

Westerholm's e-Mail News
Thursday, November 24, 2005

Special Appeal

Friends and Family,

November 2005

Happy Thanksgiving! I wanted to give everyone an update on our situation and inform you of some other events in our ministry to the Metto people. Amy has returned back to the States and is now staying with her family in Memphis. She is doing great and she survived the 19 hour flight from Johannesburg to Atlanta! In the mean time I am back in Montepuez and am trying to finish up some things before heading back to the States in the next week or two. I was able to get a flight back to northern Mozambique in time to see our team mentor, Sam Shewmaker, the day before he left. Although it was a short visit, it was an encouraging time.

We also want to ask for your prayers regarding the Metto people. The months of December, January, and February, are often called "tempo de fome" or "the time of hunger". This is the rainy season when the crops in the fields are growing, but not yet ready to eat. Normally, the food stores from the previous year are beginning to be depleted and hardly any green vegetables can be found. This year, however is exceptionally difficult, because last year, the rains came early and all the crops began to grow well, only to be followed by a dry spell of over a month. Most of the crops did not survive the dry spell and the harvest was especially small. This is also compounded by a regional drought in most of southern Africa. Prices of corn are already much higher now than this time last year. Everyone is in dread of the months to come.

We have decided to help the Metto people by buying corn and then selling it at a reduced price. \$15 can buy enough corn for a family to eat for a month, and we will be selling it for only \$3. We will also give free donations to those who are the most in need (handicapped, widows, orphans, sick, and others). The food will be distributed to the population in general through local churches on three dates (Dec 15, Jan 15, and Feb 15). Already several churches have raised over \$6,000 for this project. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 for food. Any money given will go to either food or diesel (transport is a major factor in cost of food). When we sell the food at a reduced rate, the money earned will go toward purchasing food for the next distribution.

If you, your church, or your friends would like to participate please send a check to "Church in the Falls" and address it as follows:

Makua Metto Food Fund
c/o Church in the Falls
837 Chestnut Blvd
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

Thank you for your prayers and God bless you!