



# MISSION TO THE MAKUA

*Cultivating Christian Communities*

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## Year in Review

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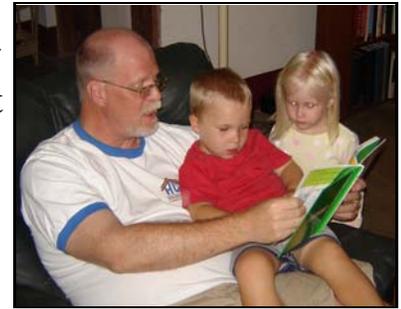
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### Prayer Requests

- Spiritual growth in our own lives
- Wisdom, love, and patience in our marriages
- Wisdom, love, and patience as we parent our children
- Health for everyone in our family and on the team
- Clarity, joy and understanding as we work to complete our language study
- Wisdom as we work with and teach people here
- That strong, godly leaders would emerge in all the churches we're working with
- That God would bless the ministries we have chosen to undertake next year

### Dr. Rackley

We were happy to have Dr. Vann Rackley from the Marriage and Family program at Harding come work with us here in Montepuez at the beginning of June. Each couple had a session with him alone, we had a girls' session and a guys' session, and we had 2 whole team sessions. Good spiritual growth has come out of this time with Dr. Rackley.



Dr. Rackley takes time out to read a book to the kids.

### Furlough



The new look of the Smith family

What a great 3 ½ months we spent in the U.S. this summer! We left in the middle of June and returned at the end of September. During our time there we traveled through eight states and were able to visit with the 5 churches that help support us and share what has

been going on with the work here in Montepuez. We had wonderful times with family and friends, sharing experiences and getting to know our nephews and niece. A couple of highlights were that Jeremy's brother, Nathan, got married to Jana. All of us except for Andrew were in the wedding. Also, Martha's brother, Chris, and his wife, Casey, had their first child. Little Margaret is the first granddaughter to be born to the family.



The whole Allison clan together (its harder than you think)

## Culture Study



Part of our work this year has been to study the culture here so we know what and who we are working with. Jeremy and I studied lots of different facets of marriage and family. We also studied “ntthema” (jealousy) which is a big part of life here.

### Language

Makua, Makua, Makua. That has been our biggest focus this year. We have spent hours in and out of class learning and studying. Thankfully we have really progressed and are even able to teach and preach in Makua now. Praise the Lord for that!



### Church Conference

There was a province wide church conference here in Montepuez in November. Jeremy and I were asked to teach an afternoon session on Christian marriage and parenting. We were able to include skits and lots of illustrations so we had such a fun time. We are looking forward to developing these lessons more and more to use in the future.



### Upacho

We decided to start working with a tiny church in Upaco starting in January. We have really enjoyed working with them all year long and seeing the church grow both spiritually and in numbers.



### Bonding



We have seen a lot of value in spending nights out in villages with Christians of that area. Our family has taken our tent and spent three-night weekends 5 different times this year in 4 different areas. These times have bonded us with the people of each area and given our language and culture study a big boost.



### Thanksgiving



There were turkeys with pop-up thermometers at the grocery store in Nampula this year! We bought one and were able to celebrate Thanksgiving together at our house with all of our teammates, the Vaughns, and the Holtons and Caldwells from Lichinga. It was a hot 94 degrees in the house but we had a great time of fellowshiping and “catching up” with the Lichinga team.





Russell and Shannon  
Vaughn

### Interns

The Vaughns, an intern couple from South Dakota, came to stay with our team for 3 weeks at the end of November. They are in the country to see if the Lord has a place for them to come and work in the future. They were able to experience a variety of cultural activities here and we took them to survey Pemba, as well.



Russell goes  
coconut hunting

### Birthdays



Jeremy and I each turned 30 this year. It's hard to believe we've passed on to another decade. 😊 Andrew turned 1 in January, so he's almost 2 now. Luke turned 4 in November.



Luke eyes his bulldozer cake  
with glee



Andrew finishes his first piece  
of cake ever at 1