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Prayer Requests

Please keep the following things in your prayers:

1. Spiritual and physical health of the missionaries in northern Mozambique.
2. Health, wholeness, and a safe delivery of our baby.
3. Life transformations of people we work with here.
4. Wisdom and vision as we teach and disciple others.
5. Caleb Gardner's complete recovery.
6. Total fluency in Makua.

MISSION TO THE MAKUA

Cultivating Christian Communities

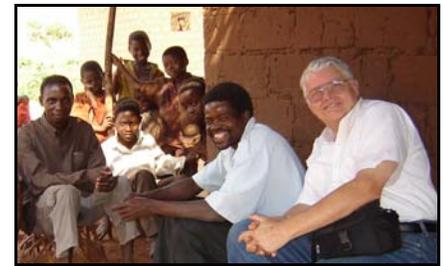
To see more pictures... go to www.makuateam.org

Webmaster visits his domain!



Jim Parks, an elder at Redlands church of Christ, visited for the first time in Mozambique to share his encouragement and to take in the sights and smells of ministry in Africa. Jim is also the webmaster of www.makuateam.org, our team website. His trip included tasting the local cuisine (corn meal mush) and visiting the works and different churches that our team is involved with. Jim was able to get to know the team and a few members of the churches here. Of course, a trip here would never be complete without being asked to preach impromptu! He handled it with grace. We had charged Jim with

the daunting task of helping people in America understand a little better what life and ministry are like in Africa. So the ever-present camera never stopped clicking away images of people and places. In the end, however, he had to admit- a picture is just not the same. So if you want a taste of Africa you can visit the website- but there is only one way to really experience it... by visiting us!



Teacher Needed for 2009!!!

Do any of you know of someone who would be available to serve in Mozambique starting in the fall of 2009? Our team will then have school age children and we are looking for someone to come and teach them for a year, two, or even more. Luke and Abby will be starting 1st grade in 2009 and Andrew and Josiah will be in pre-school. Ellie and Maggie may also be able to participate some in preschool.



Many teams in Africa have had students freshly out of college come and teach for only one school year. Other teachers have stayed longer. This could be a single, a married couple, someone younger, or older. Please pass this on to others you know who may be interested. Pray with us that we'll find the teachers we need to educate our children.



Two Surprise Medical Evacuations



The Gardners at our team retreat in April

When we applied for and received our international health insurance policies we noted that the company we use pays for emergency medical evacuations. We had thought it was a distant, remote possibility that we would even need to use this until last month. At the end of August two of our colleagues had to be medically evacuated from Mozambique to the neighboring country of South Africa.

On our way home from a meeting in Balama we received a message from Dan Been in Nampula saying that the 1 year old son of the Gardners, their teammates there, was having a lot of trouble breathing and they were working to get him evacuated to South Africa. He had been coughing a lot and then pretty rapidly he was unable to breathe due to his throat constricting. The doctors in Nampula were able to put tubes down his throat before it completely closed up and then hand pumped oxygen into his lungs for several hours until the jet from S.A. arrived. Since then Caleb has been in ICU in a hospital in Johannesburg. Although there have been numerous complications through the weeks, he has been gradually able to be weaned from the ventilators, sedatives, and other medications he was on. We are still waiting and praying for his complete recovery since he has woken up, but is not fully responding. The doctors have been concerned that his brain may have been damaged. Please keep praying for little Caleb Gardner and his family! (Gardner family website: www.gardnersforgod.org)



In Pemba, Amy gets transferred in an "ambulance"... and yes, the back stayed open during the drive!

One week to the day after this happened, our teammate here in Montepuez, Amy Westerholm, was driving home with her daughter Maggie when she had a major car accident. The car rolled over and the driver's side was completely crushed in. A Mozambican doctor came up on the accident and was able to get Amy out of the car and drive her an hour to Pemba where we and Chad were waiting. Maggie was completely unhurt, but Amy suffered several big lacerations on her head all the way to the skull as well as some injuries on her arms and hands. After a South African doctor looked her over in Pemba he highly recommended that she be medically evacuated to South Africa. A Cuban doctor in Pemba sewed her head and arm up and that night a jet came and got her. She was admitted to ICU at a hospital there and in the next few days the doctors opened up her wounds, cleaned them out, and

sewed them back again. They also found other injuries in her hands, like a broken thumb and took care of those. Amy has been healing well and we are hoping they will return to Montepuez soon.

These two incidents have really woken us up to the realities of medical care here in the northern part of Mozambique. There are no good health care options if an emergency happens and we would most likely have to be air lifted out of the country. Thankfully, there are some American and other foreign doctors that we can consult here. Also, we trust in the Big Doctor who sees and takes care of us daily. Please keep the missionaries here in your prayers. Pray for spiritual and physical health. MS



Amy waits for the airplane to arrive while a South African doctor keeps an eye on her.

Ministry Updates



A man from Ntivira gives his life to Christ in a nearby river.

We have begun a new phase of ministry here where we are transitioning out of the language learning phase. Although we still have language class one day a week, we have so much more time now for being with and ministering to people. It has been exciting to make this transition.

Jeremy asked the church in Upacho to be thinking about what village they'd like to help start a new church in. They came back quickly with the reply that they'd like to start one in Ntivira. Since then Jeremy has been taking men from Upacho to Ntivira to weekly share God's story with people there. He has been teaching major old testament stories and how they eventually tie into Jesus coming. Seven men from Ntivira have been coming to church in Upacho on Sundays and asked to be baptized several weeks ago. Although it's premature to have them work as a church on their own, this is an exciting first step.

Bush Trips

Since we work with several churches out in the bush we have decided to take long weekend trips to go out and be with and teach the Christians at these churches. Two of our families go out together to each place. This has been a lot of fun. We just got back a couple of weeks ago from Mukholo, a village 3 hours from here on pretty rough roads. The church there was started by an evangelist who came up from Nam-pula. It was neat to be with them. They are so far away that they rarely get visited. We noticed big differences in the dialect of Makua that they spoke and even in the sound of their singing. It was good to get to know the area and the people there.



The church at Mukholo, a bumpy three hour drive from our home.



Songs ring out on our porch followed by a lesson in Makua by Rachel

Women's Ministry

I have immensely enjoyed working with the ladies here in town, weekly. We rotate going to each others' homes for a time of worship. It's wonderful to be able to think of many of them as good friends now. We are able to joke and have fun together, as well as teach and share struggles. It has been a safe place for me to grow as I learn to teach and share my heart in Makua. I have also been blessed to have Rachel Howell share in this ministry with me. The ladies class has started taking trips to more remote churches in the bush to spend the night and worship with ladies there. I have really enjoyed these trips, especially since Rachel goes along, as well.

There are so many aspects to ministry here. It has been exciting to get to dream and start working towards some of those goals lately. Please join us in praying for these various ministries and that the Lord will give us wisdom as we work closely to teach and disciple people here. MS