



Jeremy, Martha, Luke and Andrew Smith

# MISSION TO THE MAKUA

*Cultivating Christian Communities*

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## Awwww... So Cuuuute!

We are proud to welcome our two newest teammates. We now have 6 little ones 3 years and under on our team. What a party!

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Ellen (Ellie) Howell was born on November 17th in Dallas, Texas while the Howells were on furlough. They stayed there until the middle of January and have been back with us for about 2 months now. Ellie is healthy and happy and Abby is proud to have a little sister.

### Prayer Requests

1. Pray for Ellie and Maggie and for their parents as they adjust to life in MZ with a new baby.
2. Pray for spiritual growth in the infant churches of Mwatuka, Mitale, and Chipembe.
3. Pray for perseverance and clarity as we learn Makua.
4. Pray for physical and spiritual health for all on the team.
5. Pray for a Jesus' light to shine brightly here in Montepuez.

Margaret (Maggie) Westerholm was born on Febuary 3rd. The Westerholms left in December to go back to Memphis, TN to give birth to their first child. Everything went well and they will be returning at the beginning of April. We look forward to meeting and getting to know little Maggie.



Going full circle -  
The trip that got rained out.  
Miles from home and no road to get there!  
The longest road trip ever! (with two kids)

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Our whole team decided to go to the adjacent province of Niassa to have a retreat time with the team working in Lichinga with the Yao (the Holtons and Caldwells). We weren't at all prepared for what lay ahead.

The original plan was to have MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship) come pick us and the Howells up in Montepuez and fly us directly to Lichinga, since the roads between here and there are terrible and maybe impassable at this rainy time of year. At 8:00 of the morning we were scheduled to leave the pilot called us to say that there was no fuel for the plane.

After hearing this news we felt like we had no other choice but to jump in our cars and try to drive across. Twelve hours later we pulled into Lichinga and were welcomed by hot meals. The road had been bad, but we didn't really have any problems. We had a great retreat and enjoyed seeing what the Holtons and Caldwells have been doing in Lichinga.

Five days later we started heading back. We said our goodbyes and started making our way to the town of Marupa on a nice paved road. We got almost 2 hours into our trip when we came upon a major bridge that was completely submerged, chest high. (see picture above and picture to the right) It had rained so much in the 5 days since we had come that way that it had completely flooded the road. We knew that even if we waited for the water to go down at that bridge chances were very high that we'd get stopped by other road problems farther down. We turned around and back tracked the 2 hours to go another route that would more than double the time and distance.

Our goal was to spend the night in a little town called Malema. We thought we'd get there around 9:00 pm. We arrived at 3:00 in the morning after driving through numerous sections of the road which were completely under water, in the rain, at night. Once, while in the middle of a flooded area our car lights went completely under water. Thankfully, this only lasted for a couple of seconds, but it succeeded in making both Jeremy and I start shaking. Finally we stopped, prayed (although we'd been praying all along) and slept for a few hours in the car to let the rain subside and the water go down. At midnight we continued on and finally made it to Malema where we crashed for a few hours.

The next morning we again had to take a long detour to bypass a major bridge that had been washed out by the heavy rains. (see picture to the left) Many hours later we pulled into Nampula and then on to Montepuez the next morning.



That was the closest to a flood we have ever come. We were amazed over and over by how high the water had risen and by the damage it had done in such a short amount of time. The roads and bridges looked terrible. Many people's houses fell down since the water soaked in and turned their mud homes to mush. Several people's corn fields were flattened by the rushing water. We were thankful that although it took us over 35 hours in the car to get home, we still had a nice sturdy house to come home to and that God provided for us all along the way.

