

Pray For The Claypools

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Church Planting Missionaries In Sao Tome & Principe

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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,

January 2017

Praise the Lord the property title is finished! It was quite the process between setbacks and bureaucracy, but by His grace and guiding hand it has all been completed and the land is officially ours. Hallelujah!!

As for the house, we had truly expected to be up there by now, however, with the title process lingering on and using up what funds we had saved for beginning construction, we have had to put building our house on hold at least until after we return from furlough. It has been a disappointment, to say the least, however, we also know that it has all been done in the Lord's timing. And though we had not necessarily forgotten this important fact, He has helped us to remember it, reminding us that Isaiah 55:8-9 still rings true: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Speaking of furlough, we are well underway with our preparations, the most encouraging of which has been the response of our group. When presented with a plan to keep things going half were excited and the other half were excited but cautious, afraid that it would commit them to something they were not entirely sure about yet. After talking with them and assuring them that such decisions would not be made until our return, the atmosphere changed and now all are on board. They have even come up with their own plan for meeting schedules, and most have volunteered to help with the Bible studies that Doug is going to leave behind for them to use.

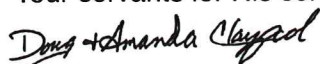
As always leaving an unfinished work has its risks, but we also see great potential for growth and development during this time, as it gives them both the opportunity and the necessity to keep things alive on their own. They have already begun talking about the possibility of others joining the group from their separate communities during our absence. Please pray with us that the Lord will both freely work and protect them from temptations, pitfalls and the enemy during our furlough.

We would also appreciate prayers as, before we leave, we need to go through the process of renewing our residence cards and Sean's São Tomean passport. The bureaucracy never seems to end, but we are trusting the Lord to bring all this about in time for our departure.

As a final note we have had 3 people talk to us about baptism, and we are planning for a baptismal service before leaving. What an encouraging note to leave on, but please continue to pray for those yet undecided. We are not asking for them to decide before we leave as the choice must be theirs, but we do believe that this is a very important step in their spiritual growth and know that the enemy is working hard to keep them from it.

We are already planning some missions conferences during March, and Doug is heading up to Alaska the beginning of April, after which we will be traveling out west to visit our supporting churches there. Please pray for our safety in travel. Pray that the Lord will open up new doors for support while we are Stateside. As always we want to thank you all for your faithful prayers and financial support and hope to see you soon.

Your servants for His service,



The Claypools

Doug, Amanda, Morgan, Kaitlyn & Sean