone else do the preaching. My mind started racing. I had never seen an African wedding- in fact I hadn't even preached at ANY wedding. To make matters worse I was also told that I was in charge of the whole ceremony- they would just follow my lead.

My training had taught me to be culturally sensitive since the things we do in the States are many times different from what Mozambicans do in their culture. Yet here I was about to lead the whole wedding ceremony. Evidently they don't believe in wedding coordinators because I had just been selected.

During the singing I had asked John what kinds of rituals they had here. He said to do the things I had done in my wedding. I asked if they exchanged rings. He said yes. I asked if they did a unity candle. John said they didn't have any candles but he could arrange for someone to get some. Since I was trying to make a point that our two cultures were different I told him it wasn't necessary. I then asked if they kissed at the end of the ceremony and John again said that they did. Well... how hard could it be?

My preaching proved uneventful and I started to feel more comfortable in front of the large crowd. The ring exchange went smoothly and I was ready to wind up the ceremony. I prayed a blessing on the new couple and presented them as man and wife to the crowded church. Then I hesitated not really sure how to handle “the kiss”. John quickly stepped in and said it was time for the new couple to kiss. It became evident that this was not expected. The couple gave each other a “Portuguese kiss” – a peck on each cheek and faced the crowd again. John stopped everything and said “No, it has to be on the lips”. There was nervousness in the air and the couple seemed mortified but proceeded to peck each other on the lips. John, not satisfied, stopped them again and said it had to be a LONG kiss on the lips. Since John's wife was not with us and he felt the need to demonstrate what he meant, John called the other evangelist and kissed him on the lips, so the couple could see what he was talking about. Well, now it was my turn to be surprised. I knew that it was in no way homosexual but it was very funny and I was struck at that moment by how far I was from my home and my culture in the US. The couple quickly worked up enough courage to kiss for a slightly longer time to ensure that they wouldn't be asked to kiss again in front of everyone.

It was clear that I was not the only one learning about culture that day. I did enjoy myself, realizing all along that I just needed to be flexible (asking the Lord the whole time for wisdom). I will not easily forget the surprises of my first African wedding.

# Luke Turns

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## (Nov. 3rd)

We had fun celebrating Luke's two year birthday. We had a joint blow-up pool party with his friend, Andrew, down the street who is only 6 days younger than him. Since Luke is

really into airplanes right now, Jeremy and I worked together to cut out and frost an airplane cake. He really liked it! He's been saying "Happy Birthday" a lot lately. ☺ It's amazing to think that we have already had this little guy for two years! He has brought us so much joy!



Dad shows Luke where to aim his water balloon during the party



Luke goes through his new tool set - just like Dad's



Luke's airplane cake



### TIME LINE

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – Fly from Nampula to Johannesburg South Africa on Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF)

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> – Fly from Johannesburg to Los Angeles, CA.

Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> – Fly to Dallas / Ft. Worth

Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>??? – Baby due



The people we practice Makua with come over and spend the afternoon with us. It was a fun way to say thank you for helping us learn their language while we are in Nampula.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Peaceful Elections here in Mozambique – They start on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, but results won't come in until later in the month.
2. Open doors for us to return to Montepuez after elections.
3. Team unity and closeness
4. Safe trip to the U.S. – no baby born on the airplane ☺
5. Health and wholeness for all the new unborn babies in our group.