

Friends and Family,

The past few weeks have been really full. Some of you already know, but in April my mother had a big birthday and a lot of my family was getting together, so our family decided to sneak back to the States for a quick visit to surprise her. It was in fact a very big surprise and the time together with my whole family was really precious. The total trip was three weeks, so it was quite quick and it felt like a bit of a whirlwind. It was really good to be able to connect with some of you during our brief visit.

Since arriving back here I have begun teaching another night class; this one is Old Testament Survey. So far the class has been good and we have had some good discussions as usual. Last night in our class, one of the students remarked that of the Biblical characters we encounter, many of them had promising starts but their stories didn't end well. Another evening we spent a good amount of time discussing how Israel's habit of falling into idolatry is little different than many Christians today who fall into the temptations of witchcraft when they encounter difficulties. Another fun thing about the class is that I have a new student, my daughter Maggie! We decided that for her foreign language study this year, she should take a class at the Bible School so she would be immersed in Portuguese. So for six hours a week she is being immersed in Portuguese and is doing really well.

In my last update I shared some about Cyclone Freddy and how it had hit an area south of us. Since I had sent out that report I had heard a report from several churches who were close to the area affected that in fact the destruction had been notable there. I had approached several congregations who have supported us in the past for special needs and was able to raise \$4,000 for the area. Last weekend I made a trip down there to see the affected area myself and to work with the churches. Cumulatively there were over 500 Christian families whose homes were damaged by the storm. A total of 24 church buildings were damaged or destroyed by the cyclone as well. After sitting down with the church leaders we decided that the best course of action was to limit the help to only the church buildings, since that would make the money go the farthest and help relieve the burden of reconstruction in a way that would benefit everyone.

Half of the churches that were destroyed were mud construction buildings with thatch roofs; the other half had tin roofs and often burnt brick or cement walls. First, we gave two Bibles to each church in their local language, which they were really grateful for. We decided to help those smaller mud buildings with a simple donation that they could use how they wanted to help them rebuild. Those churches that were better built we decided to help with replacing tin sheets that had been blown off their buildings or cement or rebar to help with the reconstruction. Five buildings were completely destroyed. One building had a coconut tree and a mango tree fall on it. Others lost a portion of their roof and others had parts of their walls fall or start to crack. In total we were able to purchase 93 sacks of cement (50kg) and 276 metal sheets for the roofs as well as some other materials. In most of the cases, we met with the church asked them what they needed, and then went to the store to pay for the materials so that the church could pick them up at a convenient time. In several cases some churches had already spent some money to rebuild, but had used a significant amount of the church's savings. In these cases we gave monetary donations to the church of a similar amount to what they had already spent so that they could help individuals or other programs that the church was working on.

It took me ten hours to get to the first area that was impacted by the cyclone. I knew one of the church leaders in this area and I stayed at his house where we based our work out of. We ended up driving two hours south to the city of Quelimane which is a coastal city where the cyclone had hit directly. All along the two hour drive we saw many houses destroyed and many trees blown over. Since it has been about two months since the cyclone hit, I can only imagine how much worse it looked beforehand. In one town, they told me that electricity had only been restored to the neighborhood the day before we arrived. In another neighborhood, I was amazed to see that nearly every house in the area had fallen down. People had made some small shelters out of the remaining materials which

seemed to provide only enough space to sleep in a cramped manner. Due to the long drive, it is doubtful I will be returning anytime soon, but the churches were very grateful for the help that we were able to provide.

In other news, things have been relatively quiet in regards to the insurgency and there have been no attacks anywhere near to us. We are also excited that our teammates the Smiths, will be returning next week after a long furlough in the States. Jeremy was the visiting missionary at Harding University and taught in the missions department there this year. While we are glad they had that opportunity we are really excited to have them return. Blessings to all of you! Chad

Please Pray For:

- Continued safety and for the insurgency to stay far from this area
- An upcoming meeting in Angola between church leaders from various Portuguese speaking countries in Africa.
- The churches in the area affected by the cyclone as they minister to those around them
- The Old Testament Survey class I will be teaching this month
- The Smith family as they adjust to being back after their time away

Praise God For:

- The help that we were able to provide for the churches damaged by Cyclone Freddy
- Safe travels to and from the States
- A good start to the Old Testament Survey Class
- A decline in insurgent attacks in recent months