

Westerholm's e-Mail News

Saturday, October 1, 2005

Friends and Family,

August/September 2005

We have arrived back in Mozambique and are doing well as we settle into life in Montepuez. To get to Montepuez took us an entire week. We flew out of Memphis on a Wednesday to Chicago and then had an overnight flight to London. We spent the day in the airport, and incidentally seemed to be sitting next to a lot of Portuguese speakers. It was good to strike up a conversation with some Brazilians and get back into using our Portuguese. On Friday morning we arrived in Johannesburg, South Africa and were met by our teammates, the Howells who were heading back to the States for a furlough. Sunday morning we then flew to Nampula with Missionary Aviation Fellowship on a small six seater plane. Monday and Tuesday were then spent grocery shopping and arranging for a plumber to come to Montepuez and work on our house. We didn't get back to Montepuez until Wednesday afternoon, a week after we left the States!

Since we have been back in Montepuez, we have been busy with fixing up our house that we have not lived in for over a year. The house was still in need of a lot of work when we first left, so we still have some projects to do. This past week we have gotten quite a bit done and the house feels like home. The plumber from Nampula transformed our bathroom into something that resembles what most Americans think of when they imagine a bathroom. We have a toilet that flushes, a sink, and a working shower! Now all that remains on the house is to seal up the chimney (to prevent mosquitoes from entering, organize our things, and prepare the baby's room. I have also just finished making a compost bin, in order to make fertilizer. I am hoping to be able to show it to people when they come visit the house and explain to them how they can do that as well.

On Sunday, I had the opportunity to preach for the Igreja de Cristo in Montepuez and it seemed to really go well. I read the story of the sower from the Metto gospel of Mark and the church seemed to really enjoy that. In the middle of the sermon I had the idea of using an illustration of a "moagem" for the plants that were choked by the weeds. A "moagem" is the Portuguese word for a grain mill that is run by a small engine, which normally makes a lot of noise. I told them that you can't hear someone when you are standing by a "moagem" unless you turn it off and we need to get rid of the things that interfere with us hearing the word of God. The church loved the illustration and kept talking about it. Yesterday a man who had visited the church stopped and thanked me for the "preaching of the moagem". Praise God for continuing to show us ways to touch the hearts of the people through teaching and preaching.

I have also spent some time visiting local pastors and other community leaders. Amy has been able to attend a lady's Bible class at the Igreja de Cristo and has made several hospital visits to see a sick woman from the church. We will soon resume our Metto language studies and will have a new language teacher. It is exciting to finally be in a place where Metto is spoken, because now we have abundant opportunities to practice what we have learned. As always, learning a language is a tedious process, requiring much patience. It is exciting for us to be here after so much time spent away. We have been able to dream again about the possibilities for the future here and imagine all that God is going to do. Also, after being in Mozambique for over a year and a half, we realize we have changed and are not the same people we were when we first came to Montepuez. We have adjusted much more to life in Africa and have a much better understanding of the culture and how social relationships work. We are thankful for all the ways God used our first term on the field to prepare us for the work in Montepuez and we are excited about all the future holds. Thanks for your continued support and prayers.

Please Pray For:

1. God to provide a good language teacher for us.
2. Health for Amy (and baby).
3. We can get paperwork approved to begin working in villages.
4. New contacts in Montepuez and the surrounding areas.
5. Perseverance in language study.

Praise God For:

1. Great visits with family, friends, and churches on furlough.
2. Safe travels back and all our luggage arriving intact.
3. A good time of teaching with the Montepuez Igreja de Cristo
4. A new beginning to our work in Montepuez
5. Helping us grow accustomed to this culture.