



MISSION TO THE MAKUA

CULTIVATING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

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Andrew Joins the Smith Family

**Jeremy, Martha
and Luke Smith**

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**While we are in
the USA:**

**(through the end
of February)**

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Shortly after Andrew is born, Luke gets to see what a brother is. Luke loves to pat him on the head.



Andrew hangs in a net used to weigh newborns. His net weight (ha ha) was 7 lbs 4 oz.

It was the start of a normal day for us in Ft. Worth, Texas. We have been living with Martha's brother for over a month now. January 18th was the day we were waiting for.

Not only was this Martha's due date but she was also going into labor (only 5% of women have their baby's on their due date).

As labor often starts (this is from a guy's perspective) slow and speeds up later on, we went about our daily

activities. Later in the afternoon we went to see the midwife who was going to help us deliver the baby at Martha's sister's home in Ft. Worth.

After our appointment with the midwife we set off to spend the rest of the evening at the house with the simple directions to call the Midwife when labor was well on its way.

We had been at home alone for about thirty minutes when Martha

suggested we call the midwife to head on over.

Then about fifteen minutes later Martha said the baby was coming now! We called the midwife again and she was just two streets away (whew!).

Just ten minutes after the midwife arrived, we discovered (for the first time) that we had another boy in our family.

The entire experience of having a home birth with a midwife was great. We thank the Lord for a safe delivery and that I didn't have to do it alone!

Martha's parents, Fielden and Janet Allison, dote on their new grandson after flying in from Kenya one day earlier.



Gail, our midwife, measures Andrew's body and checks his health.



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

This past year in Mozambique has been quite eventful (to say the least). In fact so much has happened that it has been really hard to communicate it all in our newsletters. So in this new-year's edition we would like to thank God for this last year and recap some of the events that have happened. Included are some pictures from throughout this year, some of which have appeared in previous issues.

December 15, 2003 We arrived safely in Mozambique after having spent nine months learning Portuguese in Portugal.



January 18, 2004- Just a month after arrival we flew to the south of the country to purchase our car which later results in our 2,000 mile road trip on African roads back to Nampula where we were living.

February 2004 Our team of six couples took the month of February and surveyed the northern portion of



Mozambique for a suitable place for us to locate for the long haul. This survey resulted in a lot of great data, not only for us but for other teams that are interested in working in Northern Mozambique.

April, 2004 From our information that we



gathered on our survey trip we decided to move to a town called Montepuez about five hours north from Nampula where we had been staying.

May- June, 2004 Our containers arrive in Mozambique and we went about the business of setting up home in Montepuez. We also started learning the local language which is called Makua Metto.



Mid June, 2004 We received a letter from the government of our area that we needed to get our paperwork straightened out and until then we needed to return to Nampula. Thinking it would be a short time away we packed for a possible two week absence.

Around the same time some of our teammates felt called to a different area and let us know that they might move from Montepuez to Lichinga (a town two days drive away, but closer as the crow flies)

Mid July, 2004 Not having received any word from the Government our team decided we should stay in Nampula until after the Mozambican elections were over in December (2004).

End of July, 2004 Sam Shewmaker, our team mentor facilitated a decision for our team to separate into two different teams- one team of two couples being in the city of Lichinga and our team of four couples hoping to return to Montepuez after our paperwork gets approved.





August, 2004 Our new team spent the month organizing and getting prepared to make our entrance back into Montepuez by talking through strategy, setting goals and getting advice from other missionaries.



September- November, 2004 While we waited for our return to Montepuez, five hours north, our team started taking language lessons again. During this time we also started attending local churches to partner in the ministry with them while we lived in the city of Nampula.

December, 2004 The Mozambican elections took place with the current party FRELIMO winning again. Our teammates who remained in Mozambique worked to get an audience with the Governor of the area to get our paperwork approved.

A map of Northern Mozambique with the three cities we have mentioned circled in **red**.

Prayers for the year to come: We pray that in the near future the final paperwork will be approved by the office of religious affairs for us to be able to work in the area around Montepuez. The governor has said we can return- now we just need to finalize the paperwork. Please pray this will happen soon.

