

From: Jim and Karen Pickett <jimdpickett@rochester.rr.com>

To: Joyce and Marty <bozakjoy@juno.com>

Subject: Merry Christmas from the Picketts

Date: Sat, 14 Dec 2013 10:22:59 +0000

Our family has had a blessed year!



Merry Christmas

Thanks for your prayers and financial support this past year. We have now completed 15 years in Mozambique!

Jim has finished up his last two courses on Church History and Revelation at the OMS Seminary where he taught for the last two years. The school held their first graduation in November. He also enjoyed teaching a 3-week course at both the bible schools in Swaziland and XaiXai this year. In addition he has been doing several weekly classes for lay pastors. This year he attended a Leadership Matters Course (LMC) in Zimbabwe and a Community Health Course in northern Mozambique. Our director, Orai Lehman and his wife Linda, retired this month. Pray for them as they adjust to America after 45 years as missionaries! Pray for wisdom for us for work and decisions as we are the only GP missionaries in Mozambique.

I (Karen) taught 8-12th English and 9th Science at Christian Academy until June. Since then, I have been teaching several classes of ESL and one class of Portuguese to a volunteer from the US, Abigail. Abigail came to volunteer at the pediatric cancer ward, playing and talking to the children every afternoon. I went with her one afternoon. It was quite disturbing to see the conditions, but I thank the Lord for Abigail and the other volunteers there.

Benjamin and Jim have been traveling 3 hours across the South African border 1-2 times a month for occupational therapy for the past two years. Praise the Lord, Ben's skills have improved greatly. He is undergoing jaw expansion at the orthodontist to correct an underbite which will hopefully improve his speech. Ben is finishing the first semester of 6th grade at Christian Academy of Mozambique. He helped deliver Christmas boxes to an orphanage and played Joseph in the Christmas play last night.

Carissa participated a few times playing guitar and leading worship at church. She enjoyed helping me teach ESL these last two months. She has been homeschooling 9th grade. We were so proud when both of our kids received Christian Character awards at the end of school in June.

Carissa and Ben will be homeschooled in XaiXai, so please pray for Karen as she teaches them. Next year we will need 7th and 10th grade books if any of you have some homeschool books you would like to donate. We have used ABeka, Bob Jones, Sonlight, and Saxon math in the past.



On the Move

Monday, the 16th, we move 3 ½ hours north to XaiXai (ShyShy) to work at our Bible college. We thank the Lord that there is Mozambican staff in place and that GP has provided scholarships for the Principal and Vice-Principal to pursue Masters Degrees through the TOOL scholarship. It is great the college has qualified local leadership. There is also another American couple, Jason and Rachel Helm with the mission Unitas, who have worked alongside the school for a number of years. We look forward to working with all these gifted leaders. The school year follows the calendar year. We start classes the beginning of February.

Another Gifted leader - Pastor Chico (below) was given a scholarship to attend a Saturday course on music and worship for two years. He graduated in October. He said, "God is blessing the Wesleyan Church. I have learned so much and I also never thought I would be part of a graduation at the International Center where Presidents and International leaders meet."



Discipleship

Thank you for all who have contributed to this project. I have photocopied 350 children's Sunday School lesson books and 1700 of various discipleship books. The discipleship books only cost around \$1 each, an accessible cost for people who make \$100-\$150 a month. (Why don't we give them out free? The local church says it is important for people to value their materials and not just let the children color on them or leave them in the rain. Also we will need funds to reprint additional books.) The churches are so hungry for materials. Our national leaders went to a conference in northern Mozambique and discovered a church using Jehovah Witness materials because that was the only booklet they found. (This also highlights the need for our Bible school and getting our current lay pastors trained.) To contribute to this project go to: [Global Partners](#) and click on *Mozambique* and then *discipleship project*. We still need to print more copies. Goal: \$7,100. Raised \$4,230.





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Our mailing address is:

**James Pickett
C.P. 164
XaiXai 0000
Mozambique
Mozambique**