

# Westerholm's e-Mail News

## Sunday, January 1, 2006

Friends and Family,

We hope that all of you are having a great holiday season! We have really enjoyed being able to spend this Christmas with our family after spending the holidays in Mozambique for the past two years. It was especially nice for Amy and I to be together again after spending three weeks apart while I was in Montepuez and Amy was in the States. We are so thankful for all of your prayers concerning Amy and the baby. Everything is going well and she is progressing toward her due date at the end of January.

My time in Mozambique went well. Since Amy and I had gone to South Africa in such a hurry, many things in Montepuez were left undone and the three weeks I spent there provided time to finish several projects including preparing the baby's room and several team related business items before returning to the States. Additionally, when I got back to Mozambique from South Africa, I was able to see Sam Shewmaker, our team mentor, at the conclusion of his visit and that was also a blessing.

One project I have been working on lately was developing a plan to provide assistance to some of the churches that ask us for financial help with their church buildings. This is a little difficult because too often churches view their buildings as the center of their faith. Having a big building is thus the equivalent to having a strong church. On the other hand having a nice building does seem to give the church a certain level of credibility in the eyes of the community. We have thus had to learn a little bit about Makua architecture and construction. For example, costs for materials vary quite a bit whether one is in a town or in a village. Also, certain villages don't have easy access to certain materials (such as bamboo) while others have them in abundance. In our area, we have noticed that the majority of people build their houses out of mud blocks that are dried in the sun. These generally only last about ten years at most. Some people are beginning to build using mud blocks that have been burnt and thus are stronger and can last many decades. We are trying to encourage churches to build their buildings using these burnt bricks so that the church buildings will be stronger and will last for many years to come. Our team now has a plan that we will present to the churches this year that hopefully will encourage the churches to construct buildings that will last for longer periods of time.

Last month I also wrote about the time of hunger in Montepuez. Since the time of the last newsletter the price of corn has doubled. The hunger is growing more severe each day. The churches in Montepuez have been really excited about the project and are thankful that their brothers and sisters in Christ are helping them in this time of need. The Montepuez churches have begun to raise money so that they can buy the corn at the reduced price and have raised several hundred dollars. This month, our team is purchasing \$6,000 worth of corn and then reselling it to churches for only a few hundred dollars. The churches then sell it at this same reduced price to those in the community who need it most. In this manner about 500 sacks of corn are being distributed this week in Montepuez. So far over \$12,000 has been raised for this effort from churches and individuals all over the USA. Thank you for your support in this. We still are praying that God will provide at least \$25,000 for this project. If you, your church, or your friends would still like to participate it's not too late! All you need to do is send a check made out to "Church in the Falls" Memo: Makua Metto Food Fund to the following address:

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

Thank you for all your prayers and support this year. It has been a great year and we are so thankful that God has opened the door for us to return to Montepuez and to be able to serve the Metto people. We will be spending most of our time in Memphis as we await the birth of our baby. We hope you had a great Christmas and have a wonderful New Year!

### **Please Pray For:**

1. Amy's health and a safe arrival of our baby.
2. Our friend Germindo who has malaria.
3. That God will be glorified through the food distribution.
4. The remaining funds to be raised for the food distribution.
5. Protection for our house while we are away.

### **Praise God For:**

1. Our safe return to the States.
2. The \$12,000 raised for famine relief in Montepuez.
3. Amy's continued health in pregnancy.
4. Chad's productive time in Mozambique.
5. An opportunity to be with family this Christmas.