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Westerholm Family News

Ministry in Mozambique

Five years ago we got on an airplane to leave the land that we knew to head to unknown territories. Were we crazy? Could we learn two languages? Could we live in a third world country? Could we actually reach the lost in another culture? What would God do? Five years later we can look back on the many unexpected events that took place and see God's providential hand of protection and blessing. Like many of the dirt roads in Africa, our ride here has been bumpy but the scenery is remarkably beautiful.

This month's bumps included several days with sporadic electricity, my first case of malaria, a theft, Amy losing a crown from her tooth, and our car still being in the shop. The main generator that powers all of Montepuez broke down this month for several days, so thankfully we had our small generator to run our fridge and freezer so we wouldn't lose all our food. Someone also stole some things off our porch one morning, including our teammate's bike that we were borrowing. This all happened the same day I came down with malaria which kept me in bed for three days! We also had a panic when Amy's crown fell off one night at dinner, but fortunately one of our teammates had some dental glue. After a few calls to a dentist friend in the States, Amy was able to get the crown back on at least temporarily. The latest on our car is that they have finished the body work and the painting, but they still need to remount the engine and everything else that has been taken apart. I think it will be done soon, but don't I write that every month?

The work in Marimano has been encouraging and challenging. For example, what do you do when the person whose house you have the Bible study at shows up drunk? You can't kick him off his own porch! Yet after studying about how David confessed his sins, this same man got on his knees and asked God to forgive his sins. A friend of mine commented that this man was tired of his sins and was looking for true rest in Christ. I am excited because I see emerging a core group of five men in Marimano that seem to have their hearts in the right place. They have really been paying attention to the messages and coming regularly to all the studies.

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Our Team Five Years Ago in Portugal

Praise God For:

- ◆ Chad's recovery from malaria
- ◆ The core group of people forming in Marimano
- ◆ The signs of maturity in Nanhupo
- ◆ Amy finding a temporary solution to her tooth problem
- ◆ Five years on the mission field



Our Team Today in Montepuez

On two Sundays this month I visited the church in Nanhupo and was encouraged to see how they have been developing. The first week I was delayed when the truck that I got a ride with wouldn't leave town until it had twenty people in it! However, when I got to the church they had already started without me, since there were two funerals that day in the village. I was glad to see their initiative and that they didn't feel like they had to wait for me. The second Sunday, the main church leader was gone on a trip, but the church was still well organized and there was good participation. I was thankful to see this development in the maturity of the church.

The two other Sundays I went to church in Naphela, a neighborhood here in Montepuez. However, the first Sunday that I went, I didn't find anyone at the church. The main church leader had left town on a trip, and no one had shown up to worship. I left and visited another church and preached there instead. On Easter Sunday I went to Naphela again, but only three people showed up. We had a worship service with just the four of us and a couple of children. After the church service we prayed together for the Christians in Naphela who are backslidden and those who were sick and unable to come to worship.

So, were we crazy to get on that plane five years ago? A little bit. Has everything gone as we had planned? Barely. Thankfully, God delights in using us despite our imperfect language abilities, our cultural blunders, our materialistic western lifestyle, and our impatience with an un-American society. It is a mystery why some churches do well, while others struggle. However, I receive great joy in presenting God's word to people for the first time and seeing them wrestle with the implications for their lives. We are glad that God uses us and continues to shape both those we minister to and ourselves to be more like Jesus.

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) 828-0436



Westerholm Family News



Margarita's Mundo

Hello everyone! Happy Easter! We just had an Easter party at our house and it was so much fun! Luke, Andrew and Josiah came over and we went on an Easter egg hunt! We hunted for colorful plastic eggs three or four times and on the last time there was candy in the eggs!!! I have been spending lots of time with my baby doll and a couple of stuffed animals. I like to put them down for naps, swaddle them in a blanket, change their diapers and put

them in the bouncy baby chair, Mommy says I do such a good job taking care of them. I also got to make sugar cookies for the first time with Mommy and that was so fun! Then today at pre-school we decorated the cookies Mommy and I had made. I had as much fun eating the cookies, icing and sprinkles as I did decorating! The rainy season is just coming to an end now and our yard is full of flowers. Every few days Daddy takes me out in the yard and lets me pick a big bouquet for Mommy and when I come in the house and give it to her it always makes her smile. I have been building my vocabulary and I am starting to put two or three words together to make sentences. Sometimes I just like to babble and talk to myself or sing songs just for the fun of it. I hope that you all have a great month! Talk to you again soon!



Easter Party



Making Sugar Cookies With Mommy

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Picking Flowers For Mommy

Please Pray For:

- ◆ Our car repairs to be completed this month
- ◆ Backslidden Christians in Naphela
- ◆ The Bible studies in Marimano and Nanhupo
- ◆ Our Annual Nationwide Missionary Retreat in April
- ◆ Health for our team

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