

## Westerholm's e-Mail News

Monday, August 1, 2005

Friends and Family.

Our furlough has been going well and so far we have trekked from Texas to New Jersey and quite a few places in between. While we have been traveling across the USA our teammates have continued to travel back and forth to Pemba attempting to resolve our paperwork issues. On the last trip Jeremy, Alan, and Aaron were able to meet with the governor of Cabo Delgado and watched as he signed the papers that grant us permission to work in the province and return to Montepuez! We are all very excited with this news and are so thankful to God that he has opened the doors for us to return and serve the Makua-Metto people. In the next few weeks our teammates will return to clean up their houses (which haven't been lived in for over a year), meet with local leaders, and then move back permanently.

On this side of the ocean, we have been doing well and have visited with many supporters and had opportunity to see much of our family. We enjoyed spending the month of June and first part of July in Memphis with the Cordova Community Church and seeing much of Amy's family. I also took a week long intensive class at the Harding Graduate School on the book of Revelation. One of the greatest things about being in the States is seeing family; on June 25th we decided to celebrate Christmas (since we had missed the past few) with some of Amy's family. We ate all the traditional Christmas dinner foods and listened to Christmas music. We have also kept busy with plenty of doctor's appointments that we are otherwise unable to do in Mozambique. We have had quite a few of these since we found out that Amy is pregnant! (The baby is due at the end of January).

This has been a special time of visiting with people and it has been refreshing to hear people's encouragement. We have also spent lots of lunches and evenings with various supporters and have enjoyed their company. It has been an interesting contrast to life in Mozambique, because we have few friends there who speak English. Here, we hardly have time to visit all the people we know and we seem to be going from one event to the next with few stops between. I guess that is typical for American life, but we seemed to have forgotten that.

It is amazing that after a year of waiting that we are finally able to go back to Montepuez. There were many times where we wondered whether we should continue to pursue or give up, but the Lord always encouraged us to keep on. We were told on many occasions that we needed to "just be patient". Sometimes I wonder if God did more by us not being in Montepuez for the past year than if we had been there. We are more adjusted to Mozambican culture, we are closer as a team, and we have demonstrated our patience and character to the whole community. We have also met with and befriended numerous government officials that we may not have otherwise had access to. Most of all our faith has been increased in seeing God's hand working in our hearts and the hearts of others.

Please Pray For:

1. Our safety and health as we travel.
2. Our teammates as they re-enter Montepuez.
3. Good visits with the Princeton Church of Christ and the Northwest Church of Christ.
4. The health of the little one we are expecting in January
5. Good visiting time with our families before we leave for Africa in September

Praise God For:

1. Opening the doors for our team to return to Montepuez
2. Safe travels across the country.
3. The baby that is on the way
4. Our time spent with Cordova Community Church and Kaufman Church of Christ
5. The opportunities to spend time with family.