

Westerholm's e-Mail News

Monday, February 6, 2006

Friends and Family,

It's a girl! Margaret (Maggie) Ann Westerholm was born on February 3, 2006 at 9:45 PM. She weighed 6 pounds 11 ounces and is 20" long. It is so exciting to welcome the new member of our family and Maggie has already stolen her daddy's and mommy's hearts. The testimony of her biased parents is that she is the cutest and sweetest thing we have ever seen, but you can see for yourself by visiting www.makuateam.org. She is named Margaret after my grandmother, Margaret Sorensen, and Ann after Amy's mother, Ann Roberson. We are thankful for all of your prayers for her healthy and safe arrival. So far she is a lot like her daddy in that she loves to sleep and yawn really big. She also likes to stretch her little legs out just like her mommy. We are full of joy that God has graced us with this precious blessing in our lives.

On the Mozambique side of things, we have heard great reports about the famine relief project that is being done by our team. We are very thankful to everyone who has supported this effort. In the January distribution, 500 sacks of corn were purchased with funds supplied by churches in the States and sold at reduced prices for the neediest people in Montepuez. After the December distribution, some of the local church and community leaders requested that a commission of Mozambicans be formed to aid in procuring the corn. This helped ensure that quality corn was purchased at reasonable prices. Fifty of the sacks were donated to the local government to be distributed in villages where there was the greatest need. The fifty sacks were divided between five different regions of the Montepuez district. Each region received ten sacks of corn which were distributed personally by our teammates. Although ten sacks of corn isn't really enough to alleviate the great need, we presented it as a gesture of goodwill. Solidarity with the suffering is an important value to the Makua and this small gesture was received with great joy by the local villages. Our prayer is that God will use this gift to open doors for future evangelism in these villages. 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

While back in the States, I have also used this opportunity to take another class for my master's degree. The class is entitled History of the American Restoration Movement and looks at the emergence of Churches of Christ, Christian Churches, and Disciples of Christ. When studying church history, one always finds God's sovereign hand at work despite man's weaknesses. It has been encouraging and challenging to study about men like Barton W. Stone and Alexander Campbell and see the dedication that they had to prayer, Bible study, church unity, and the salvation of the lost. As we are participating in the history of the Metto church we hope that a church that is dedicated to prayer, Bible study, church unity, and the salvation of the lost will be established in Montepuez.

Praise God For:

1. Maggie Ann Westerholm!
2. Amy's recovery from the delivery.
3. Doors opened to the community through the food distribution.
4. The opportunity for Chad to take another class.
5. Answering our prayers this month, when one of our colleagues in Nampula, Sarah Gardner (who is pregnant), was diagnosed with malaria and had to be hospitalized. She has recovered and the baby is doing well.

Please Pray For:

1. Wisdom and grace as we are new parents.
2. Maggie's continued health.
3. A blessed time while we are here with family and supporters.
4. Our teammates as they continue to minister in Montepuez.
5. Continued doors to be opened through the famine relief.

Donations to this ministry can be written to Cordova Community Church with the memo "Mozambique" and sent to:

Cordova Community Church
PO Box 4435
Cordova, TN 38088-4435