



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

Westerholm Family News

Ministry in Mozambique

Almost three years ago, I drove an hour from Montepuez to visit Nanjua for the first time and I worshipped with five believers. I didn't understand their Makua, and I didn't know much about them or their families. The last Saturday before we left, I had quite the opposite experience. Half way to Nanjua I stopped in Nanhupo. Three years ago there was no church there; today three of the strongest leaders that I work with are leading that church to develop. After passing through Nanjua and picking up the church leaders there, we went on to Mesa where we began to have an in depth Bible study on prayer. Our Bible study was interrupted by a funeral that we attended. After our study we baptized a young man and then went on to visit Marimano to evangelize. Visiting house to house in groups of two and three we walked throughout the village sharing the good news of Jesus. I visited the home of Carlitos, who died last month. I shared the gospel with his family who were all very interested. Carlitos' younger brother said that he was ready to commit his life to the Lord.

The picture is quite different today than it was three years ago. In the area east of Montepuez, four churches exist where previously there was only one. The church in Nanjua is now active in evangelizing new areas, whereas before they didn't even worship every Sunday. In this area there have been about fifty baptisms in the past two years, and almost all are still faithful. Eight Christians who were living in sin have turned their lives around and renewed their commitment to the Lord. Prior to having hymnals, people sang random songs that weren't praises to God. Some weren't even in a language they understood! Today God is being praised in these villages in the Makua-Metto language. In other distant areas, our team had been unable to visit struggling churches. In Mukhola (almost a three hour drive) the church was isolated and had not grown. Today churches exist in two neighboring villages and we have had multiple opportunities to teach there. I have begun working with the church in Meluco which is also new. In the churches I work regularly with I have begun to disciple and train eight leaders who will be capable of leading and planting churches themselves.

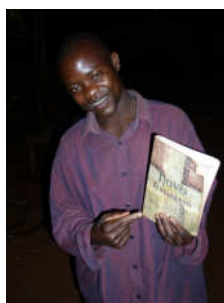
Volume 7, Issue 12
December 2008



Watching a baptism at the Mesa dam

Praise God For:

- ◆ The baptism in Mesa.
- ◆ The willingness of the Mozambican leaders to plant churches themselves.
- ◆ The openness of Carlitos' family in Marimano.
- ◆ The growth of the church in the past few years.
- ◆ A refreshing time with family and friends in the States



Julio, one of the eight church leaders I have been discipling.

I shared with these church leaders some of my ideas for 2009 and different areas I am considering working. The leaders in Nanhupo told me, "Don't plant any churches in the villages near us. We can walk there and evangelize them ourselves. You can go to other places." This is exactly what we have prayed would happen. The church leaders have grown to a point where they take responsibility to plant new churches themselves. I am hopeful that our time on furlough will help the believers begin to evangelize and disciple others while I am away.

While it is sad to be away from home, it has been refreshing to be back in the States and see so many of our family and friends. My family was able to get together for the Holidays for the first time in six years. We especially enjoyed seeing our new nephews and niece: Braden, Justin, and Madeline. It was bittersweet seeing our niece, Jenna, whose cancer is now in an advanced stage. In Memphis, we have visited with Amy's extended family who have enjoyed



Brothers and Sisters at the Church in Nanhupo

playing with Maggie. We have also had opportunity to spend time with our sponsoring church, the Cordova Community Church. Reconnecting with old friends, multiple doctor's appointments, fundraising, schooling, are all part of the typical furlough that we are now experiencing fully. We look forward to visiting with as many of you as possible while we are here. We are still organizing our travel plans, though we will be mostly in Memphis until after our new baby is born in February. Thank you for your support in 2008!

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