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## Westerholm Newsletter Edited for Website

1 message

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Chad <cawesterholm@hotmail.com>

Sat, Mar 8, 2025 at 9:27 AM

To: Brooklyn Howard <brooklynkayhoward@gmail.com>

March 2025

Friends and Family,

Greetings from Mozambique! We are glad to be home after having evacuated in January. Normally we would have driven to the airport (about 3-4 hours from here), but due to sporadic roadblocks along this road we thought it best to take a small plane and fly to the larger airport. Missionary Aviation Fellowship operates in Mozambique and they flew our family with a Wycliffe Bible Translator's family to the airport so we could fly to South Africa. When we arrived in South Africa we felt an immediate relief of the stress that we had been dealing with. Our time in South Africa was refreshing and we kept busy with homeschooling the kids, taking advantage of time to study, seeing old friends from the Weltevreden Park Church of Christ, and enjoying some putt-putt and botanical gardens. While we were in South Africa, Amy had some medical tests done that thankfully came back clear, but she needed to see a doctor and had we been in Mozambique she probably would have needed to go to South Africa anyway. We were thankful of the timing of this! Because of the tests we delayed our return a few days, but we were able to return before the end of January.

Since our return we have continued with our normal church visits and Bible studies, but we have also had quite a few planning meetings. During the rainy time of year many people are at their farms and getting out to many villages becomes nearly impossible, so things tend to slow down a bit. It is a good time for planning, preparing, and working on special projects. We have had several important meetings, especially making plans for the coming year as a team. We try to make sure our goals work together in a symbiotic way so that each of our ministries strengthens the others. Usually I write about the activities that I am involved in, but our team has quite a few different ministries that we are doing. The Baileys are using their Swahili to work with the refugees and are teaching at two new church plants. They will soon start a Bible study in town with the Swahili speakers here and try to reach out to some of the displaced people living in Montepuez. Brooklyn continues teaching English, which has provided many contacts in the community. A number of people have started attending the local church out of these classes and several have been baptized in the past few months. The Smiths will be taking a furlough in the middle of the year, and will be going to see their oldest son, Luke, get married. This is the first of our team's kids to get married, so we are officially feeling old! Upon their return we will be teaching at the Bible school for September and October. Martha Smith continues to work with the women's sewing and jewelry making association as well as the literacy program. Jeremy Smith is working with mentoring the new elders in their role and hopes to walk another church through the process of choosing elders. He is also currently working on overseeing the finishing of a pavilion that will act like a student center and study area for the Bible School. The Smiths work closely with our family to run and maintain the Bible School which is one of our main ministries.

One of the larger projects we are working on is beginning the Old Testament project for the Metto Bible translation. The translation project had been paused upon the completion of the New Testament and there was a need to reorganize the project. Wycliffe Bible Translators approached our team and asked that we partner with them in order to oversee the project locally. A few years ago our team had to change our legal documents in order to continue our work in the country. Officially we were part of a "religious organization" that was called Good News For Africa, however the government said they wanted us to change from a religious organization to either a church, a school, or an association. We opted to register as an association and had to restructure and invited two of our trusted Mozambican friends to be a

part of our association. Technically, Wycliffe is partnering with Good News For Africa, which means we need to set up a special bank account. While in the States banks run very efficiently, in Africa it is a whole other story. One of my bank accounts was recently shut down because I hadn't used it for several months (while I was in the States) and there is so much red tape to reopen it that I still haven't finished the process after two months! (Currently I am waiting for a document from an office whose system has been offline every time I have gone to check on it.) A few days ago we had a full day of meetings with Wycliffe representatives and our association about how the project is planned to run. They presented a plan for the whole Bible to be completed in the next 8 years. Our association will provide the space for the translation project (providentially we already have a perfect place) and we will receive the funds and disperse them as needed. We are excited about this new project and will be working to get everything arranged for things to move forward in the next few months. In the next few months we will be working to choose who will be on the translation team and who will perform different roles as well as setting up the organizational structures for things to work.

Shortly after returning from South Africa the Bunches, our kids' school teachers received some sad news of their niece's sudden death. They returned to the States for the funeral. Bailey is pregnant, and because her due date is just a few months away, they decided to remain in the States for the birth. This has meant that we have had to step up our involvement in the kid's school, especially for Jack. While we miss having the Bunches here, they have actually promised to come back and officially join our team after their baby's birth. Alex has been doing follow up Bible studies with a number of the students from the English classes which have really blessed our team. When Alex and Bailey return they will be shifting roles from teaching to language learning and ministry. We are really excited for how God will use them here. We are looking forward to all that God is going to be doing this year as we serve him. Thank you for the prayer and financial support you give to make this all possible!

Praise God for:

- The country has mostly remained peaceful for the past month
- Protecting our team during the political turmoil
- The Old Testament Translation Project beginning soon.
- Amy's medical tests coming back clear.
- The Bunches decision to join our team

Please Pray for:

- God to give us wisdom as we choose who will be a part of the Old Testament Translation Project
- Continued peace in Mozambique
- Our family as we balance homeschooling and ministry
- The Baileys and Brooklyn who are having to deal with red tape regarding their visas
- Our team to organize all the logistics to be able to begin the Translation Project
- A new church plant effort in a nearby refugee area



Chad was the Co-Pilot for the MAF Flight  
Enjoying Putt-Putt in South Africa



Lots of Kids at the Church in Mualia!  
Vision Meeting for a Metto Old Testament





Dr. Bonifacio from Wycliffe  
(Dorms Behind It)

Pavilion Construction at the Bible School