

Pray For The Claypools

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*"For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line,
here a little there a little" - Isaiah 28:9-10*

Dear Praying Friends and Family,

April 2020

There is a lot to report from the past 3 months and we will try to squeeze it all in within the next few paragraphs. To begin with we would like to thank you all for your prayers in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic that has assailed the world. We have also been praying for you and we pray that this letter finds you safe in God's hands, wherever you might be.

It seemed to delay in coming but the virus has reached São Tomé, however, the impact so far has been slight. We believe that it is, in part, due to the fact that we are a small island, distant from the mainland and not so popularly traveled to.

Restrictions have been put into place, including the stopping of all church services, but we have been able to continue meeting at folk's houses. There is only so much that can be done in a 3rd world environment that does not compromise life itself, and it is a delicate balancing act between prevention, protection and actual living.

During all of this we were thrilled to see Bobby and Hugo return 3 or 4 more times to attend our home meetings. Even Tiki, another of our workers, came for our Easter get together which held a clear presentation of the Gospel and explanation of why the resurrection is so important. Please continue praying for these three young men.

We mentioned this as an "extra" note in our email prayer letter but at the beginning of this last quarter we were faced with the real need to be out of our current house by the end of April. We believe it was of the Lord, although totally unexpected. The current situation with the coronavirus has, however, changed that need as the person intending to take the house is currently out of country and cannot return until restrictions are lifted.

That being said, we have been working very hard to finish the house enough to make it "move-in-able". Still, one challenge after another kept popping up that was out of our control, such as the water in our area being shut off for days at a time making brick work impossible.

We continually reminded ourselves that none of these things were a surprise to the Lord and that He would take care of it all. However, knowing a truth is real and making it a reality in your life are two very different things, but God is gracious and through His strength we continue to push forward.

The walls are 90% completed, and we are waiting for windows and door frames to be installed before finishing them completely. Then we will shift our focus onto the plumbing and flooring, with the wiring/lighting and a wire fence put up around the immediate vicinity of the house being the last steps involved.

There is still a tremendous amount of work to do and we would very much appreciate your prayers for patience, wisdom and guidance as the Lord leads us through to the finish line (meaning the moving of our belongings and establishing our presence in the roça).

Through everything that is going on and all that we are facing one simple truth reverberates: God is SO good, and we are humbled to be in His service.

Thank you again for all of your continued support, both prayer and financial, especially during these difficult times. May God bless and keep you all.

Your Servants for His Service,

Doug + Amanda Claypool

The Claypools
Doug, Amanda, Morgan, Kaitlyn & Sean