

Westerholm – eMail News

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Friends and Family,

We were excited to hear from our teammates, the Smith's and Roland's, that the Big MO at the beginning of this month went well. About seventy people from all across the USA gathered to pray and learn about the ministry in Mozambique. We heard that everyone really learned a lot and enjoyed the fellowship of meeting other believers united in the mission of seeing God's word spread in Mozambique.

Our work in Nanjua continues to go well. The church has moved to a new location since Africa (the main church leader) was found drunk last month. We have been meeting at another church members' house for the past four weeks. Although the church had been hesitant to change locations because they feared losing people who had been visiting, the attendance seems to be unaffected by the move. Last week eleven adults (not including us) gathered for worship, which is about average. On the fifteenth of this month, we are planning to have some baptisms. There are nine people who have expressed interest in becoming Christians. We don't know to what degree they understand the gospel, but we trust that God's Spirit is at work in their lives. We also had a first, when one weekend we visited a church member's house and they offered us mice to eat. Since the sun was starting to go down and we had already visited for awhile, we were able to get out of eating it because we told them we had to go set up our tent before dark. Next time we may not be able to get out of it so easily!

One Saturday this month, Amy and Rachel were invited to speak at a women's conference for an Assembly of God in town. Amy taught from Deuteronomy 6 about how we as parents should always teach our children God's word. Amy did a great job teaching in Makua and the women really enjoyed it.

Since it has been about six months since we got back to Mozambique we decided we needed a break and went to the beach for a few days to get away. However, after visiting Nanjua that week, we both got really sick from something we ate, so our trip was cut short a day. After going to the beach we went to Nampula and did grocery shopping and visited the Intxotxa church where we attended when we lived in Nampula. It was really nice to see our friends there, and we enjoyed eating a nice meal (with cold sodas!) at the preacher's house. We drove back to Montepuez with the truck loaded full of several months worth of groceries. We joked that with all the things around Maggie, it looked like she was in her own separate room in the back seat.

I have decided to move the Bible study I have been having in the village of Bandari. Instead of teaching the two guys there, we are going to start meeting at the church here in town and see if others from the church want to join. Hopefully this will be a good move and more people will participate.

A frustrating experience happened the other day when I visited a friend of a Christian in Nanhupo. He is extremely sick, and I assume he has AIDS. Last week he tried to commit suicide by taking some sort of poison, but he vomited it up. I told him that God had let him live for a reason and that he needed to be prepared to meet God. It was a difficult conversation and I had to resort to Portuguese. I could tell though that he did not get what I was saying. I don't know if he would have gotten it any better if I had been speaking Makua, but at least he would have had more of a chance of understanding it. The situation was sad, but it made me want to press on in language learning so I can have serious conversations in times of crisis in the people's own language.

Maggie is continuing to do great. She loves eating solid foods and is making a hobby of it. She has two new teeth on top that are just starting to come through. She is sitting up and leaning over to get things quite a bit. Any day she is likely to discover the art of crawling! She has also started turning the pages of the books when we read to her. Everything else is going well. We are looking forward to the Smiths and Rolands returning from furlough in the next few weeks. Thanks for your prayers!

Praise God For:

1. A successful Big MO conference.
2. Our time of rest and safe travels to Nampula.
3. Amy's teaching at the women's conference.
4. Eusebio, a friend of ours at the Intxotxa church in Nampula, is recovering well after a surgery to treat a spinal injury from a fall.
5. Being at work in Nanjua.

Please Pray For:

1. The nine people in Nanjua who will be baptized on the 15th.
2. Chad's Friday morning Bible study as it moves into town.
3. The man in Nanhupo who is very sick.
4. Us as we spend the weekends in Nanjua.
5. Chad's lower back pain.

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

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