



# 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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*Word of caution - a couple of pictures are included*

Dear Praying Friends and Family

July 2018

We have had a wetter than normal dry season, but the cool has finally set in and the mud dried up. Now a thin layer of dust covers everything inside and outside, while we use quilts at night and jackets during the mornings and evenings. Our low so far this year has been 73°, with the humidity dropping all the way down to 60%.

Even bundled up against the cold the ministry is moving forward. To begin, the Lord showed us the necessity of acquiring construction permits for the house before it was too late. This is a large gray area where the country districts are concerned, however, in the interests of godly testimony and erring on the side of caution we have needed to shift our focus from the construction itself to procuring the needed approvals and legal permits. This will naturally take more time and will necessitate another swim in the pool of bureaucracy, but we are certain that the Lord is leading us down this path and ask for your prayers as we look to Him for guidance, wisdom and patience.

On the church side our group has shown signs of further spiritual growth and maturity to the point of wanting to begin an organized visitation program. This may seem trivial to some, but it is an idea that has been shied away from in the past, and also one that shows a change of thinking in the group as a whole from that of individuals gathered together to a unified body with a common goal and purpose.

We are very excited with this development and are working with our people to develop flyers to hand out and signs to put out on the roads and on the church itself. It has even been suggested that we get shirts with our church name and logo imprinted on them. In their own words: It is time we had more people joining us. Please pray for them as this is a very important step not only in church growth and development but in their personal lives as well.

Continuing on with ministry, but on a more personal note, we would like to ask for your prayers in regards to spiritual warfare. Such is expected when you work in the enemy’s territory, but it can still take you by surprise in its ferocity, subtlety and aggressiveness. We have personally felt the enemy’s hand upon our family in a variety of ways but lately we have also seen that same hand at work among our people. In part we believe it is because they have made steps, albeit small ones, that show whose side they are on - the Lord’s - but it has generated some intense situations which they have had to work through.

As an example, one of our guys, whose brother has dealt with demonic hardships for years, is beginning to see things in a new light which both scares and amazes him. After all, it is one thing to know the verse “greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world” and quite another when it presents itself as reality in your own home.

Familiarity with such occurrences is common in regular life here on the islands. However, the knowledge that there is a greater power (God’s) and that such power can be applied through the authority of His Son is a staggering realization which flies in the face of centuries of culturally ingrained beliefs. Please pray for God’s power to be known, His wisdom for it to be properly applied and His teaching to give both understanding and boldness/courage to act when appropriate. The devil is working hard and in various ways to dissuade them from the path they have chosen. May they “stand strong...and in the power of his might”.

Thank you all once again for your faithful and effectual prayers and support. May His hand and work continue here on São Tomé & Príncipe.

Your Servants for His Service,

*Doug + Amanda Claypool*

The Claypools  
Doug, Amanda, Morgan, Kaitlyn and Sean



THE CLAYPOOLS

### Field Address:

Caixa Postal 1040  
São Tomé  
São Tomé & Príncipe

### Mailing Address:

304 E Bittersweet Rd  
Washington, IL 61571

### Email:

adclaypool@yahoo.com

### Sending Church

Liberty Baptist Church  
2089 S. Liberty Rd.  
Rochester, IN 46975  
Pstr. Bill McSpadden

### Mission Board:

Baptist International  
Missions Inc.  
P.O. Box 9  
Harrison, TN 37341-0009

Field Director -  
Eric Bohman

## 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

## FLORA & FAUNA



**Baby Tarantula**



**Yellow Spotted Spider**

## SPIDERS

As many of you already know, spiders are not Mrs Claypool's friends. In fact up until a few years ago they were considered her mortal enemies to be destroyed (by Mr Claypool of course) upon the slightest hint of their existence. However, over time, the Lord has given great grace and she is now able tackle small ones (thumb tack size) all on her own. She has even been reputed to have allowed a few to walk away.

What brought about such dramatic change?!? It is really quite simple. Spiders are very useful creatures - at a respectable distance, of course.

Wherein does their usefulness lie? you might ask. It lies in the very fact that they are veritable bug vacuums. And in a land where insects rule, both flying and crawling, and where a good many of them bite, that, my friends, is a bug worth having - again at a respectable distance.

This is not a scientific article, as I am sure you have already ascertained, but a practical approach at what has probably been Mrs. Claypool's greatest challenge since coming here to the islands. We have a good many varieties of spiders on São Tomé, some poisonous, most harmless, and some really quite beautiful once you get a good look at them.

As you can imagine, we don't have a lot of photos of our 8-legged friends, but we did want to share a few with you. The prize of which is the baby tarantula that we were finally able to see for the first time a couple of weeks ago at church. Please enjoy them - as much as you can.

*Fun Fact: When folks at Monte Macaco go to the outhouse at night they usually take a machete in case they encounter a tarantula - that should tell you a lot right there.*



**Spiny Orb Weaver**



## VOCABULARY

Listen

English: Spider

Tarantula

Portuguese: Aranha

[ah-RAHN-yah]

Tarântula

[tah-RAHN-too-lah]

Forro: Alan

[ah-LAHN]

Samangungu

[sah-mahn-noon-GOO]

## LANGUAGE STUDIES

### Accent Marks - Part 1

When dealing with other languages, accent marks are probably the most disconcerting element that English speakers come up against. Mainly because we don't use them. In thinking about our language section (to the left) I thought it might be a good idea to review them, specifically their role in Portuguese.

#### I. Their Purpose

Accent marks in Portuguese have a two-fold purpose:

1- To indicate which syllable is stressed in the word

• There are rules that dictate which syllable is stressed but when the word does not follow the rules an accent mark is absolutely necessary, as the syllable stress will change the entire meaning of the word. EX: Esta [EH-stah] = This / Está [eh-STAH] = (Verb ESTAR) - He/She IS  
E [EE] = And / É [EH] = (Verb SER) - He/She IS

2 - To indicate how the vowel is pronounced

- A) Acute ( ´ ) - Open sound
- B) Grave ( ` ) - Indicates a certain kind of contraction - not pronunciation
- C) Circumflex ( ^ ) - Closed sound
- D) Tilde ( ~ ) - Nasal sound
- E) Cedilla ( , ) - Makes a "C" sound like an "S"
- F) Diaeresis ( ¨ ) - Eliminated - Was used to make "QU" sound like the normal English "KW"

#### II. Their Sounds

**NASAL SOUND** - Due to space, this article will only focus on the pronunciation of the nasal sound - not the TILDE accent mark. That will come in the next issue.

Similar to English, "M" and "N" make a small nasal sound when used in front of vowels. However, most of the nasal sounds come after the vowels and are generated with the tongue, not the lips. Sounds wierd but say the word "tongue" and listen to it. There is a nasal sound and your tongue never touches your lips. The same is true for "Song", "Bang", etc. In Portuguese the nasal sound is produced the same way in most words - using the back of the tongue, not the front. Take "Aranha" as an example.

The tongue lifts in the back, creating the nasal, yet leaving the mouth open for smoother pronunciation of the rest of the word. This "Tongue Nasality" is one of the things that makes Portuguese so fluid - the mouth never closes and the sound never stops.

The word "Tarântula" is different because the "N" is followed by a "T" so the tongue tip has to be used. Try it out! Take your time and see if your linguistic skills improve any. Above all have fun with it!

## Pronuciation Key:

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