



# 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”.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1

- \* Prayer Letter
- \* Contact Information
- \* Mission Statment
- \* Note of Explanation

Page 2

- \* Process On the Property
- \* Language  
- Brick

Dear Praying Friends and Family

April 2018

Things are pretty much back to normal here on the islands. The work continues moving forward in many areas, with these past couple of months having been times of learning to trust in the Lord for His provision and guidance.

The truck has been one of our biggest areas of praise this quarter as we have had issues with the rear tires, the four wheel drive, and the clutch mechanism. And each issue has appeared either going to or coming from church. But, once again, God has been good and each time the truck has stopped at just the right place on the road where just the right person was nearby to fix the problem. That is not an exaggeration either. With the 4-wheel drive we had to stop because the front differential was overheating, and the Lord stopped us right next to a man walking who was able to fix the problem so we could get home and to a mechanic the next day.

Where is the praise in all of that? you might ask. First off, we praise God for His watch care over us. Secondly we praise Him because in each instance the issue has been minimal. The back tires were replaced with better ones in the space of about an hour. The 4-wheel drive was just being stubborn, but it lead the mechanic to the clutch cylinder which was full of sludge from dirt in the hydraulic lines, which would have caused some rather costly repairs if left untreated. All in all the truck runs better, stronger and more efficiently plus it maneuvers easier on the muddy roads because of the new tires. What a great God we serve!

We were able to get the boards up for the fencing around the property only to find, when we were finished, that the tin had run out on the island. This is a common, but frustrating, problem here on the islands, so we have been asking the Lord for guidance on how to proceed.

In a partial answer to this He allowed us guys from the church to be part of a class on how to make brick using dirt. We spent an entire morning down south at the town of Água Izé where a friend who had received this training in Brazil taught us all the basics. The guys are really excited about it all and it holds promise in a variety of areas including possible use in our house construction, an added source of income for the guys and the possibility of making brick for their own personal building needs.

Its affordability (around 5 times cheaper than regular brick) brings it into the same price range as wood construction but gives all the strength and durability of brick and mortar. So, needless to say, with these new possibilities in view, a whole gamut of choices has been presented to us and we have been relying heavily on the Lord for guidance as to if/how we should use this in our construction efforts.

We are working with the guys, and hope that within the next month we will be able to start making some brick of our own, both for them and for us depending on how it all works out. Please pray for clear direction to make the right choice because this is an all or nothing decision.

In conclusion we want to let you know that the Bible study at Monte Macaco has been going well. The Lord actually used the tin shortage to show us that it was time to get it up and running again. We have seen some good attendance, with some fellows that have not come in years returning. Please continue to pray for them. Our next studies will be on marriage, family and biblical manhood, all touchy subjects here. Our goal is to help them see God’s perspective in each area. The rest is up to them.

Space seems to be shrinking here so, as always, we want to end with a heartfelt “Thank You” to each and every on of you for your prayers and financial support, and ask that you would continue praying as we continue working here on São Tomé & Príncipe.

Your Servants for His Service,

*Doug + Amanda Claypool*

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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## Process On The Property

### FENCING

We began working on the fence surrounding the property. Unfortunately after getting all of the boards up for nailing the tin to, the country ran out of tin! It is a common yet frustrating occurrence. So for now we wait on this phase until more tin comes in or the Lord gives us another idea.



### BRICK MAKING

That being said, however, we have not been idle. The Lord gave us the opportunity to learn from a friend in Água Izé how to make brick using a lot of dirt, a little bit of sand and a touch of cement. The end result is basically a fortified adobe brick.

Our guys are very excited about learning how, because not only can it help our house construction but also give them more possibilities in life both for income and for making their own bricks for building.

Like most things here the process is simple but time consuming. Below is a brief explanation:

### VOCABULARY

Listen

English: *Brick*

Portuguese: **Bloco**

[BLAW-coo] \*

Note: The closest in English would be AW in PAW

Forro: **Bloki**

[BLAW-key]\*



Tools Of The Trade:  
-Wheelbarrow  
-Bucket  
-Brick Form  
-Shovel  
-Man Power



Basic Ingredients: Dirt, Sand, Cement, Water, Elbow Grease



Step 1: Find and Dig Dirt



Step 2: Mix well with Sand and Cement



Step 3: Add Water and Mix again



Step 4: Fill Mold and Lay Out

--Repeat Until Quantity Acquired--



FINAL PRODUCT

Our first one was a bit lopsided



### Pronunciation Key:

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