

# Pray For The Claypools



## Church Planting Missionaries in São Tomé & Príncipe

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

Dear Praying Friends and Family,

April 2021

We would like to begin this prayer letter with an apology for the delay in sending it out. The reason for the delay is because we were moving into our new house! That's right! We are officially moved into the new house, and what a blessing it is.

Moving began the last couple of weeks in March and ended after the first couple of weeks in April. It was a process, which worked up to 2 days of heavy lifting, moving the larger pieces aided by some good friends and their trucks. That was when we transferred our beds and officially began living at the new house. Afterward it took a couple of weeks to get the remaining things out and clean up the house and yard to turn back over to the landlord.

It has been an adjustment living on the mountain and in the roça, but we are enjoying it immensely. The temperatures are cooler. There is more rain. We have good soil for our gardening. And we've already walked back and forth to Ototó several times for visits, both official and just passing the time with friends and people from church. Even exploring back trails into the community through the bush has allowed us to meet folks we have only seen in passing as they point us in the right direction and try to teach us where the myriad of side trails lead. There has definitely been a change in the way we are perceived and received as we go about, particularly with people asking if we have finally moved up, and we can tell them, yes.

We have had more visitors in church over the past few weeks. Most just pass through due to curiosity but, as the word of mouth spreads, the Word of God is having opportunities to reach into hearts as well.

Guilherme is still coming and fairly regularly at that. We gave him a Bible, as he had none, and he brings it each Sunday he is present. Erica, a friend of the girls, has been coming almost every Sunday and has begun to get more involved with things, giving prayer requests and calling out songs when it is time for favorites. She, like most of the people in Ototó, has been raised Catholic. She learns quickly and we would ask your prayers with us that the Lord would change that head knowledge into heart knowledge. Bobby also continues to be faithful, asking questions as he encounters different situations at his job and through life in general. It is good to see him learning and growing.

The next big step after settling in is to get the outreach Bible studies started back up again. We are asking the Lord for wisdom in doing this, mainly due to the time that things were put on hold because of the construction. We will need to reestablish contacts, see if there is still interest, and find new places and times to meet. With changes in life, work and school restarting usually takes some consideration and careful study trying to get everyone grouped back together again. In the end, however, even if we need to start fresh we are looking forward to getting things back up and running again.

The house is not finished yet, and with the Lord's guidance we will be working on things step by step, some out of necessity and others based on a loose schedule. The property wall is the next large project we hope to see done. We have a fence around the section where the house is now, but we hope to, over the next few months, be able to put up a wall around the entire perimeter, giving us better security and also allowing us to develop the land better.

Once again we would like to heartily thank each of you for your prayers and your faithful giving, and look forward to all that the Lord will do as we work together here on São Tomé & Príncipe.

Your servants for His service,

The Claypools

Doug, Amanda, Morgan, Kaitlyn & Sean