

# Westerholm's e-Mail News

## Tuesday, August 31, 2004

Friends and Family,

This month has been a month of reflection and prayer for our team regarding our ministry vision and strategy. Our team had been struggling for quite some time to synthesize differing views about the shape that our ministry would take. Specifically, the Holton's believe they are called to minister in an ethnic group that is less reached than the Makua Metto. They are convicted that to work in Montepuez among the Makua Metto would be in conflict with their calling and commitment to God. Although they believe that there is a need for church planting and disciplining among the Makua Metto, because of their convictions they have decided that they cannot work there.

During this time we were blessed with a visit from our mentor Sam Shewmaker. Sam led us through a process in which our team decided that the Holton's and the Caldwell's would work with the Yao tribe, a Muslim people who live in the northwest corner of Mozambique. This was a very difficult decision for our team because we all love each other deeply and we had planned to live and work together for the next ten to fifteen years. We pray that God will be able to use all of us to reach both the Yao and Makua Metto people.

Now we are adjusting to working as a team of four families instead of six. One family on our team, the Roland's, decided to use this time before we return to Montepuez to teach at a Boa Nova Bible School in Maputo. This decision will enable the Roland's to be closer to South Africa for prenatal care and delivery of their baby as well as build relationships in the Maputo area. Due to the Roland's time in Maputo, the month of August was the last time until March of 2005 that we will all be together as a team. We utilized practically every day of this month to meet for planning and discussion of vision, strategy, etc. It was good to be able to reflect on vision, having already spent some time in Montepuez and knowing much more of the situation than when we were in the States.

We were also blessed to be visited by Martha's parents, Fielden and Janet Allison, who have been missionaries in Kenya for over thirty years. They worked with our team and helped us develop our plan for the next two years and gave invaluable advice on language and culture study and church planting in Africa. They were very encouraging to our team and could relate to our experience since they were forced to leave Uganda during their first year in Africa. Despite many setbacks in the beginning the Allison's now have a thriving ministry that has made a significant impact for the Kingdom of God.

Between now and the end of the year we are going to do our best to make the most of our time here in Nampula. Our team has found several Metto speakers that may be potential language teachers, so we hope to resume language study in the next week. We are also prayerfully considering several options of ministry with churches here in Nampula. Sam had also suggested that our team use this time to make contacts that will prove useful in the future. Amy and I are networking with all the major NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) that are working in Northern Mozambique. Many of the NGOs offer incredible resources for development. In the future we would like to see churches in Cabo Delgado collaborating with NGOs in order to better serve their communities. We are excited about the coming months and pray that God will use us in this time. God bless!

Please Pray:

1. God would give us wisdom regarding our ministry here in Nampula for the rest of the year.
2. God would comfort the family of the government official who died.
3. Our teammates, Aaron and Mika Roland will have a good transition as they spend the fall teaching in Maputo at the Bible School.
4. We would find a good Makua Metto language teacher.
5. We will be able to make many useful contacts while we are here in Nampula.

Praise God For:

1. The guidance that God gave us through Sam Shewmaker.
2. The positive meetings we have had with the government this month.
3. The ministry that the Yao team is preparing to do.

## **Westerholm's e-Mail News**

Tuesday, August 31, 2004

4. The encouragement that the Allison's gave to our team.
5. Providing free housing for us this month.