

Westerholm's e-Mail News

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Friends and Family,

This month has been a chaotic mixture of surprising events. Several weeks ago, I was asked to teach a morning lesson for preachers who were in Montepuez for a leadership seminar. The topic that I was assigned was "giving". This was an interesting experience because it was the first time I had taught in this sort of setting in Portuguese. The most exciting aspect of the lesson was when I gave an illustration using some of the Makua Metto I had learned in language class. It was exciting to be able to use some of the basic phrases I know in a ministry setting. It challenges me as a wealthy American to teach about giving to impoverished Africans, yet God's principles regarding giving are for all no matter what our financial status. During the class, Amy was outside getting a lesson from two Christian women on planting and harvesting rice. Amy learned the Metto word for 'harvest' and the women learned that not all Americans have rice fields!

In order to calm suspicions, our team decided to host a party for all of the Montepuez leaders, pastors, and Muslim chehes in order to explain who we are and answer any questions they might have. Overall everyone said they thought it went well because now everyone knows who we are and what our goals are. Out of this meeting it was even suggested that the following Monday we have an ecumenical prayer for peace regarding the upcoming elections. The prayer meeting for peace seemed to go well and gave us more opportunities to talk with the community leaders.

It has been an exciting month to say the least. Despite everything, be assured that we are safe and are not in any danger. In fact, for missionaries this is not all that out of the ordinary. We expect that these problems will be resolved soon. In all this, I was reminded by one of our Mozambican Christian friends that Jesus calmed the storm and he will calm these problems as well. We are encouraged by this as we remember that God is the one in control.

Chad and Amy

Please Pray:

1. Our ministry plan will be approved.
2. Our team's houses will be safe while we are away.
3. God will help us to remain focused on our task amidst distractions.

Praise God For:

1. The peace we have had in this chaotic time.
2. Language lessons have been going well.
3. Germindo, a preacher in Montepuez, has been a great help to us this month.
4. We have been able to stay at the SIL Center in Nampula.
5. The encouragement we have received from other Christians and missionaries.