

Smith's e-Mail News

Monday, August 2, 2004

August Newsletter

New Email Updates

After trying hard to send paper newsletters 3 or 4 times a year from here, we've realized that it's much harder from Mozambique than it was from the U.S. Therefore, we have decided to cut down on the number of paper newsletters and concentrate more on sending out regular email newsletters so all of you will hear from us more often.

If anyone would rather not receive these regular newsletters please reply to this message with "unsubscribe" in the subject line. We will take you off of this list, but you will continue to receive our paper newsletters, which will come out much less often.

We are not sure about the formatting of this issue. We have included pictures along with the text. If you cannot see them please let us know and we will try to find a better way for next time. If you want to see more pictures please see our website at www.makuateam.org.

Brief "Catch-Up"

Some of you haven't heard from us in quite awhile and so we thought it would be important to give a brief history of what's been going on with us. We moved to Mozambique on the 15th of December of 2003. We lived in the city of Nampula while we did surveys of several different areas of northern Mozambique. In April 2004 after reporting on each survey we decided as a team to move to Montepuez in Cabo Delgado province and work among the Makua-Meetto people. Everyone on the team was able to find housing there and got all settled in. We received our containers from the States and moved everything into our homes.

Big Team Changes

Sam Shewmaker our dear friend and team mentor was able to be with us for about 5 days this last week. His stay here was incredibly blessed! God sent him at just the right time. After we moved to Montepuez, the Holton's felt a calling to go work with the Yao tribe in a neighboring province. This was causing a lot of pain on the team, since we are all very close and had dreams of working all together. Sam was able to process through a lot of that situation with us. He spent hours listening to each family and hearing things from their perspective. After hearing us all out he synthesized what everyone said and from that a decision was made to split into two teams. The Holton's and Caldwell's will be going to work with the Yao, and the other 4 couples will work with the Makua. This has been really tough for Jeremy and me because we are very close to both families and will miss them terribly since they'll be over 2 days drive away from us. We are so thankful that Sam was able to help us bless that team and release them. We are also thankful that this is not at all due to personality conflicts. We would really appreciate your prayers as we begin working as a new team to solidify plans, visions, and goals.

Family Update

Our big news is that Martha is now 4 months pregnant. We are expecting a baby in the middle of next January. It is very exciting to us and we are trying to adjust our minds to the idea of having two kids. AAAHHH SCARY!!

Luke is doing very well. He is becoming a little boy instead of a baby. New words come out of his mouth constantly and he's turning into quite a chatter box. He loves playing with teammates "Asher" and "Abby" and of course their toys. Any time we come in contact with Mozambicans he raises his hand and says "Salama" or "Bom Dia". He has radar ears for airplanes, bells, and roosters. Basically he likes Africa and just rolls with the punches of all these moves.

Smith's e-Mail News

Monday, August 2, 2004

Martha's brother, Chris, and his friend Nathan were here for a month a couple of weeks ago. It was so much fun to get to know Chris as an adult. He has turned into a real sweet guy... quite a catch!

We love you guys! Thanks for your constant prayers and support. We hope you'll hear from us more often with our new system.

With love, Jeremy, Martha, Luke, and baby

Greetings from Mozambique,

Martha, Luke and I are doing well these days. We are really excited about what God will be doing among the Makua in the coming years. In past emails we have shared our fears and hurts about what has been happening here in northern Mozambique. We shared about our team and about government issues that have come up and discouraged us. It seems that God is helping resolve these events in his way and timing.

In Team news Sam Shewmaker, our team mentor, came to see us here in Mozambique in order to help us and encourage us. In the four days that he was here he took time to listen to every couple individually about our concerns and perspective about the issue of whether or not we should break into two teams. After that time with each couple he talked with us and suggested that there should be two teams. As of now Kyle and Ginger Holton along with Rusty and Ann Caldwell will be going to work among the Yao people in the northwest of Mozambique in the city of Lichinga. There will be about two and a half days of driving between us due to road conditions. The split was NOT made because of personal conflicts but rather because of God's calling to the Holton's and Caldwell's. It is a very tough time for us because we had expected to stay together and we are very close to both families. Our time with Sam helped us work through the issues and bless them on their way to the Yao people. We continue to pray that their ministry will be blessed. This does change our team dynamics quite a bit and so over the next month we will be reevaluating our vision, goals, and strategy as well as team dynamics. We would appreciate your prayers for this time as our team "rebuilds" and gets used to being only four couples strong.

We really thank all of you who sent emails during this time. They have encouraged us and kept us fed with the big picture that is sometimes easy to lose when trials come. Thank you so much.

Because of Christ,
Jeremy