

# Westerholm's e-Mail News

Monday, May 3, 2004

Friends and Family, May 2004

Hello from Montepuez, Mozambique! First, I have to apologize deeply for the lack of updates. It has just been brought to our attention that no one has received our newsletter for the past four months! Lord willing, you will receive this one! We are very sorry for the lack of contact. We will post the missed emails at [www.makuateam.org](http://www.makuateam.org).

To briefly update, the past months have been spent: setting up bank accounts, getting work visas, buying vehicles, surveying the three northern provinces of Mozambique, choosing to work with the Makua-Metto, moving to Montepuez, beginning language lessons, and finding a house to rent. We are expecting to receive the containers that our team sent from the US either tomorrow or the following day, which is quite exciting. It is hard to believe that we will finally see all the things that we packed over a year ago.

We arrived in Montepuez in the beginning of April and have been in search of a house or apartment to stay in. Unfortunately, many houses here are excessively worn down, poorly designed and built, ridiculously over priced, or the owners won't rent unless except for several years. We finally found an apartment that would be suitable, however, it was not available until the beginning of this month. At this point we had to share an apartment with one other family on our team. We were so excited when the end of the month arrived, so we could move into the apartment. At the last minute however the owner decided he wanted to sell the apartment rather than rent it. We found that out on Friday, at about the same time we learned our container had arrived at port! The Lord blessed us by opening up another house for us on Saturday, even though it was a national holiday and everything was closed!

On Saturday we went into the house and began to get to work. No one had been living in the house and it has needed a lot of work. All of the electrical sockets and light switches had been ripped out of the walls, some window frames are rotted, one room had a mold problem, most doors are old and only semi functional, the bathroom lacks a sink and is covered with scum, there are a few holes in the roof, and the walls are smurf blue. In spite of the work needed, it is a cute house with a nice yard and we are glad to finally have our own place. With all the work being done, it is a little overwhelming to think about unloading our container, but we are thankful that God has provided a place for us just in time.

It is exciting to finally be here among the people that we will be serving and begin to learn their language. Even saying simple phrases like, "How are you?" or "See you tomorrow!" or "Little by little" always is received with a smile. In the midst of trying to get settled so we are in a position to minister to the Makua-Metto, it can be easy to lose focus on why we are here. Some days we just feel as if we are trying to survive when doing the simplest things become very complicated. Most people I interact with don't have telephones, cars, or watches and most are a friend of a friend of a friend who doesn't have a listing in the yellow pages. In the midst of all this, we find ourselves slowly becoming more integrated into society here and building a network of relationships. Thank you for your prayers in this time!

Prayer Points:

1. That our container will arrive safely here
2. That our work on the house will go well and quickly
3. We will begin to be able to have basic conversations in Makua Metto
4. God will guide our team as we begin to look at where to work
5. Peace in this transition time