

# Smith's e-Mail News

Thursday, November 10, 2005

## October / November 2005

### Personal and Family

October has marked an "up to speed" month for our family - a first in a while. What I mean by this is that we have settled into our routine here in Montepuez. We have also been on the receiving end of many visits by nationals - many of which come with requests for monetary help of some sort or another. We've been going to many of their homes, as well, to see them and build our network of friends and fellow Christians.

Our children are also quickly becoming friends with our workers and guards here. Luke is starting to communicate in Portuguese some with our friends which has been exciting to watch. Andrew is crawling everywhere and on the verge of walking.

Our team is doing well. The Howells should be having their baby any day in Dallas, Texas. We are looking forward to hearing from them.

### Mission Work

We have hired a language teacher whose name is Avelino. We meet with him for two hours a day, four days a week. Martha and I meet together with him in the morning and then give each other time to study without the kids. This has been a real growing time for our language since we are getting to put into practice the things we learned at the Makua course we took in Anchilo. It is refreshing to be able to practice with just about anyone here since most people speak the same dialect of Makua. We take time most afternoons to go visit contacts and practice what we are learning.

Our family has been visiting the small local church of Christ which was started by Germino, a local evangelist. Martha regularly attends the Thursday morning ladies' class and has been given opportunities to share with the women there. We are working together with Germino to form a plan in which the team families can expand our work a little in this district during this time of language and culture learning. Specifically, this means that our family will "adopt" a young church plant started by Germino and spend most of our Sundays there. Our family has decided on the church that meets in the village of Mwatukha. We ask for your prayers for wisdom as we start venturing into some ministry arenas with our current level of Makua (Most people in Mwatukha don't speak Portuguese).

Our family was also blessed to be able to go to the Provincial leaders meeting in Chiure (2 hour drive from home) where about 40 brothers and sisters gathered for a time of teaching and exhortation. Jeremy was able to teach on the Mission of God, Church Leaders, and the Christian Family. Our family stayed in a tent for two nights, which became a lesson in why you should not pitch your tent in the sun (there was no shade available).

We have encountered a big need here in the northern part of Mozambique. Last year the rains came right on time for the planting season but abruptly stopped for over a month- scorching and killing the young corn plants that had come up. The United Nations has allocated money to help out with the impending hunger crisis, which shows that higher authorities know of this situation. So now as we head into our "hunger season" we are trying to find ways to relieve the situation. Prices for corn are much higher than in past years because of the great shortage last year. We have been approached by the local evangelist to see if we could buy corn now, warehouse it and when the hunger becomes great(er) then we would sell the corn to churches which would give it away as a way for ministry to Christians and non-Christians alike. We are prayerfully considering this relief work and are set to use work fund money and our personal funds to help out. We are planning on contacting supporters in the U.S., as well, to see if anyone else is interested in contributing towards this project.

We appreciate your commitment to us as we work here. We continue to ask for your prayers for wisdom as we minister here among the Makua Metto.

In Him,  
Jeremy, Martha, Luke, and Andrew Smith