



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

Westerholm Family News

Ministry in Mozambique

What exactly is marriage? Across the globe different definitions vie for acceptance and various norms exist depending on each culture. How then does an American teach Africans on a topic that is so culturally bound? When approached with a question about marriage, Jesus responded by going back to the creation account of Genesis (Mark 10:6-9). In so doing, he directs us to a time prior to the rise of differing cultures to a moment when God's ideal could be seen clearly. Following Jesus' example, we like to start our teaching in Genesis. While we are sensitive to the many cultural differences between ourselves and the Makua-Metto people we also remember that God is Lord over all cultures.

Every year, our team holds seminars for each of the districts we work in. This year our team taught nine seminars and the theme was marriage. About 14% of the population in our area is HIV positive, and nearly half the young men will likely die of AIDS. With no formal marriage ceremony present in the culture, many view marriage as temporary. I know one young man who is on his fourth marriage in little over a year. Further, there is a tradition among the Makua that when a woman gives birth, she is not allowed to sleep with her husband until the child is two years old. People fear that not doing so will result in the child becoming sick and dying. Thus, adultery is rampant and even accepted. Even within more stable marriages, spousal abuse and discord are common problems. Because of all this, we really see that accepting or rejecting God's intent for marriage has serious implications for the Metto people.

The weather in Mozambique in October and November is at its hottest and driest. When it hasn't rained in months, it means that most riverbeds are dry and roads are open that other times of the year cannot be travelled due to creeks and rivers. Amy and I decided to take advantage of the open roads and visit our colleagues the Holtons and the Caldwells in Lichinga. Lichinga is about a twelve hour drive from Montepuez, but the first 100 miles take about eight hours to drive! When we crossed several bridges on the way, we had to stop at each one to see if it was strong enough to hold our truck!

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Chad inspects one of the bridges on the road to Lichinga

Praise God For:

- ◆ Contacts made in Mahera and Nakoja
- ◆ Successful marriage seminars in multiple districts.
- ◆ Safe travels to and from Lichinga
- ◆ Healing us from numerous sicknesses in the past two months
- ◆ Peace and safety in Mozambique during the presidential elections.



Listening at one of the marriage seminars.

Visiting with the Holtons and Caldwells was a great opportunity to see a number of innovative ministry strategies that they have implemented. What was especially noteworthy was seeing their resource center which provides agricultural resources that they can take to the numerous villages they are working in. Thus they are introducing new plants and basic technologies together with scripture. All this was helpful because this year our team purchased a plot of land in Montepuez which we are working to develop. We hope that as we develop the land that it can further bless our service to the community here.

This month I have also been making preparations to begin working in two new villages in November. One village is called Mahera, and is a few kilometers down the paved road from Nanjua. One man there has recently become a Christian and is helping to organize a Bible study in the village. The other village is called Nakoja and feels like it is in the middle of nowhere. A man who used to worship with the church in Nanjua moved there several years ago, but because there was no church there, he had been alone. Since we have promised to go out there and start teaching the Bible, he has already gotten a group together to start reading the Bible together on their own. It is exciting to see how God is working in these two villages and we are praying that our teaching there will be received well.

Last week at one of our marriage seminars, we baptized five people. I haven't even taught one lesson in Nakoja and there are already people who are ready to start a church and are meeting together regularly. It is a privilege to be in Mozambique at this time when God's Spirit is at work calling people to him. Sometimes it is obvious that God multiplies our efforts and works well beyond the little we do in his name. We are thankful to be here at this point in history, seeing God working and changing a people.



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



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Margarita e Isabel



Jane & Maggie

Hi everyone! We are at the conclusion of a month which Mommy dubbed "Adventure Month!" We were on the road a lot this month doing a lot of traveling. Just about every week we have taken a trip somewhere new. At the beginning of the month we went on a super long trip all the way to Lichinga! About six hours of the twelve hour drive was on very bumpy roads. It was difficult even to eat a snack on these roads without the food flying out of my hand! Mommy and Daddy were amazed though that Jane and I were still able to sleep whenever we wanted while we bounced to and fro in the car seats! We had a great time in Lichinga and got to see cows, bunnies and all kinds of fun plants and animals at the farm and play with all the kids on the Lichinga team. We also got to drink fresh cow milk which I loved! The next week we went to a far away village called Namuno. We got to set up a tent and spend the night there and that was really fun. Mommy even let me stay up late after dinner that night and watch part of the Jesus film that we were showing for the village. I liked sitting out under the stars and watching a show with stories about Jesus. During the day while we were in Namuno I liked to run around with the Mozambican children and dig in the dirt with my bucket and shovels. Jane has been having many adventures of her own this month too since she started crawling! She can go anywhere now and she loves to explore and try to eat everything she encounters. Jane also started playing "Peek-a-boo" with all of us at the table. She uses her bib and holds it over her face while we ask where she is and then she giggles and laughs when we say "Peek-a-boo"! We are leaving today for our annual team retreat. This year we are going to be staying at the beach in Pemba and I am so excited about being there with all my friends. See you next month!



Maggie and Hallie Caldwell playing together in Lichinga

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Maggie shells beans with women in Mukholo

Please Pray For:

- ◆ The Bible studies we will be having in Mahera and Nakoja
- ◆ Continued peace after the elections
- ◆ A blessed time for our annual team retreat this weekend.
- ◆ Leti, a church leader in Nanjua who is trying to learn to read.
- ◆ The many people who don't have easy access to water during the dry season.

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