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Westerholm Family News

Ministry in Mozambique

I recently counted thirty villages in the vicinity of the churches I work with on a regular basis. This means that out of thirty villages, only six have a Church of Christ, and half have no church at all. Even for those villages that do have an evangelical church, the Christian population is rarely above 1%. This does not even take into account other nearby villages that I have yet to survey. I am limited by time constraints and do not know where to begin in the great task before me. I am often brought back to the idea that I must trust God's Spirit to lead me to work where He desires me to.

This month I began working in three new villages though it was not my intention. However, circumstances have led me to believe that God has providentially opened doors to work in these villages. A few weeks ago, while visiting the church in Mesa, I saw a man that I knew I had seen before, but couldn't remember from where. After talking to him, I remembered meeting him three years ago in Montepuez. He was introduced to me then as a new believer, but I hadn't seen him since. He was visiting Mesa but lives in Nacimoja, which is a village near Nanhupo, where one of the church leaders of Nanhupo happens to teach in the school. He told me that he and three of his friends were interested in starting a church there and asked if I could help.

About a month ago I also met Armindo, a church leader from Nkunama, where my teammate Alan works. When I spoke with him I found out that he was from a village called Menhuene which I had heard about for a long time since it is close to four existing churches. Armindo and I set a date to go visit his family there. It had been about three years since Armindo had been able to visit his home village, so you can imagine all the excitement when he showed up. Some of the women cried and others danced when they saw him. It was a special visit which reminded me of the joy of God when His children come home. We promised to come the following week to begin a Bible study. In the following weeks twenty of Armindo's family and friends gathered each Saturday to hear us share the word of the Lord.

Recently while visiting the church in Mahera, one of the members told me that a pastor of a church in a neighboring village, Nacololo, wanted me to

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Chad teaching at the new church in Mahera.

Praise God For:

- ◆ The new Bible studies in Nacimoja, Nacololo, and Menhuene
- ◆ Significant progress with the literacy work in Nanjua
- ◆ Improved rains in the past few weeks
- ◆ The recent Bible translation work being done in Metto
- ◆ Our family's health



Sunday Lunch in Mahera

come to start another church in his village. We met with the pastor who told me that one of his members wanted to join our church and help start a new church in the village since it had over 8,000 people. At this point I was a bit suspicious that I wasn't being told the whole story, but I went ahead and made plans to visit the mayor of the village to introduce myself. The next week when I returned, the young man who was going to help us start a church was drunk and bruised from a fight. Now it became clearer why the pastor was ready for him to join our church! I was about to leave the village when the mayor rode up on his bicycle and invited me to his house. At this point I really wanted to leave because I felt rather silly going to the mayor's house with a drunk guy who wants to start a church, but I felt stuck. We went to the mayor's house and then found out that the mayor was actually a Christian! He told me that his brother-in-law and another friend were also Christians and they were ready to start a church but needed some help. Since then we have begun a Bible study at the mayor's home. I have seen in each of these three villages how God's Spirit works in a variety of ways to spread his word.

One of the other projects I have begun this month is helping with revisions of the Metto translation of Ephesians by SIL/Wycliffe Bible translators. Pastors of various churches in Montepuez and I have been carefully reading through the translation together. We have discussed the translation of many words in Ephesians including 'temple'. In the Makua-Metto culture, people will often make a *nikhwiti*, a small house dedicated to a spirit, so that a spirit will come and live there and help that family. We examined Ephesians 2:21 which says that all Christians together with Christ, are built together to become a holy *nikhwiti*. The idea that we as a church are a *nikhwiti* of God's Spirit is encouraging, because a *nikhwiti* is merely a dwelling place of a spirit. The purpose of the *nikhwiti* is to offer a place where a spirit may dwell and work; in our case the spirit is the Holy Spirit of God and we are a holy *nikhwiti*. My prayer is that we all remember that God's Spirit is living in us and working through us, we are just the *nikhwiti* which houses God's Spirit.

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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Westerholm Family News

Margarita e Isabel



Jane & Maggie



Maggie at her 4th birthday party.

Hi everyone! February is an exciting month for our family because I turned four years old and Jane turned one year old! We had a great time celebrating our birthdays! Mommy made Jane a little white cake with purple flowers. For my cake I asked Mommy to put my swing on the tree in the backyard and the sky and my name. I asked her to put our whole family on the cake but she said maybe another year, so she just had me on my swing with my name and I thought it was very pretty! Some missionary friends of ours from Nampula were also in town and came to my birthday party and we had a lot of fun. We had face painting, a scavenger hunt and musical chairs, it was great! Then we got to eat pizza and birthday cake! I really had fun on my birthday. Jane Elizabeth has been toddling around all over the place and she loves to climb! We have been having so much fun playing together. Every morning after breakfast we have been going to our room and happily playing house together, Mommy says with a smile that we have entered a new era! Jane has also recently discovered the dress up box! She loves to play with the pretty ribbons and drape them over her shoulders and carry the little purses and sparkly necklaces around. Lately I have been making Mommy and Daddy laugh. They liked it when I sang "Do Lord, oh do Lord, oh do you know the muffin man?" and "I've been working on the radio all the live long day". They also liked it when I said "Happy Valenstine's Day!" I really enjoy making them smile. It's been great talking to you and we will see you next month!



Maggie and Jane are on the go!

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Jane and Amy hold her first birthday cake.

Please Pray For:

- ◆ Three important ministry meetings taking place this month.
- ◆ The new churches in Nakoja and Mahera
- ◆ The new Bible studies in Nacololo, Menhuene, and Nacimoja
- ◆ Our teammates, the Howells who are preparing to return from the States
- ◆ Our friend Leti, who is learning to read

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