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Cabo Delgado, Mozambique

# Westerholm Family News

## Ministry in Mozambique

In 1 Corinthians 11:2, Paul praises the Corinthian church for remembering him and his teachings, but just a few verses later in 11:17 he tells them that he has no praise for them regarding their meetings. One could make a rough analogy between Paul's experience with the Corinthian church and my own work with the Metto churches. In both situations, the absence of the missionary for a time proved an opportunity for the church to show strengths as well as weaknesses.

On the positive side, the churches in Nanhupo, Mesa, and Maremano all have constructed church buildings on their own. Although the buildings are crudely built by western standards, they reflect the local architecture and resources available. Most importantly they show the initiative of each church to be visible in their community. I was also very encouraged to see the degree of cooperation that exists between these churches. Leaders from the church in Nanjua visited the church in Maremano on eight different occasions to encourage the new believers there. The churches also held area wide leadership meetings. Three of the church leaders (Africa, Ataide, and Cosme) traveled 40km (24.8 miles) by bicycle to attend these meetings. This is an important aspect of our vision for the churches; we want to see the churches depending upon each other and encouraging each other to help grow spiritually among themselves. These meetings represent an important step in that process, even more so since they began in my absence. I was encouraged as well to see that all four of these churches have been dealing with their finances in a responsible manner, with no misuse of church funds. Also, it was encouraging to see Africa make contacts in three different villages where people are interested in having a church started.

Paradoxically, some of those who have invested the most in the growth of the churches have also been responsible for problems in the churches. It has come to my attention that both Africa and Cosme have been drinking again. On one occasion Africa went to Maremano while drunk and insulted people there. After this the church in Maremano decided to stop meeting (they have since resumed meeting together). What is even more disturbing

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Kids playing outside the church building in Nanhupo

### Praise God For:

- ◆ Our safe travels back to Africa.
- ◆ Two new commitments to support our ministry from Church in the Falls in Cuyahoga Falls, OH and Levy Church of Christ in North Little Rock, AR.
- ◆ Cosme's desire to grow spiritually and attitude of repentance.
- ◆ A blessed visit with one of our team's mentors, Dr. Rackley
- ◆ We now have fast internet in Montepuez!



Maggie plays after the church service while the offering money is being registered

is that the churches allowed this to go on without confronting these issues sufficiently. Cosme did confess to me his drinking, but Africa denied drinking until he was caught. All this has been extremely frustrating and bewildering. Why do those who have sacrificed so much for the Lord continue openly in sin? Why evangelize others at great cost and then undo what you have just done through blatant hypocrisy? How do these churches go forward from here?

Both Africa and Cosme are currently taking a break from teaching in the church until the end of the year. So far, Africa's attitude has been poor and he has accused me of trying to destroy the church in Nanjua. I have been worried by his reaction because he has not taken responsibility for his actions nor openly confessed about his struggle. Cosme has asked the church for prayers to help him overcome his drinking problem and has been grateful for the correction that the church has given, but he is still drinking occasionally.

I was reminded recently that Paul often referred to the Christians he worked with as "saints". In 1 Corinthians 1:2 he wrote, "To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy..." and in 2 Corinthians 1:1 "To the church of God in Corinth, together with all the saints throughout Achaia." Despite being painfully aware of the Corinthian church's sinfulness, he reminded them of their calling to be holy. He even went so far as to say that they were already sanctified in Christ Jesus despite knowing a whole list of problems that existed there. Paul doesn't deny the church's imperfections; he readily recognizes them. But Paul points to a different reality, the reality in Christ which says that the church has been sanctified in Christ Jesus, that unworthy though they are they have been given the title "saints" and one day they will be blameless (1 Corinthians 1:8). As a missionary helping the Metto churches I am reminded by Paul's example that my job is to help point churches to a new reality in Christ: namely the reality that we share in being called saints and being sanctified despite our unworthiness.

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

Cordova Community Church  
2964 Ole Bartlett Ct.  
Suite #5  
Bartlett, TN 38134

**PLEASE NOTE THE ABOVE ADDRESS CHANGE**



# Westerholm Family News

## Margarita e Isabel



Jane & Maggie

Hi! Mom wrote our section of the newsletter last time so this is the first month for me and my sister Jane Elizabeth to write together! We are glad to be back at our home in Africa. We have been playing a lot! I have really enjoyed getting to play with my teammates again and getting to see our Mozambican friends. Our whole family has been driving out to church on Sundays.

Mommy has to start packing a bag with all the things we will need the night before so we can leave on time the next morning. She brings all the things you need for a trip to the village like toilet paper, wet wipes, hand sanitizer, sunscreen, bug repellent, snacks, and homemade baby food with cold packs for Jane, snacks for me, water for the whole family, changes of clothes and plenty of activities and toys like a bucket and a shovel for digging in the church building. Mommy and Daddy wake us up early on Sunday mornings and we have to drive for a long time to get to church and sometimes when we are almost there we have to go down a really bumpy road and our car seats rock back and forth and Jane starts giggling! Once we arrive I get to go around and say Salama to everyone and shake hands and then I get to start running around and playing with the other kids until church gets started. I am



Maggie, Jane, and Amy having a seat at church

learning to share my toys and I love giving out stickers to the friends I meet. Jane is really growing, she has four teeth and although she is not crawling yet she is getting from place to place by scooting and lunging! Sometimes when she scoots all the way to the lego houses that I build and tears them down we call her Janezilla! She is a very happy baby and she loves her big sister! I tell Mommy that I love her too...sometimes :) Thank you all for your love and support! We miss you! See you next month!

## Volume 8, Issue 7-9 September 2009



Amy and Jane with one of our sisters in Christ from Nampula

### Please Pray For:

- ◆ Freedom from alcoholism for Cosme and Africa.
- ◆ Peaceful presidential elections at the end of October.
- ◆ Safe travels as we go to Lichinga to visit our colleagues, the Holttons and Caldwell.
- ◆ A church census we are conducting to find out how to better serve the churches.
- ◆ Health for our whole family.

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