

Friends and Family,

The past several months have been really full, and we are thankful that really good things have been happening. I finished teaching my night class of Old Testament Survey and it went really well. The students in this class enjoyed having discussions and we had some really great interactions as we looked through various key passages of the Old Testament. Maggie was also in this class, and I was really impressed with her ability in Portuguese to follow along with the discussions and ask good questions in class. In fact, when it came time for the final exam she got 100%! I wish I could say the others did as well, but one of the challenges I face regularly here is the lack of good education. Many people here struggle to read and even those who can read don't always have good comprehension skills. In the States we assume that most people are able to read the Bible and understand what it is saying whereas here only a minority has those skills.

In May we were also able to host another Psalms seminar, albeit a small one. We spent two days looking at Psalms 14 and 53. If you are like me, you had read them before but never noticed that they are almost identical. From a translation perspective, that means we get "two for the price of one" and were able to work on both of them simultaneously. This week we are having another Psalms seminar and are currently working on Psalm 4.

In July we began another semester of our Bible school and had quite a few new students. We had about 21 students, coming from a variety of places, some as far as a ten hour drive away. I taught Old Testament Survey again and the Gospel of Mark. For the Gospel of Mark class I worked with one of our church leaders, Amisse, who helped me teach. My goal is to pass the class off to him after we co-teach one more time. It went really well this time and there was one day when I got really sick and Amisse was able to teach the entire session without any difficulties. The students also took two classes with my teammate Jeremy and one class with a Mozambican brother.

Another really major event happened the week before our school started. Many of the churches in Mozambique have been divided into various factions that don't want anything to do with one another despite having a shared history. We were asked by some church leaders to help hold a meeting to try to create some unity and reconciliation. They told us that since we were foreigners, people would come to a meeting that we called whereas they themselves would be unable to get all these factions together. So we had a meeting with about 50 key church leaders and we were really blessed to see what happened. We had a time of foot washing and reconciliation that went really well. Following that we had a time of scripture reading asking people to read verses about unity. One after another people were reading scriptures and the sword of the Spirit did most of the work there. At one key moment two church leaders who had been in bickering factions shook hands and everyone lined up to hug both of them after this display of reconciliation. It was truly beautiful and God really showed up. There will be some follow up meetings and we will give some updates as that goes forward.

Last week our team spent several days working on team building with Dale and Vicki Hawley, a couple who have worked with many different mission teams over the years. We had planned this a while ago, knowing that as we integrated new teammates into our team there would be some different group dynamics we would need to work through. The timing was good, because due to everyone's travels this is the first time we have all been together in over a year. One of the things we realized this past week is that for the past twenty years all the major changes in our team have been due to families leaving and not due to adding new teammates. This is a new dynamic and has required adjustments especially since our new teammates, the Baileys, have worked with two other teams during their years in Tanzania. Also, having a single woman on our team also changes some of the assumptions of how we work. For many years we have called ourselves the "Makua Team", but the Baileys are focusing their ministry on Swahili speakers, many of whom are Makondes or Mwanis. Likewise, in the past our team

divided many financial needs by family, but when the team has singles, that doesn't always work fairly. Despite all these changes, we are excited to see all the new ministries that are born out of this new era of our team.

The kids have started up school again; Jack is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Jane is in 10<sup>th</sup>, and Maggie is in 12<sup>th</sup>. A new couple, Alex and Bailey Bunch, with their cute baby Daisy Mae, have joined us for this year as our school teachers. So far the kids are really enjoying school and their new teachers. It has been a blessing to have them here and it really allows me to devote more of my time to ministry. This year I will only be teaching a few hours of Portuguese one morning each week, so it will be a lot less of a load than last year.

Praise God for:

- The desire for unity in churches that have been divided for a long time
- A successful semester at our Bible School and a good group of students
- Providing Amisse to help co-teach the Gospel of Mark class
- Sending the Bunches to teach our children this year
- A successful team building time with the Hawleys

Please pray for:

- God's Spirit would continue to work in the churches that are seeking unity
- A successful Psalms Seminar resulting in quality drafts as well as songs to be written that can be used by the churches
- Our teammate Brooklyn who begins teaching English classes this week, especially that her Muslim students would have open hearts
- Continued calm relating to the insurgency
- Our team to be able to develop a unified vision as we work in different ministries