

LÊVÊ LETTERS

From São Tomé & Príncipe



THE CLAYPOOLS

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 2018

Praise the Lord we are home! We left Chicago on the 16th of January and the Lord was with us throughout the entire trip. One of the particular ways that He blessed was in allowing our luggage to be checked all the way through to São Tomé, which is very unusual. This ended up 1) simplifying our travel immensely, 2) causing us to pay for our two extra bags only once, and 3) giving us time and opportunity to find a hotel in Lisbon where we had a 1 day layover. It still never ceases to amaze us how the Lord really does watch out for us, even in the small details.

Things were not what we were expecting at the house when we got back, but the Lord gives grace and we have been straightening, organizing and cleaning to get things back to normal again.

We were, however, able to get in touch with our people right away and they were very excited to see us back. We were gone for almost a year and that is a very long time to be absent from the São Tomean perspective. But, church services started the first Sunday we were back and have been going steady since, Praise the Lord.

As a further note of praise, we were pleased to hear that the fellows worked hard to keep up the Bible studies which we had left. Even after work responsibilities and health problems had reduced their numbers down to two, those two kept at it, faithfully meeting together both at Ótótó and at Monte Macaco. It was a real encouragement to see their commitment, particularly in our absence.

Life is coming back around to normalcy now, but there are still things that need to be taken care of and brought up to date, so we will keep plugging away, little by little, until things are back to where they should be.

We also wanted to report that work on the property has started. Using boards that we had had cut before leaving, we have begun work on the fence surrounding the property which must be completed before any work can begin on the house itself. There ended up being about 10 of the trees that we had planted to use for posts that dried up and we will need to replace those before being able to finish putting the boards up. Then we will go back through again and put up tin sheeting all around, nailing the tin to the boards that we are putting up right now.

Please pray with us first off for safety as we clear foliage, nail boards and hang the tin sheeting, and secondly for speed. Nothing is done “fast” here, but we really would like to get this fencing done and start focusing on the house as soon as possible.

There is a lot going on all together and it is exciting to see and to think of what all the Lord is doing and has in store for the work here on the islands. Thank you all for your prayers that kept us safe during our stay Stateside, and all throughout our journey back. Thank the Lord for the strength He gave helping to get things back in order again once we reached home, and for His wisdom as He guides us each step of the way.

Please continue praying as there is much yet to do, not only with the house but with a new Bible study starting up again at Monte Macaco, and development and growth of the church. Thank you for your prayers and support as we work for our Master while there is yet time.

Your Servants for His Service,

The Claypools

Doug, Amanda, Morgan, Kaitlyn and Sean

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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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Click on the links below to see last years prayer letters

VOCABULARY

Listen

English: Travel

Portuguese: **Viajar**

[vee-ah-JAR] *

Note: In Portuguese the “J” is always smooth and pronounced like the “S” in vision

Forro: **Sata Awa**

[sah-TAH AH-wah]*

Literally means “jump/ cross over water”. It is also used for short pants - what we call “high waters” :-)

Pronuciation Key:

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



Weaver Bird here on the island.