

# Westerholm e-Mail News

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Friends and Family,

When life gives you lemons (and you have four lemon trees in your yard) make lemonade! At least that is what we decided to do with the multitude of lemons we have had recently. We also discovered how to harvest the almonds from our two almond trees; let me just say that for all the work that goes into harvesting the almonds I'll gladly pay the price they charge in the grocery stores in the States! This is the coldest time of the year and since it is in the 60's and 70's I have been wearing my fleece jacket almost non-stop! I think I am becoming African.

I completed preaching on Jonah in the village of Nanjua and the church seemed to learn some things from the story. At one point, one of the church leaders shared with everyone that we are all like Jonah: we have all fled from God but God is ready to hear us when we pray to him. Several believers from a village called Nanhupo accompanied us to Nanjua for four Sundays. They haven't been meeting together to pray, so we invited them to come with us. At the end of the series on Jonah the number of people from the village of Nanhupo was growing, so for the past two weeks they began meeting together in their own village.

After the Jonah series I asked both groups from Nanhupo and Nanjua to write songs in Makua about Jonah. Here are some of the lyrics to the new songs translated into English: "God loved, God loved the people of Nineveh. He said to Jonah, Go to the City of Nineveh, Tell them. Tell them, Tell them, God knows you are doing evil things, God knows you are doing evil things..." (It is a really long song!) Another song's lyrics are, "Brother Jonah, from Nineveh, refused to preach, in Nineveh, he was punished, by the Lord, Jonah, of course he knew, who the Lord was, Jonah, a city of three days, he only preached for one day, brother Jonah." Besides the fact that Jonah was an Israelite and not from Nineveh, I thought that song was pretty good too. It is interesting how much the theme of God's punishment for disobedience in sung about in the Makua churches.

We have had a few breakthroughs with language learning lately. We have been studying verbs a lot and learning to use past, present, and future tenses which has allowed us to communicate quite a bit more. On Saturday, Amy taught a women's Bible class at a church in town all in Makua-Metto. She taught on the parable of the growing seed, and the women responded very positively. On Sunday I began preaching the Gospel of Mark and I too preached only using Metto. I found that there are quite a bit of things that I could not say, but I tried to focus on just saying what I could about each verse. It was really neat to see the reaction of the people because everyone seemed to be listening intently, while normally some people who don't understand Portuguese seem to zone out during the teaching. We still have a LOT to learn about the language and culture, but it is neat to be at a point where we can begin to share about Jesus in Makua. We have been visiting Nanhupo once a week in order to do language practice there and starting this week we will begin going to Nanjua on Saturdays and spending the night there each week. This will offer us more opportunities for language and culture learning.

Two families on our team, the Smiths and the Rolands, have returned to the States for furlough. They will be there for the next few months. If you have a chance to attend "the Big MO" Labor Day weekend in Little Rock, AR, they will be there and will be sharing with everyone more about our ministry in Mozambique. If you are interested in attending the conference, please see our website for more details. Thank you all for your continued prayers on our behalf.

Praise God For:

1. The Nanhupo church meeting together for the first time.
2. The new songs written by Christians in Nanhupo and Nanjua.
3. Being able to teach in Makua for the first time.
4. A good visit with one of our mentors, Dr. Rackley.
5. Our recovery from sicknesses.

Please Pray For:

1. The study through the gospel of Mark with the church in Nanjua.
2. The believers in Nanhupo to remain strong and continue meeting together.
3. Our time in Nanjua as we continue building relationships.
4. Perseverance in language study.
5. The upcoming Big MO conference.

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

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