

Westerholm's e-Mail News

Sunday, September 25, 2005

Dear Family & Friends,

Hi everyone! I am excited to be writing to you from our living room in Montepuez!!! What a blessing! Our travels went very well. We left the States on Wednesday afternoon and had a short overnight flight to London, then on Thursday night we left London for an overnight flight to South Africa where we were picked up at the airport by our teammates Alan & Rachel Howell, they are heading to the States right now for their first furlough and the birth of their second child. It was so fun to see them and we enjoyed hanging out with them so Friday and Saturday we were in South Africa. We stayed at a nice missionary guest house there and shopped a bit and caught up on our sleep. On Sunday morning bright and early we went to the airport to fly in a tiny six seater plane up to Nampula. We flew with Missionary Aviation Fellowship. They have great service and we were able to take all of our luggage without any extra charges. We were in the air about 5 or 6 hours with one stop along the way. It was a beautiful flight and we all felt well during the flight. We arrived in Nampula on Sunday night and went to the house of some of our missionary friends there. It was great to see them and we had fun visiting with them. We were glad we arrived when we did because they were leaving the next day but said we could stay in their home as long as we needed too. We were so grateful to have a nice place to stay with hot water and a full kitchen etc. We shopped and shopped on Monday and Tuesday to get mainly the grocery items we would need for the next three months. Shopping went really well and in two days we were ready to go. Chad also met with a contractor in Nampula who had done some work on the house of one of our teammates. They went around town together and bought all of the supplies needed to fix our plumbing problems we have been having in Montepuez and then they made arrangements for the contractor to come to Montepuez on Saturday to fix all of our plumbing.

Meanwhile we left on Wednesday morning to make the drive to Montepuez. We picked up our dogs that morning and they were so excited to see us and get in the truck with us (they love road trips!). We had a good drive. I was really nervous about returning to Montepuez, God really calmed my fears and there have been so many blessings since we arrived. It was great to get back in our house and see all of our workers. Our house has been protected this entire 13 months that we have been gone, what a blessing! Otherwise the house was a big mess! There was so much dirt and dust and dead bugs and some live bugs everywhere! We did a lot of visiting on Wednesday afternoon once we arrived and simply got our bed ready to sleep in basically that afternoon. Our teammates took care of all of our meals which was so nice so we have been eating their wonderful cooking for the past few days and it has been great! On Thursday, Friday and Saturday we cleaned and cleaned and cleaned and there was so much progress made on those days! It was amazing! It already feels like the house is just about where it was after the few weeks we were here before we got kicked out. We wanted to get everything to a maintenance level first and then begin rearranging our storage room to make it a study/storage room combo and make our study the new baby's room :) That will be a step by step process that we can take a bit slower than the initial getting settled in stuff. Our water had been cut off and it was restored on Friday morning which was really wonderful! Then on Saturday an amazing thing happened, the plumber came to our house! He arrived around noon and went right to work. During that time he installed in our bathroom a new toilet tank, a sink and fixed our showerhead as well as fixed the leak in our kitchen sink and handled some electrical wiring issues we had. All of this in about 6 hours time! We were amazed and so thankful!!!! God really answered our prayers in this regard. He was so professional and we felt great about the entire thing. We have found one tiny leak since he left but he is returning next Saturday to do some work for one of our other teammates so he can fix that leak then which will be great! It is so nice to have a flushing toilet, a sink to wash hands in, a kitchen sink that works and a great shower head that works! He put in an item that will give you a hot shower unfortunately with our water pressure it will not activate it. We were a bit disappointed about that but we were so thrilled over everything else that we are just so excited about the new bathroom!!! Thanks for everyone who has prayed for a plumber for us!!!

We have gotten to make and receive several visits since we have been here and that has been really good. Our Portuguese and the Makua we learned is still there we are glad to see and it has been so nice to see and visit with the people. Chad also had a meeting with our workers that went well. He did a great job although there were some difficult subjects to address including the firing of one of our workers who

Westerholm's e-Mail News

Sunday, September 25, 2005

came to work drunk for the second time. Alcoholism is such a huge problem here and it is so sad to see how the consequences of this disease affect people here.

Today we are going to church and Chad is preaching on the parable of the sower. It will be nice to visit the church here after such a long time. Thank you all so much for all of your prayers regarding our travels and our adjustment time once we returned. Things have been so blessed and we have had such thankful hearts. It feels like a lot has changed since we were here before and I think the vast majority of those changes are things God has been doing in our hearts. I think when we got kicked out I thought that I would return the same person but after 13 months God has worked on us and all glory to Him I think there have been some very positive changes in our outlook and attitudes, so thankful for that!

Just to let you all know we have a very slow internet connection here! About 16.8Kbps! (Usually in the States it is 55Kbps or more I think!) And it does not always work the first time! I am still having trouble receiving any messages for some reason, I have tried a bunch of times and am trying to figure that out, Chad's account is sending and receiving fine though so send to him if you need to cawesterholm@hotmail.com It has taken 30 minutes on the try that worked to receive 14 email messages in Chad's account! So, in addition to that and since this is a long distance call to use the internet we will not be online nearly as much as we were in Nampula. We do have our cell phone and our landline number here in Montepuez. All the phone numbers have changed for the whole country so I want to give you our new numbers. Our landline from the States is 011 258 272 51033, and our cell phone number (I think I had already had this updated number before we left but it is 011 258 826 448 670. Feel free to call anytime (within our waking hours of course :)

We love you all so much and miss you! Thanks so much for your love and support and prayers!!!

God bless,

Amy