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# Westerholm Family News

## Ministry in Mozambique

I believe what brings about spiritual transformation is the Holy Spirit working as people study God's word. One of the greatest challenges of working with the Makua-Metto is that there is no Bible available in their language. In 1996 a missionary family began the arduous task of translating the Bible into Metto. Often it takes over twenty years to complete an entire Bible translation! Last week we finally received books containing Genesis, Jonah, Mark, and James in the Metto language. We were so excited to have them available that we bought 1,000 copies!

Why is it important to have scripture in Metto when there is already a Bible in Portuguese? First, many Metto people are unable to understand Portuguese. If a church works solely in Portuguese, the majority will not hear God's word. Many theological words will also be easily misunderstood, such as 'disciple', 'righteousness', 'faith', or 'repentance'. When scripture is available in a local language it is understandable to all.

The work in the churches has been going well. The new church in Marimano has been meeting regularly and each Sunday someone from Nanjua walks for three hours in order to help them with their worship service. It is exciting to see how the leaders in Nanjua have stepped up to take on this responsibility of guiding a new church.

Next week the church in Nanjua will host an annual provincial conference for the Churches of Christ. Members of the 25 churches throughout the province will come to Nanjua for worship, Bible study, evangelism, and fellowship for three days. Given the nature of such a big event the church in Nanjua has been busy making preparations. One Saturday this month we held a work day in order to dig two latrines and build a gazebo outside of the church building. More than twenty Christians from Montepuez, Nanhupo, Nanjua, and Marimano came together to work. I was pleasantly surprised when I went to Marimano to pick up some of the members and found that they had already started walking to Nanjua on their own. We put the car to good use driving out to the bush and cutting bamboos, grass, and posts for the con-

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Boxes full of the new Metto Scripture

### Praise God For:

- ◆ Repentance that is taking place in the leadership of the Nampula churches.
- ◆ Having Metto Scripture available to churches
- ◆ Great turn out for the construction work in Nanjua
- ◆ Safe travels on our survey trip
- ◆ We have recorded 30 songs for the Metto hymnal



Chad teaching in Nanhupo

struction. It was a joy to see everyone working together in Christian love.

This month we have also had two college students interning with us, Hannah and Whitney. They have been following us around and seeing our work up close. The internship provides a unique opportunity for young people to see what is involved in African missions. By spending over a month here the interns begin to understand some of the complex issues that churches and missionaries deal with on a daily basis.

Another important aspect of the internship is that we do a survey of an area that has a need for missionaries. On a survey we seek to answer two basic questions: Is there a significant need for missionaries and what would it take for a missionary to live in this area? This year we spent a week surveying the coastal areas of the Nampula province. This area is mostly Muslim and nearly all the churches in the area are composed of people who have moved there from further inland. Thus, the churches that exist in the coastal towns are not people from that area; there are actually very few Christians from the coastal Makua. As is the case in much of Mozambique, there is much work and too few workers.

We ended our survey with a trip to Nampula city where we visited some of our missionary colleagues and churches. The timing was providential since just before we arrived a case of adultery and witchcraft involving the members of the leadership in the churches was exposed. I was able to participate in a meeting that dealt with this and preach on Sunday specifically about witchcraft, which apparently is a big problem in the Nampula churches. I was impressed when I heard that after my sermon, one of the church leaders voluntarily stepped down for a time from a ministry position. I am reminded that God's word touches people's hearts. We are excited to be a part of spreading that powerful word.

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



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## Margarita's Mundo

Hello again! I have some very exciting news to share, I am going to be a big sister! Mommy and Daddy say we are going to welcome a new baby into our family in February of next year and I am excited! Mommy and Daddy are excited too but Mommy sure is sleepy and a bit sick to her tummy a lot these days! I have been helping her around the house as much as I can and that makes her smile

(see picture at right). We had house guests this month, the interns from Harding University, Hannah and Whitney. I have had a lot of fun making friends with them. Last week Mommy, Daddy, Hannah, Whitney and I all went on a survey trip to Nacala and Nampula. It was so much fun! I got to play on the beach in Nacala and build in the sand with Daddy. I love going to the beach, splashing in the ocean and playing for hours in the sand. I also had a lot of fun riding in the car on our trip. Mommy and Daddy can't believe all the words I know! When we were driving and I saw something special I would exclaim what it was so everyone else could look too. I saw mountains, tractors, big trucks and I learned how to say "Watch Out!" at opportune times. So I will leave you with "Watch out for next month's newsletter!" See you then!



Maggie playing outside



Maggie carries her bucket on her head like the Makua

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Maggie & Daddy at the Beach

## Please Pray For:

- ◆ Amy to have a healthy pregnancy
- ◆ Recordings for the Metto hymnal to finish well
- ◆ Repentance for Christians involved in witchcraft
- ◆ The upcoming provincial conference in Nanjua
- ◆ Chad's niece Jenna whose cancer has returned
- ◆ Chad's Grandmother who just had heart surgery

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