



Arrival in Mozambique

The last few weeks have been a whirlwind of activity as we've spent most of our time working through the complicated process of receiving our long-term residency permits. We've spent hours in government offices, filling out paperwork, and traveling back and forth to South Africa. This coming Tuesday, we are praying that we will receive the final paperwork, our DIRE, which will allow us to live here permanently. Here's a brief glimpse into the process we've been through.

- May 12th-21st: Our family left South Africa with the Fuentes for Mozambique to work on the registration of AOM within the country. Finally, on our 10th day in the capital--a process that began in March 2007--we received our stamped letters of invitation. These letters required us to return to South Africa to apply for a special visa, before reentering Mozambique to apply for residency.
- May 31st-today: Two weeks ago, we returned to Mozambique with our visas (granted by the Mozambican Embassy in South Africa) to apply for residency. Several "issues" required additional chasing of documents and signatures back down in Maputo. Last Monday, our applications were finally accepted, and Lord willing, on June 17th we will receive our residency permits!

We've been able to use some of this time getting more familiar with services and goods are available in the country. Scott was also able to buy two second-hand vehicles for the family so we have transport again. We've been pleased with the availability of basic food items, regular electricity, and the blessing of living near the beautiful Indian Ocean.

We are currently living in a rented house in Inhambane that was recently repainted and fixed up by members of the church we attended in Tzaneen. We can't thank them enough for this expression of love and service to us. Soon after our arrival, though, we realized that this house wasn't going to work for our family. Though a new house, the owner is very slow in getting his "to-do" list for us completed, we don't have water in the mornings (sometimes until 9 AM), we are right in the middle of a very compact community where we have neighbors on 3 sides who compete to play their music for the neighborhood. One guy said he starts his music at 6 AM to wake the neighbors so everyone can get to work. A nice service perhaps, but not one we need or want. Half the time we find ourselves keeping time with the constant pounding of the base. Thankfully we have located another house that is available, in a much quieter neighborhood. It is also slightly larger, and has a small place for a "school room" for the children. We can move into that house on July 5th. This new landlord has already gone out of his way to make it meet our needs (like adding hot water).

Once we get our residency papers, we will return once again to South Africa and organize the last part of this move - the moving truck that will bring all of our furniture to Inhambane. Until the paperwork is completed, we cannot import our things. We see the end in sight. Just a few more weeks of living out of suitcases (since we left Brazil)! Through it all, we have to be amazed at how God has provided and cared for us. Especially with the children who have been on the move about every 7 to 10 days between countries and different beds, and still keeping up with home schooling. They have done great -- perhaps better than the parents at times! A special "thank you" to each of you who has been praying for us. We also thank each of you who partners with us in this ministry financially. We look forward to sharing of what God is doing here in this special place once we get settled and can get started. For a day to day look into our life here, please visit Lisa's blog.

Lots of love from us to each of you,

Scott, Lisa, Gabriel, Mariah, and Jayden Harris

E-mail us at sgharris@mac.com or lharris@lisaharriswrites.com

Learn more about our happenings at: www.myblogintheheartofafrica.blogspot.com

