



## LePoidevin Prayer Release

Dear Family and Friends,

### THE CARAVAN IS A BLESSING

SEPTEMBER 2016

We received an urgent call to bring a coffin and grieving family members from Lichinga to Nampula. The grandmother in the family had passed away, and her family wanted her body to be brought to Nampula where most of her family is based. They are originally from India but have long been established here in Mozambique. With the larger capacity of the Caravan, we were able to bring both the coffin and eight family members in one trip. It was a blessing to not have to refuse anyone a seat on the plane in a situation of grief!

- ***Grateful to the Lord for this great tool of an airplane!***
- ***Pray that the equipment we still need to do all the maintenance will arrive safely***

### LAST MINUTE CHANGES



**MOVING HOUSES:** Back in April, we began making plans to move to a house belonging to another mission organization, whose property borders the MAF property. The missionary family living there was moving to another country to serve, and they offered for us to live there. It would be a good place for us to live, with cheaper rent and living next door to most of colleagues. Our contract was to start on September 1<sup>st</sup>. A couple of days before that, we received notice from the organization that something unexpected had come up: they would need the house for their own missionaries living in an apartment in town. Fortunately, we had the month of September still in our current house. God, in His sovereignty, provided! We could continue to live in our house, and the landlord accepted a big cut in the rent, making the cost to MAF almost the same as what we would have to pay had we moved. The landlord arranged for the house to be repainted, and it feels like we are living in a new house again. ☺

**IMPORTING VEHICLES:** The current laws allow for a non-profit organization like MAF to import a certain category of new vehicles duty-free. Two of our newer families have taken advantage of that, and our third has their vehicle already at the port in Nacala. Along with the last vehicle, we are also importing a program car to replace the aging Land Rover we have now. With the cars already at the port, we have been told the importation cost is going to be a lot more than we had expected, going from 0% duty to 100% duty on the Naces' car. We were able to get the program car out of the port a couple of days ago after paying much less than that, but what to do with the Naces' car??!! The money to buy it was donated by faithful supporters. The car is sitting at the port accumulating storage fees, while we wait for a workable solution. It has been a frustrating and stressful negotiation with the parties involved.

- ***Praise the Lord for working out our housing situation***
- ***Please pray for the Naces' vehicle to get through Customs without the 100% duty!***
- ***Pray also for the importation of the Naces' personal goods arriving (duty free) in a container in October***

### ALL IN A DAY'S WORK



In the early morning hours of a Thursday in September, power went out. Not unusual. When we got up in the morning, we turned the generator on, expecting electricity to come back some time during the day. Nothing. The other families had power, so we figured it was a problem in our specific area of the city. Evening came, and all our neighbors' lights came on. We realized it was only our house that had a problem. The next morning, Friday, I started bugging the electricity company. But we didn't hold out much hope for help anytime soon, as it was almost the weekend by now, and the Monday following was going to be a public holiday. But, finally, two guys came to check the system, and they found that our box for prepaid electricity was dead; we needed a new one. However, though it is the company's responsibility to supply these when needed, they were, oh, so difficult to obtain these days,



hint, hint... And off they went. We braced ourselves for a long weekend with a noisy generator during the day and no power during the night (we do not run the generator during the night). Nevertheless, on Saturday morning, one of the guys showed up with a new box! He installed it, it worked, and we were up and running again!

My old and trusty kitchen stove's burners' thermostats had over the last few years slowly stopped working, until I had one small burner on which I could still regulate the heat. The others were either off or full heat, which does not work well for anything that needs to simmer. Our colleague, Steve, had a trip to South Africa, and on one of his days there, he ran around looking for the pieces with which to repair the stove. They were not easy to find, as the stove is old. But, thankfully, he found them and brought them back to Nampula. My handy husband, Dave, on that same Saturday morning, installed the new thermostats. How wonderful to be able to use all four burners for normal cooking again!

I have a new and deep appreciation again for electricity and stove burners that work like they should. ☺

- ***Praise the Lord for providing for us!***

## **FAMILY UPDATE**

Robbie has joined a CrossFit exercise group to build up his physical stamina again. Karina continues in her job as a vet tech at a local animal clinic/hospital, and she really enjoys it there.

Sylvia is still working full time as a Marketing Director for a company called Floqast in Southern California. She is doing very well in her job, and it is keeping her very busy.

Thomas was blessed to spend a weekend with some of his Minnesota family in Arkansas at his cousin's reception, after her wedding in Minnesota in August. Also, his "Senior Design" class project at LeTourneau University in Texas is to design a machine that can be used to clear an area and prepare a new airstrip. Needless to say, communication between Thomas and Dave has increased. ☺



Annie started 1<sup>st</sup> grade at the Rapale International School! Her school bus leaves at 6:45 am in the morning, to make it to the school in Rapale (outside the city of Nampula) by 8:00 am. She was dreading the long bus ride, but she came home saying it was her favorite part of the day. ☺ Her elective class this term is horseback riding, and she gets to ride one of the same horses that her sisters sometimes rode when they were growing up here. ☺ Besides her academic lessons, her classes include Portuguese, music, PE, and swimming. The picture shows her in her school uniform; everything is in black and white, down to the hair elastics.

- ***Please continue to pray for Robbie's complete healing***
- ***Pray for Thomas to manage his time well in his challenging studies***
- ***Thank the Lord with us that Annie loves her new school and is doing well there***

"Then they believed his promises and sang his praise. But they soon forgot what he had done and did not want his counsel." (Psalm 106:12-13) What a sad statement about the people of Israel! But, oh, how easily we ourselves forget all the great things God has done for us, and we struggle on in our own strength and wisdom! "Humans often forget what we need to remember and remember what we need to forget." (From "Believing God" by Beth Moore)

Thank you for your prayers for us! May we never forget how the Lord thus far has helped us and what He is still able to do in the future!

Gerd, for the LePoidevins

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