



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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Page 1

Dear Praying Friends and Family

January 2020

Praise the Lord the framing structure of the house is up, the roof is on, and the bricks are rising! A lot of work has been undertaken over the past 3 months, but we are greatly encouraged to see the results. The Lord changed our game plan a time or two but because of that we have had all the material we needed at the exact time we needed it.

We worked all the way up to the 23rd of December in order to see it all come to a stopping point. And the days during Christmas and New years were a welcome blessing to all of us. We did not reach our ideal of being moved in by Christmas, but once again the Lord is constantly reminding us that it is all in His hands.

We have exhausted the funds that we had saved up so progress now will be much slower. We are having to pick and choose what specific part to work on based on whatever monies have come in. We are, however, still confident because the same God is still in control and He will continue to lead, guide and provide. We do ask for your continued prayers for both wisdom and provision as we work hard to keep the forward momentum going.

Our overall goals have still not changed in that while we are always working toward completion we have also been concentrating on the absolute essentials for us to be able to move in, i.e. house totally closed in and 1 working bathroom. Once we are there it will be much easier to work on the house and on the ministry -plus what we currently pay for rent could be used for the building process as well.

We were pleased to see two of the young men who are part of our labor crew come to services one Sunday morning. We have invited all of them numerous times and have been able to have some good conversations about the Lord while we were working, so it was good to see them drop in. We don't know if they will return as they live a good distance away, but the message the Lord had planned for that day had a very clear and practical presentation of man's need and God's love and provision. Their names are Hugo and Bobby and we would appreciate your prayers for them, and we are looking ahead to future opportunities to water the seed that has already been planted.

Another man that we have gotten to know through the work is Tiki. He lives in Ototó and we have worked to establish a genuine friendship with him so that we can keep contact even after the work has finished. Tiki is a Catholic by birth and we have invited him to services several times, but he has yet to come. We will keep praying and trying and would appreciate your prayers going along with us.

Once again we send a very big Thank You for all of your faithful support both through your prayers and your finances. We look forward to seeing and sharing all that the Lord has in store for 2020 here on São Tomé and 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:

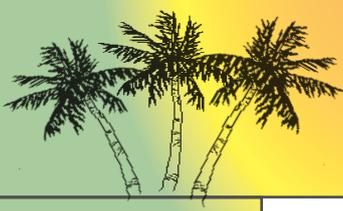
- Leading People to Christ
- Discipleship
- Training of Local Pastors & Church Leaders

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.



LÊVÊ LETTERS

From São Tomé & Príncipe

House Construction - Con't



Enlarge to 200-300%
to see the pictures
better.

VOCABULARY

Listen

English: Attend

Portuguese: Assistir

[ah-see-STEER]

Forro: Sixti

[see-SHTEE]

Pronunciation Key:

~Say the syllables together smoothly

~Capitals indicate a stressed syllable

URGENT PRAYER REQUEST!

At the beginning of the year we talked with our landlord and let him know that we were building our house in the roça. Why did we do this? Because we were not sure when the Lord was going to allow us to move up to the house, and by standard rental contract here we must give a 3 months notice before moving out. Our landlord is very nice, however, it is common to require renters to pay extra months rent if this notice is not given and we wanted to avoid that. That being said he understood that nothing was set and we would continue renting until it was time to move - we were just giving him advance notice.

On the 20th of January I met him by chance while downtown and he let me know that he had started asking around, just in case, and had found someone who could take over the house in April. Assuring us that he was not trying to force us out, he wondered if we would be able to move by then.

We were immediately flooded with a sense of incredible excitement and fear almost at the same time. We had been asking the Lord for some clear guidance in timing rather than being held in limbo, and both Amanda and I felt that this was the Lord's hand. But how in the world were we to do it!?!?

That is the question, and that is our urgent prayer request. We know as God guides He provides, and if this is going to happen it will have to be all Him. Right now we have reduced it down to the absolute essentials for us to move in. 1) House completely closed in - outer walls, windows and doors; 2) 1 working bathroom 3) Floor boards installed; 4) A wire fence around the house area

We have already talked with our people about these 4 areas and things have been remarkably dove-tailing together. Please pray with us for wisdom and provision, and by God's grace the next prayer letter we send out will be from our new (yet unfinished) house.