

Westerholm e-Mail News

May 12, 2006

Friends and Family,

(Sorry this newsletter is late. We have been trying a new format that would include pictures, but have been unable to work out all the kinks.)

Greetings from Montepuez! It has been about a month since we took the 17 hour plane ride from Atlanta to South Africa. Having only an hour of sleep the night before, we actually got off the plane more rested than when we got on! Maggie did really well on the plane and seemed to get over jet lag quite quickly. In South Africa we had several doctor's appointments and were able to run other errands. However, we also learned that the small plane on which we were flying to Mozambique would not be able to take all of our luggage, so much of our time was spent trying to pack our priority items. The rest of the luggage will be flown to Nampula in May or June.

Once we were back in Mozambique we had to register our truck in Nampula before we could drive to Montepuez. This, as well as grocery shopping, took several days, so we finally arrived in Montepuez about ten days after leaving the States.

One of the first things we noticed as we returned to Mozambique, was how green and lush everything looked in comparison to when we left in the dry season. Crops are growing well here and there is now plenty of corn, cassava, sorghum, rice, pumpkin, okra, oranges, tangerines, and lemons. The time of hunger has ended and once again there is food to eat. The last stages of the food project have also come to an end. Over \$40,000 was raised from churches and individuals throughout the United States and Australia. The entire amount of money was used to buy corn that was then sold at a fraction of the cost. Many hungry and malnourished people who had no means to get sufficient food were able to eat. We will never know how many lives were saved. Through the food project many new relationships have been formed that will open doors for future ministry. Overall the general public better understands that we are here to do good and to serve.

We have begun to resume language study and practice. We have almost memorized the Lord's prayer in Metto. Last Sunday, I was able to say the first part of it in church when I was asked to pray, which was exciting since it was the first time I had led a prayer in Metto. It has also been exciting to see how much we have remembered and how there are many things we can say.

I have no doubt we are butchering the grammar, but everyone is pleased to hear us and they can understand what we are getting at. Our sentences usually sound something like this, "Sun hot", "today wind cold", "many coconuts here", "my daughter asleep", etc. The next few months we intend to throw ourselves into language study so we can get to a point where we can say anything we need to in Metto. After several months of study, we have seen several of our teammates preach (or read) their first lessons in Metto. We hope to do the same in a few months. We are going to focus our energies on visiting people's homes here in town and making village visits. Right now we are praying about which village to begin working in. Although we did not plan this, each of our teammates is working in a different direction out of town, one to the north, one to the south, and one to the west. Although we had planned to work in a village to the south, we think it might make more sense to work toward the east.

We have also received several visits in the short time we have been back. One of our former missions professors, Mark Berryman, visited us last week. He helped form our team over six years ago. This was his first time to Mozambique, although he has visited about 25 other African countries. He was very encouraging to our team and had a lot of helpful advice, especially since he is so knowledgeable of African missions.

This week, we have another visitor, Emily Ulrey, who is interning with the Michaels, our colleagues in Nampula. The Michaels have brought her here to get to know Montepuez and our team. Emily is hoping to come to Mozambique and join one of the four existing teams in our organization sometime next year.

It's always good to be home and settled into a routine. Please pray for us as we begin an intensive language study program so eventually we can use Metto exclusively in our ministry.

Also, we want to invite everyone to attend the upcoming "Big Mo" retreat for churches and family members who support missions in Mozambique. This retreat will be Labor Day weekend in Little Rock, AR. This will be a learning and networking opportunity for churches and families involved in this ministry. Information about registration can be found at www.makuateam.org.

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Praise God For:

1. Our safety in travels.
2. Over \$40,000 raised for famine relief in Montepuez
3. Our insurance covering the cost of our evacuation in November
4. Our recent visitors.
5. Protecting our house and workers while we were gone.

Please Pray For:

1. Continued health, especially for protection against malaria.
2. Perseverance and discipline as we renew our efforts at language learning.
3. Wisdom as we decide which village church we will work with.
4. Our time spent in the village.
5. Wisdom as we raise Maggie.

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
(901) 828-0435