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Prayer Requests

1. PRAISE for our return to Montepuez!
2. Pray for wisdom and perseverance as we move back to work in Mtpz.
3. Team Unity
4. Health on the team, especially all the children.
5. The Westerholms who are on furlough (and expecting a baby!)
6. Saying goodbyes in Nampula.



MISSION TO THE MAKUA

Cultivating Christian Communities

To see more pictures... go to www.makuateam.org

Back to Montepuez!

Praise God! Thirteen Months after being asked to leave we have finally been granted permission to return and work among the Makua- Metto people in Montepuez.

For those of you who have followed us in this long and arduous journey and prayed with us over the past year, today is a day of thanksgiving.

After being asked to leave by the government on June 18, 2004 we have spent our time five hours south in the city of Nampula working with local churches and learning the Makua language. We have spent many days wondering why we were asked to leave and whether Montepuez was the place we should minister. The ups and downs of life hit us full force as we repeatedly visited government officials to resolve our paperwork and get permission to work in Montepuez again.

To say, however, that this past year was wasted or that our work was pushed back would be erroneous. Quite to the contrary, we have learned so much and have been blessed with enormous opportunities that we would not have otherwise had if we were still in Montepuez.

First of all, we had good reasons and opportunities to meet and get to know the highest government officials in our province. Secondly, we have been blessed immensely by the Makua language course that we are currently finishing up. Also, the Muahivire church has been a wonderful encouragement to us, as well as a place for us to cut our teeth in cross cultural ministry. All of these are opportunities we have been granted because of being asked to leave.

Maybe more importantly was the fact that we had a chance (though it was forced on us) to step back from previous plans and reflect on what we were doing, much like the apostle Paul going to Arabia or even Moses fleeing from Egypt to the desert to return later as a great leader. It was definitely a time of intense prayer and personal reflection about who we are in God.

In the next few weeks our plans are to move back to Montepuez and settle into our home that has been uninhabited for the last year. We look forward to seeing how our ministry unfolds. Thanks again to all who have supported us during these ups and downs. We are thrilled at the opportunities that lie before us in Montepuez. Now the hard work begins!



Alan and Jeremy stand next to the Director of Religious Affairs on the day of our acceptance.

Our Website has a new look! Check it Out!

www.makuateam.org



Leaders Cast Vision for the Church



After a year of working with the church at Muahivire, the leaders asked us to give them words of counsel and direction. A week before we started

working with the Muahivire church (July 2004) their preacher had just died and things were in disarray. He and his wife had taken all the money and spent it on personal projects. Legalism was commonplace, when he died suddenly.

We were honored to be asked for help. The answer to their request took the form of us putting on a leadership seminar that focused on

the purpose of the church. Having established the reason for being a church, a vision for serving the community and spreading the Good News of Jesus was presented by the leaders.

The 19 leaders present met in small groups to reflect on the nature of the church and shared their dreams for Muahivire. The leadership is young (spiritually speaking) but they are eager to learn. Today the church is steadily and faithfully seeking guidance from scripture to find their purpose and vision for the future. Praise God!



The M.V. DOULOS Docks in Nacala, Mozambique



A couple of weeks ago, one of Operation Mobilization's ships docked in a port two hours from where we live. The international crew of over 300 spent time in the churches and held youth events aboard the ship. On the top deck of the ship they had a bookstore with over 5,000 titles sold at reduced rates.

Martha and I had a chance to visit the ship one afternoon and shop for some books for ourselves and the boys. It was exciting to see all the books and to show our boys through parts of the huge ship. It was **very** crowded since it was open to the general public— but still enjoyable.



Fashion Statement

Mozambican fashion will not appear in New York or Paris any time soon, but it does have its own uniqueness.

Many times we have seen the fashion reflecting our times, much like the front page of a newspaper. Current events draw a lot of attention, and so why not make a shirt or skirt about it? During the presidential campaigns here in Mozambique, skirts were made and given away with the images of hopeful candidates. On the right are President Bush, Sadaam Hussein and a plane crashing into the World Trade Center.

We are constantly surprised by how hard it is to write the last sentence of an article.

