



LÊVÊ LETTERS

From São Tomé & Príncipe

Special Note of Explanation

“LÊVÊ LÊVÊ” is a phrase used on São Tomé to represent the way of life or rather the philosophy that governs life here on the island.

LÊVÊ is a Forro word, which is the main dialect of São Tomé. The word means “light” or “easy”.

Literally the phrase means “light, light” or “easy, easy”, but it would be best stated in English as “easy going” or “take it easy”.

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Dear Praying Friends and Family

January 2019

We have had a rather wet turn of the year, but are praising the Lord for the extra rain. Usually going into the first of the year begins a small dry spell over the whole island, with the rains and storms commencing again in February. We haven’t seen torrents, but rather periodic slow steady rains that often last from morning until the evening. What a blessing!

We wanted to start off by thanking all of you who have been praying for our electrical situation. Praise the Lord, we can tell you that the situation has gotten better - somewhat. Shortly after the elections a group of engineers were called in to begin working on the generators. Things went smooth over the holidays with our normal 4 hour outages, but they have announced that major maintenance work will now begin and will last for the next month, so more long outages are expected. We are glad that work is finally being done and the hope from everyone here is that when they are finished things will be better than when they started.

Praise the Lord that work on the house plans has also progressed. The architect and engineer have finished all of the blue print layouts and they have begun their journey through the bureaucracy of the public works department. We are hoping to hear something within a month or so, but only time will tell.

As another blessing in this area, we were estimating the fees to be between \$1500 - \$2000. To date we have only had to pay around \$800. The final payment, however, is based upon what the public works department wishes to charge us and is impossible to predict. Please continue praying with us that the rest of the journey will be quick and smooth and that the Lord’s hand will continue to be seen.

In the last prayer letter we mentioned a property that had come up for sale in Ototó. At the time the price was exorbitantly high, however, since then it has been lowered twice with the possibility of doing so again. Though we already have a place of worship, having a permanent place inside the community could greatly increase our availability and outreach. However, the same could definitely be said of our permanent presence in the area as well. Please pray with us as we seek the Lord’s crystal clear guidance.

As a final point of blessing, we needed to renew Morgan’s residence visa at the end of the year and they have informed us that, though she is technically not of age, they are going to try and get her a 5 year visa instead of the the normal 2 year. What a blessing that would be if it is able to go through!

In closing we would like to remember the words that God told Moses when the children of Israel were at the Red Sea. They had followed His leading to that point but were not sure where to go from there. His simple admonition was to “go forward”. Then He showed them how.

Thank you all once again for your faithful support both in finances and in prayers, as we strive to “go forward”, following His leading here on São Tomé & Príncipe.

Your Servants for His Service,

The Claypools
Doug, Amanda, Morgan, Kaitlyn and Sean



THE CLAYPOOLS

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MISSION STATEMENT

Primary Objective:

Indigenous Church
Planting

Accomplished By:

- Leading People to Christ
- Discipleship
- Training of Local Pastors & Church Leaders

Methods Used:

- English Classes
- Bible Studies
- Gospel Literature
- Children’s Clubs
- Any means by which God gives us an open door to reach our people

End Goal:

To see strong, grounded, missions minded churches that are self-governing, self-propagating and self-supporting, established throughout the islands, able to grow and perpetuate themselves regardless of the presence of a missionary or outside help.



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FLORA & FAUNA

FLOWERS Of São Tomé & Príncipe

Names given, when known, are local names or their translations. There are lots more than what is shown but space is an issue. We hope that you enjoy!



Porcelain Rose

Zoom in to 200%-300% to see them better



'Kime'



Passion Fruit Flower



Variagated Cone Flower



Female

Bird Of Paradise



Male



Elephant Ear



Odd looking flowers that sprung up on a tree after it had been cut down



Unknown yet beautiful yellow flower buses



Hybiscus



Unknown purple ground cover



Lady Of The Night medicinal plant with sweet smelling blossoms that come out in the evening



Spider Lilies filled with sweet nectar

VOCABULARY

Listen

English: Flower

Portuguese: Flor
[FLOOR]

Forro: Floli
[FLAW-lee]

LANGUAGE STUDIES

1] GRAVE

The grave accent mark does not affect pronunciation. Its single function is to indicate when a certain contraction is used. Sounds awful simple doesn't it, but we'll demonstrate why it is so important showing you its most common form.

In Portuguese the letter 'A' [ah] is actually a word - two words to be precise, depending on how it is used.

It can be the word 'the', ex. the apple - a maçã
It can be the word 'to', ex. to church - a igreja

The complication arises when you have to use "to" and "the" at the same time, i.e. 'to the store'. So, in order to avoid saying or writing the same word twice over, Portuguese grammar combines the two words together into a one-word contraction using the grave accent- 'À'.

'A a loja' (to the store) becomes 'À loja'.

It is more obvious in the written form, because when spoken it simply sounds like the letter 'A' [ah], but everyone knows that it should be there. There are other less used forms but suffice it to say that whenever you see the grave accent mark over an 'A', it means that two of them have been squished together into one. **A + A = 'À'**

2] DIERESIS

The dieresis marks are the two little dots that appear over certain letters. A common example often seen in the U.S. is the German 'Ü' such as in münster cheese. In Portuguese these little dots only appeared over the letter "U" in order to give it a "W" sound. Mostly it was used with "QU".

Example: **Líquido** - [LEE-kee-doo]
Líqüido - [LEE-kwee-doo]

Did you note that we said 'was used'? In 1990, when the writing rules were changed in an attempt to simplify and combine the various styles of Portuguese around the world, it was decided that the dieresis were no longer needed. Consequentially they have been removed from the official grammars and spellings. However, because these changes were not officially put into practice worldwide until 2015, you still see them every now and then, especially in older writings, but they are quickly fading out.

Accent Marks Pt. 3

In this edition let's take a look at 2 of the easier accent marks:

Pronunciation Key:

~Say the syllables together smoothly
~Capitals indicate a stressed syllable