



MISSION TO THE MAKUA

Cultivating Christian Communities

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Christmas in Mozambique



Christmas here in Mozambique is so different from what we celebrate in the U.S. that we often have to remind each other that we really are in the Christmas season. The differences include the weather, who we celebrate with, what we eat, and how we shop. In spite of all this, we tried to keep the Christmas spirit alive!

We definitely didn't have a white and cold Christmas. Rather we spent as much time as we could under a fan and relished the thought of a cold shower at night. Since the rains have come so late this year the heat stayed around in full force. We really enjoyed the

times we needed to go somewhere in our car and could enjoy the air conditioning for awhile.

We especially miss and think about our family a lot during the Christmas season. This makes us so thankful that we are on a team with other families. This year we celebrated with the Rolands since the other families are both in the U.S. right now. We got together both Christmas Eve and Christmas day to eat together, talk, play games, and even watch Christmas movies.

The Makua call Christmas the Day of the Family. It is therefore interesting that even on Christmas day we had people come to our home to visit and ask for



Martha and the boys trying to cool off

things. We were reminded that while we were trying hard to have a full-blown Christmas meal complete with junk food and presents, people around us were going hungry, since this is also the season of hunger. We did enjoy having a party for our workers and their families. We ate rice and goat curry with sodas and watched "The Gods Must be Crazy". We enjoyed celebrating with them and having them in our home.



Our workers and their families eating rice and goat in our home.

Jeremy, Martha, Luke and Andrew Smith

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Prayer Requests

1. For strong relationships with Christians and non-Christians in the area.
2. That God's love would shine through our new food distribution program.
3. That our 4 workers, Ali, Raisi, Armando, and Herculino would know & love Jesus.
4. For Safe & Healthy delivery of Chad and Amy's baby.
5. For clarity & stamina as we continue to learn Makua.
6. For our health, especially the kids'.



Southern most point of Africa

This year we met Martha's parents down in South Africa for a short vacation together. We enjoyed being on the beach in Cape Town, driving around the area, and even seeing African penguins together! It was a great time of rest and fun. The boys enjoyed playing with Papaw and Grandma and we got in hours of talking. While there we were even able to buy each other Christmas presents.



Don't touch the penguins — they bite!!!

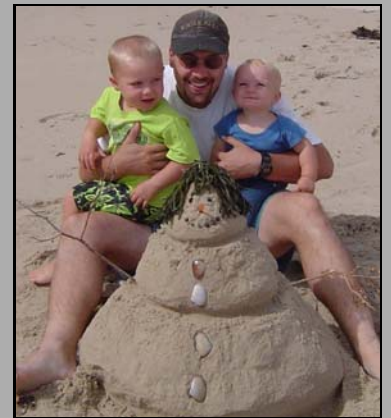
ings, had Christmas music, opened presents and of course made and ate lots of junk food. We did the best we could to have a traditional Christmas meal with turkey legs, cranberry sauce, homemade stuffing, mashed potatoes, and apple pie.

Although there are so many differences in how we celebrate Christmas here, we try hard to keep our traditions alive. We set up our Christmas tree, put Santa and snowmen all over the house (they melted ☺), hung stockings, had Christmas music, opened presents and of course made and ate lots of junk food. We did the best we could to have a traditional Christmas meal with turkey legs, cranberry sauce, homemade stuffing, mashed potatoes, and apple pie.



Papaw and Grandma

Growing up our kids will never really appreciate the song "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas". They may instead sing..."I'm dreaming of a hot Christmas, just like the ones I used to know. With our sweat a pouring..." Luke and Andrew enjoy the way our Christmas is here. That's what matters to us. Although it's different than what we are used to we so enjoyed making it special for the boys.



African "snow" man at the beach



CHRISTMAS MORNING!