



Chad, Amy & Maggie Westerholm  
C.P. 140, Pemba  
Cabo Delgado, Mozambique

# Westerholm Family News

## Ministry in Mozambique

At 6:30 a.m. New Year's Day I woke up to my phone ringing. One of the church leaders in Nanhupo informed me that in the middle of the night his step-son had died. Since there is no way to preserve dead bodies, funerals are often performed the same day. So I started 2008 by preaching the funeral of a small child. That same week Maggie had malaria and had been pretty sick. Thankfully she recovered well when we gave her the malaria treatment. It was a humbling start to the year, reflecting on our human frailty and God as the one and only giver of life.

After five months of waiting, our car is still in the shop. The new doors arrived from the factory this month, so hopefully it won't be too much longer. Since the car accident I have been getting out to the villages mostly by public transportation/hitchhiking, though it has been problematic for keeping a schedule, since sometimes I would wait over an hour for a ride. Since our teammates, the Smiths, are in the States right now I have been borrowing their car this month to visit the villages.

I resumed teaching through Mark in Nanhupo. I really believe this study has been beneficial not only spiritually, but educationally as well. The believers who have participated really seem to have developed their reading comprehension skills since when we first started. As we read Mark 12 I heard laughter as they read Jesus' response to the scribe's questions. This is really great, because I believe this study is helping them to develop the skills necessary to study other parts of the Bible on their own.

The church in Nanjua is also doing well. They have been blessed for the past two months by one church leader who had returned to the village while on break from school. This week they were planning to baptize three people. I purposely decided not to be present for the baptisms since I don't want the church in Nanjua to have the idea that a missionary needs to be present to baptize people. The church has also prayed about beginning a new church in a nearby village. We counted seven villages within walking

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Some of the Nanjua Christians at the church building

### Praise God For:

- ◆ Helping the editing process of the Metto hymnal
- ◆ Opening doors for evangelism in Marimano
- ◆ Spiritual growth in the church in Nanhupo
- ◆ Protecting Maggie from malaria
- ◆ The Rolands safe return from South Africa with baby Elijah



Our back yard is enjoying the benefits of the rainy season

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  
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distance that had no evangelical church. After praying and fasting we decided that we should begin working in a neighboring village called Marimano. Last week we walked around the village and invited people who were interested to a meeting to learn more about the Bible and to see if there was interest in starting a church. One man from the village has been visiting the church in Nanjua recently and he showed us a list of eleven people who were interested in studying the Bible. We are thankful that God is opening up a door for people to come to know him in Marimano!

The work on the hymnal continues and is now in the editing stage. I met with some church leaders and we worked on examining and recording about 50 songs from the old Metto hymnal. Over two days we edited and changed the lyrics to songs to make them more uplifting and scriptural. Then we worked on writing some new songs that were based on Biblical stories and verses. The result has been exciting as I have now compiled 120 hymns in the Metto language. I was really blessed to have one of the men on the Metto Bible translation team look over all the songs I had compiled and give grammatical and spelling feedback. Since I am far from proficient in writing Metto, this was a huge blessing! When some other Christians saw him working on it they told me, "We need a copy of these church songs!"

It is exciting to think about what the year has to offer. We hope to see the churches singing new and uplifting songs with traditional Makua music and the churches growing deeper as they study God's word. We hope to see new churches planted and new people brought to the Lord. The year has already had its share of difficulties. Amy's grandmother Roberson passed away this month. Maggie had malaria. We still don't have our car. In all this we recognize God as the one who directs all events and we trust his grace to sustain us in difficulties and bless us in triumphs.



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## Margarita's Mundo

Hi everyone! On February 3rd I am going to celebrate my second birthday!!! Mommy has been telling me all about my birthday and I can answer several important questions such as "how old are you?", "TWO!", "what kind of birthday cake are you going to have?", "Dora!" and "what kind of presents are you going to get at your birthday party?", "toys!". Well, everything that Mommy said came true and yesterday I had my second birthday party!

There were lots of balloons that I got to play with all day long and I had a birthday cake with Dora the Explorer on it! My friends came in the afternoon and we played Duck, Duck, Goose and then Daddy took us exploring just like on the Dora DVD! We had cake and I opened presents and got some really fun toys! It was a lot of fun and I liked eating the chocolate cake!



Maggie at her second birthday party



Birthday Party Balloon Fun

In other news I am learning new words every day, I always surprise Mommy and Daddy when we are looking through my books and I point to a picture and say a brand new word! I am also very adept at making all kinds of animal sounds, cow, dog, sheep and especially rooster! I am excited about this new year as a two year old! See you next month!

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Maggie, Mommy & Dora Cake

## Please Pray For:

- ◆ Our car repairs to be completed this month
- ◆ The evangelism in Marimano
- ◆ The Bible study in Nanhupo
- ◆ The editing process for the Metto hymnal
- ◆ Amy's family as they mourn the loss of her grandmother

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