



MISSION TO THE MAKUA

Cultivating Christian Communities

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Children—Future Leaders

I have had the privilege of teaching several men and women how to teach about God to the children in their churches. We are now praying that this will catch on and spread into all areas of the province. The group of potential teachers discussed multiple times about how important teaching children is, because they are the

future of the church. Just as the government makes sure to educate their children in order for the country to progress well, we must educate our children for the church to progress well.



The class learns how to do skits to teach lessons as in this re-enactment of the healing of the paralytic man

I have been surprised by the passion I feel as I teach these seminars. I love working with women here, watching them grow and

mature, but I have felt even more convicted and passionate about encouraging leaders to teach children.

It is inspiring to watch them learn and then model teaching. If they take what they learn and work hard to teach children, I feel like the churches will grow and be so encouraged.



Germindo learns how to use props found locally to teach bible class. A boat made out of a banana tree and clay figures teach how Jesus calmed the storm.

Please pray with us that leaders in every area will start making children a priority in the church. Pray that they will teach them and that the children will then bless the church as a whole.

(MS)

Jeremy, Martha, Luke,
Andrew, Joshua, and Micah
Smith

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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

Skype: jerandmart

Facebook: Jeremy Smith

Martha Allison Smith

Prayer Requests

Our 8 Harding interns this summer – that they will have a good experience

Health and safety for everyone on our team

Strength and maturity for churches here

Women would commit their lives to Jesus in increasing numbers

Leaders would start teaching children about God regularly

Construction projects – good, safe progress

God's Kingdom Grows

Through the years of living and working here, we have become more and more convinced that we are nothing, and only because of the Lord will anything good come out of our time in Mozambique. We have launched a prayer time where we pray much bigger than ever before, knowing that God is far BIGGER than we can even imagine. We are praying and trusting the Lord to move and work in amazing ways. We are trusting Him to work in the hearts of men and women and to bring about transformation.



Amade from Upacho baptizes one of 14 people to start a new church in Nikanda

One of the things we have seen the Lord doing is multiplying churches here. There are several new churches springing up and ones that were weak are getting stronger. Some of these churches have been planted without any help from us. What a joy to see that happen!



Since there are now so many churches (more than 40) and about 5 districts (read: counties) we are working in, our team has decided to start a regular newsletter for the churches called "Wamoca - Juntos" which means "Together" in both Makua and Portuguese. In these newsletters we are able to write articles encouraging growth in several areas in the body. Also included in the newsletters are tidbits of news from different churches like events they are doing, baptisms etc. We are also more easily able to communicate about upcoming seminars or events. Our hope is that these newsletters will further unite the churches and bring even more growth and maturity.

Construction Projects



Luke, Andrew and Joshua pause to pose in front of the future site of our teacher house where the foundation has been poured.

We have dubbed this year, "The Year of Construction". The Howells and Westerholms are each building their own houses on the land we purchased a couple of years ago. Jeremy is building a teacher house and school house on the land, too.



Juma our faithful construction worker waves in front of our new pavilion

We are hoping to get a teacher to come teach our kids each year, starting this fall. Jeremy is also finishing up a big pavilion for meetings and seminars.

Family News

We are so thankful that everyone has been healthy for a long while, besides a cold here and there. We are past another malaria season since the rainy season has ended. Yay! No one got malaria again and we didn't even have to test anyone.

The boys are doing well. Luke is finishing up 2nd grade and Andrew is finishing up 1st. They are such a joy to teach since they love learning. I am glad we are going to be getting team teachers, but I will also miss teaching the kids since I've been doing that now for 3 years. Joshua is learning how to read and pretends to read his "chapter books" since he watches his big brothers all the time. Micah is a year old now. Hard to believe! All four of these precious boys bring so much joy and laughter to our home.



Luke



Joshua

I will be going to Rwanda for a women's retreat this next week. I am looking forward to that renewal very much. Jeremy is gearing up to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro with some other guys from our sponsoring church (Pleasant Valley) in August.

This summer we are having lots of visitors. We love it!

8 interns from Harding are coming in a couple of weeks and will stay almost 6 weeks. Then we have visitors from 2 of our sponsoring churches coming to visit, as well as Martha's parents.



Andrew



Micah

Thank you so much for taking the time to read what's been going on with our family and team. We appreciate your support so very much! Thank you to all of you who are praying for us regularly, emailing us, and sending packages. All of that means so very much to us! We love you!