



Jeremy, Martha, Luke,
Andrew and Joshua Smith

MISSION TO THE MAKUA

Cultivating Christian Communities

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Training Leaders the Fun Way

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Prayer Requests

1. We always ask your prayers for health and safety – both physical and spiritual
2. Pray for our long trip down to South Africa to attend an organization conference and do much needed car work.
3. Pray that we will learn to listen to the Holy Spirit's guiding in our lives and work.
4. Pray for the Rolands' time in the U.S.
5. Pray for the Westerholms, also in the U.S., who just had a baby girl (Jane) and are trying to raise funds to return.
6. Pray for the leadership school
7. Pray for all the churches we are working with – for unity and strength.



Training church leaders to lead like Christ is a very important priority for us. That is why this year we have created the Leadership School. This year's class of 20 will meet six times and we will learn the basics

of teamwork and what it takes to stay together during the hard times. We will also learn other useful leadership skills that will enable the churches here to grow not only numerically but in the power of the Lord through His Spirit.

I will be the first to admit that for my team and I, this is a daunting task. For some time now our team has been teaching in villages and seeing the same old patterns in the leadership here. Young churches suffer from young leaders who are spiritually immature. Churches cannot grow well this way and the changes necessary are not intellectual but spiritual, reaching deep into the character of each person. So how can we change this?





The trust fall

We will attempt to have some fun!

Sharing some aspects of a ropes course, we are trying to match hard physical elements and emotionally tough initiatives and games that can then be used as parables (ones they have just sweated through) to draw out flaws in the system and clues to the answers. For our context- this is brand new stuff. So we thought we would give it a shot!



Walking together on these two boards proved very challenging.

It was worth the effort. In a show of unity and brotherhood, these 20 men ranging in age from 18 through 65, from



Only by trusting each other and working together did they accomplish their goal.

15 congregations went through a trust fall together where each one fell backward off a table and then were caught by their classmates. As a group they learned to walk in step with each other and solve difficult problems which they had never encountered before. Through much laughter and frustration, applications were made that related directly back to their situation here in Montepuez and to the work that Christ has called each of them to do.

So for the two days when these men stay at our house and we put on these “retreats” for them, we pray that the Lord would bind them together in order to leave their old patterns of jealousy and bickering behind and take up the true work of announcing the kingdom of God to those who have not yet heard . Pray with us that these men would rise to the occasion and let these “parables” draw out the necessary application for their lives.



My Favorite Sister's Wedding



Josh and Suzy

On January 2, 2009 my youngest sibling, Susanna Smith was married to Joshua Borgelt of Colorado. I was chosen to be a groomsman, which had many great benefits (I would find out later). The first was the all expenses paid (by me) trip to the USA. Everyone in Africa knows America is a great place to get away to, however, Martha and the kids were not going, so that was the negative aspect of my little excursion.

Another cool thing was my outfit. THIS wedding was going to be anything but ordinary in the fashion department. The groom had some special missions experiences in China while the bride had some special missions experiences in India. So the guys wore white Kung Fu suits (that is what I like to call them) while the brides maids all wore Indian Saris. The



result was actually quite stunning. I have been in other weddings before and donned the Tux quite a few times but the Kung Fu suit allowed for actual movement (Like Kung Fu moves :) Now get nine groomsmen (yes, 9) put them all in Kung Fu Suits, in an outside wedding, on a January evening, in southern California and what do you get?

Loads of Funny Poses.

The reception was quite another thing too. The groom decided he wanted everyone to leave saying, "That was the best food I have ever had at a wedding!"... and if I say so honestly myself, It was. There was Thai, Japanese, Indian, Mediterranean, Central American, and a some Italian (for the pickier eaters).



Practically, my whole extended family got to be there which was a real treat for me to see cousins, aunts and uncles that I hadn't seen in quite a while. So, in all, I spent two and a half weeks in southern California with my family. This was such a blessing and a time to reflect on the new year and what was ahead of me in Mozambique.

Sorry, back to the real reason I wrote this article... my sister got married. They enjoyed a honeymoon in Hawaii and then started working in New York at a boy's ranch. Foreign missions is a possibility for them on the horizon but for now the Big Apple will fill them with memories of their first year of marriage. JS.



My Family from Left to Right: Jeremy Smith (some might have confused me with Jackie Chan), Bruce (my Dad) (not Lee), Susanna, Josh, Beth (my Mom), Nathan (my brother), Jana (Nathan's wife).

Can they be Redeemed?

Deeply entrenched in the Makua culture are the initiation ceremonies for young girls. These ceremonies have some neat aspects, but are clouded by lots of immoral practices. We are hoping to redeem these ceremonies for the Lord - to have similar ceremonies where Christians can initiate their daughters in healthy, godly ways.



Although we had heard rumors about what went on at these ceremonies, we have a more complete picture now that I (Martha) have been able to attend a large portion of one. The ceremony is given for a specific girl (or girls) and yet many women participate. Normally, this event lasts two to three days. During the night hours all the women dance and drink. There is also a lot of nudity and sexual practices (when men come to visit). The girls being initiated are "shown" and taught very immoral things. One very prominent teaching is that women should always have another man, on the side, to make sure that their needs are always met.

We have tried to study and evaluate these practices in order to turn them around in the Church and redeem them for the Lord. Through talking to many people, we have come to realize that if we were to request that the church completely do away with these ceremonies that there would be a lot of social pressure to have a ceremony anyway, in secret. Families would also try to "kidnap" the girls to have them initiated.

The women in the church here have already tried to do 2 or 3 Christian ceremonies, but in January I was able to help with the biggest one so far. All the women in the church here went and spent the night at the house of the girl's parents. Late into the night we sang songs to the Lord and had a great time of fellowship and fun. There was also a time of giving good godly counsel to the girl. The next day, the whole group walked the girl to the church building and had a worship / counsel giving service there. All the women then ate a great meal together. The girl was asked to come out and was then given gifts by everyone present. The women's class here in town had all collected money to buy her a big group gift. After this time was over, we were all served a wonderful meal and then went home.



When asked what the mother thought about how the ceremony went she was very pleased. It seemed like a great way to keep the good and fun parts of the initiation ceremonies here, while replacing the immoral parts with godly counsel and fellowship. We covet your prayers as we strive to redeem this whole practice for the Lord. May He give us wisdom and direction as we head down this road.

Funds Needed by Teammates!!!!



Our teammates, the Westerholms, are currently in the U.S. on furlough. They just had a second baby daughter - Jane Elizabeth. During their last term on the field they lost a significant amount of their support. They need to raise \$20,000 a year in order to return to Mozambique. If you, or anyone, you know would be able and willing to make a commitment to support them regularly, or if you know of a church who may be interested, contact Chad Westerholm at cawesterholm@hotmail.com . Thank you so much for your help with this!

A Wonderful Visit

What a fun blessing to have my parents and my little sister, Nicole, here for a visit! Mom and Dad stayed for 5 days and Nicole stayed for an additional 4 days. It is always really neat to see how much the kids love Grandma and Grandpa. We had fun talking and "hanging out". Since this was Nicole's first time here we enjoyed showing her off. I had several really great conversations with her and felt like this was the best I've ever gotten to know her as an adult.

