

Smith's e-Mail News

Saturday, August 21, 2004

Personal and Family

Our family adjustment to living in Nampula is going well. The Westerholm's have already moved out of our house after spending four weeks with us. Martha's parents also came to visit us and encourage the team in our plans. They stayed for a week and we enjoyed every minute of it.

Martha's belly keeps growing and we are starting to make plans to come to the USA in the beginning of December in order to have our baby. Our team is very supportive in our decision to return to the states. Our plan is to fly into California around Dec. 10th and then fly straight to Dallas / Ft. Worth to live with Martha's brother and his family. The baby will be born there. We plan to visit both Pleasant Valley and Southwest sometime during our stay there. We fly back out of California at the end of February. Our goal is to be in the U.S. as short of a time as possible so we don't miss out on learning language and the work we are here to do. The reason we decided to go to the States for the baby has several facets. Missionaries here usually go to South Africa and end up being out of Mozambique for 3 -4 months waiting for paperwork etc. We thought that since we had to be gone that long anyway, it would be well worth it for us to spend the money to be with family during that time. That way they will all get to see the baby. Also, Martha's sister, Kathryn is having a baby about 3 weeks later so we will be able to be there for that.

Mission Work

Our work here is starting to grow. Even though we are not where we want to end up, geographically speaking, we are enjoying ministering among the people here. Martha and I have committed to working with a Church here that is called Muhaivire. We have met with the leaders and told them we would like to be of service while we are here. The missionary that works here told us that this church was really weak and that their main leader had just died, so we decided to work with them during our time in Nampula. Jeremy has been asked to speak every time we have been there, so far. The last two times it was the Communion talk and tomorrow he will be preaching.

We have also committed to helping with some construction on the ministry center here in town one afternoon each week. This will include putting screens on windows, painting, making curtains, and other projects.

Another area we would like to serve in while we are here is to three churches out in the "bush". Our commitment would be to go out there once a month for a 2-3 day seminar with all three churches. We would like to partner with another couple on the team to do this.

The team has also made a decision to visit churches in Zambezia, the province below Nampula. By doing this, we hope to form a connection between the work in the provinces here with the work we will be doing in Cabo Delgado province.

Our team is working together to make our ministry goals for the next few years as we get ready to move back to Montepuez after the elections in December. We hope to send those to you when they are completed. The team has spent a lot of time on this and on other team dynamics. We are doing this because the Roland's will be going to the southern part of Mozambique for the next few months and we had to get all this team planning in before they left.

Recently we have been searching for a Makua-metto teacher here in Nampula. We have interviewed a few possibilities and will probably start our classes back up in a week or so. This will be very good for the future of our ministry.

In our next report we hope to include a summary of a typical week here in Nampula for us. Our schedule will be changing a lot starting this next week so to present it now would not be accurate. We will be shifting a majority of our time from team strategy to our ministry and language learning.

Thank you for your support and prayers for our family and the team as a whole. We appreciate you so much.

With love,
Jeremy and Martha Smith (& Luke & baby)