



Jeremy, Martha, Luke,
Andrew and Joshua Smith

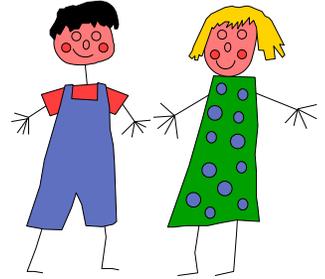
MISSION TO THE MAKUA

Cultivating Christian Communities

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

Yeah! Yeah! It's school today!

Are you wondering about the title? Luke and Abby danced around singing this their first few days of Kindergarten. I started teaching them in the middle of September, so we've now been in school 6 weeks. Let me tell you – It sure beats teaching 28 kids in a classroom in Memphis!



I have really enjoyed teaching them. Since there are just the two of them, we are able to do lots of fun things and they are able to quickly pick up the material. I turned one of the rooms in our new guesthouse into a schoolroom and so that's where we meet 3 mornings a week. I have tried to treat it like a real Kindergarten in the States and the kids seem to really enjoy it!

The biggest challenge is trying to balance that with being a full-time mom to two younger boys and being involved in lots of ministry things. Thankfully, Andrew really loves school, too. He has always enjoyed sitting down and doing focused activities. Therefore, he comes and joins us for part of the Kindergarten time. The other times our teammates watch him. Joshua sleeps for a good part of the morning and after he wakes up our gardener, Armando, watches him. Armando has always been really good with little kids. It has worked out well, so far.



We thank God for a good start to educating our kids. We are hoping to have teachers from the U.S. come for future years, but until that time I will do my best to fill that role. If you know of anyone who would want to come for a year or two let us know! MS

Volume 5, Issue 3
November, 2008

Contact Information:

Write to:

C.P. 140, Pemba,
Mozambique, Africa

Phone:

(011) 258-82-028-8800 -cell

(011) 258-272-51119- home

Email:

smithsinmoz@hotmail.com

Web site:

www.makuateam.org

Prayer Requests

1. Physical and spiritual health for everyone on our team.
2. The Westerholms as they get ready to go on furlough and to have their baby.
3. Wisdom as we teach and mentor people here.
4. Vision, wisdom, and a listening ear as we think about our goals for next year.
5. Fluency in Makua
6. Kindergarten
7. Life transformations in Christians here, to be a witness to others.

What is a Lorena Stove?

While I am not sure where the name “Lorena” came from- the stove that carries the name is a large blessing to the people who have tried it. This type of stove is not much to look at, but its design makes it many times more efficient than the normal way of cooking in our area of Mozambique.

Most people here cook with firewood over three stones. Firewood is getting harder and harder to find. Some people will walk an hour from home to scrounge around for bits of firewood to cook over. So, an efficient stove is needed that would reduce the amount of firewood consumed by a meal.

This new “model” has some real advantages that will work in our area- namely it costs nothing but a little bit of work. The resources necessary are dirt, straw, water, and a banana plant stalk- all of which are readily available for free.

It also contains the fire inside of itself so that little children will not accidentally fall in or burn themselves in some other way .

The pots are elevated and so the stove gives more “clearance” from curious hands. Once I saw a child who had walked backwards and fallen in a sitting position into a pot of boiling water. These kinds of accidents would be much less likely with the new stove.



Traditional three rock cooking arrangement



A completed stove in use in Opaco

How much more efficient is it? In order to find out the Lichinga team had a “boil off” between the two methods. Three rocks on one side and the Lorena stove on the other. Both contestants were to choose three pieces of firewood, burn them up and see how many pots of water they could boil. As soon as a pot started boiling, the water was thrown out and cold water added again. The three rocks were able to boil 8 but not 9 pots while the Lorena stove was able to boil 25 but not 26 pots of water!

If I was collecting firewood to make my supper I would try this new stove out now! But tradition is a hard thing to break and these cultures are not going to change just by listening to some story. It must be seen and experienced and have some Mozambicans “selling” the idea. Our current idea is to have the local churches use this as a service project to their villages. By building them for others they serve their friends and neighbors, they better their lives, and best of all – the glory goes to GOD. Pray with us that this plan can be implemented by our brothers and sisters in Christ. JS



Four brothers proudly show off the new stove they are building as a service project

Our Newest Church Plant: Merupe

Martha and the boys, along with others from the village, watch as six men and a woman are baptized at a creek outside of Merupe.



From inside the grass structure we get the "inside the fishbowl" perspective. (NOTE all the heads peeking through the grass)



A crowd forms around the temporary structure on our first Sunday in Merupe.

For some time now I have been studying with a family and some men at a village called Merupe. The brothers in Opaco said that is where they wanted to plant the next church. So each Tuesday we went together and taught through the Old Testament and then through Mark. Before we could finish our study they were begging us to be baptized. We praise God for the ways that he acts through the hearts of men. More and more the work of planning, teaching, and planting new churches has fallen to the Mozambican Christians.

Say it in Pictures



Luke turned 6 on November 3rd



Martha and Rachel reenact a famous scene from Star Wars between Princess Leah and R2-D2 at a party hosted by Mika, our die hard Star Wars fan.

Say it in Pictures... (continued)



Somehow cake tastes better with a cool picture on it.



At 10 months Joshua dons the big S on his chest as Super Baby



The Rolands held a special graduation ceremony for Abby and Luke as they left Pre-school for Kindergarten



Batman fever reaches Mozambique— but we got the cute cuddly ones.

Martha and I escape to Pemba for our 10 year anniversary in August. Our two boys stayed with the Howells but Joshua got to tag along.



From left to right— the kids on our team are: Maggie Westerholm, Andrew Smith, Josiah Roland, Luke Smith, Ellie Howell, Abby Howell, Joshua Smith and Elijah Roland. For Halloween this year the boys tended toward the Super Hero while the girls perfected the “really cute” look.