



**Jeremy, Martha and
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MISSION TO THE MAKUA

CULTIVATING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

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Makua Fun

As you know, we've been spending the last several weeks continuing with our Makua-Metto classes. We had to do some review before we charged full speed ahead. Now we (including Luke) are deep in vocabulary, grammar, and conversations.

We really have had fun with lots of aspects of learning Metto. It is interesting to learn about the different ways they say things and their cultural views. We have discovered that a mom will call her child "mama" out of respect, which therefore means that a grandmother will call her granddaughter "sister" since they share the same mom. If you didn't get that, don't worry. It took lots of explaining before we finally understood. An important aspect we've learned about language learning is that you shouldn't ask "why". You just accept that it's different and move on.

Another aspect of learning Metto that we've enjoyed is getting out and practicing with people. They get such a kick out of hearing us speak their language. People, including lots of kids, will crowd around to hear and talk to us. We've really worked on including Luke in this whole process. We give him time to ask the people how to say different parts of his body as he points to them. He then repeats what they say and they just laugh with joy. The other day as we were practicing, Luke found a chicken tied to a string. He pulled the chicken all over the yard and made us all laugh so hard we cried.

I have to admit that learning language is not all fun and games. Many a day we have had to drag ourselves to class and out to practice with people. There have been times of frustration as we long to say so much more than we can. It will be wonderful one day to be able speak fluently with these people. We pray often for perseverance, understanding, and joy as we go through this daily process.



Out practicing Makua-Metto



**Luke learns how to
handle a chicken.**

"Roughing It"

This month our team has committed to making several trips out to the "bush" to visit a few churches. The purpose of these visits is to let the churches further south know what we will be doing in the north.

We had our first adventure this last week. Three couples on our team went to an area for 3 days. I'm sure we were quite a sight with 4 tents pitched in our host's backyard. (We had an extra tent for a preacher we took along with us.) The dirt in this area is about as red as I've ever seen. We could not believe what color Luke was every night when we gave him a cold bath, which he very much disliked. The lady who does our laundry commented on how dirty our clothes were from our trip. We ate chicken and rice for every single meal we were there, except one, which was chicken and cornmeal mush. This was very generous



of our hosts since they don't usually eat so well and were offering us their best.

Although we had sent a

letter letting the churches there know we were coming, they didn't get it before we drove up. Even though we surprised



them, we had two meetings with 12 different churches represented. We were really impressed with the churches' maturity. They gave each of our guys an opportunity to speak each time. They requested that one of us stay and work with them which we explained that we couldn't do. They also wanted advice on their children's programs and wanted our ladies to come down and do a women's seminar sometime. Maybe someday in the future we will be able to fulfill some of these requests.

We had a good visit with these churches, but we were very tired by the end and ready to get home. We went back down the rough road we'd come on, praying all the time that the bumps wouldn't send Martha into labor 😊. After we all had baths we felt much more relaxed and enjoyed our night's sleep on a comfortable mattress.

ARMANDO

When we had to leave Montepuez in such a rush, Armando (our night guard), told us he'd like to stay at our house around the clock to make sure things were okay while we were gone. We expected to be gone a week. When we came back 3 months later we asked him if he'd like to change his mind on this, but he committed to continue staying there all day and night.

Armando is a

very gentle, soft-spoken man. He plays so well with Luke, kicking the ball around the yard and helping him with whatever he needs. Luke really takes to him because of his gentleness. We have really developed a lot of trust in him. Others in the community have commented on how trustworthy he is. We really feel honored to have him working for us and wanted to share with you what a blessing he has been to our family.



PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Diligence with learning Makua-Metto.
2. Health for all the unborn babies on our team. (Martha, Mika, Ginger, Ann, Sarah)
3. Team dynamics and goal setting
4. Open doors to return to Montepuez