

Pray For The Claypools

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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,

October 2011

In the last prayer letter we had the joy of telling you that we were expecting a boy. Now it is our great pleasure to introduce to you Sean David Claypool, born here on São Tomé on August 17, 2011, at 10:20 am, measuring 19.69 inches and weighing in at 7.39 lbs. It has been wonderful for all of us to be able to see and touch and hold him.

Thank you all so much for your prayers for both Amanda and the baby. Complications developed during the last few weeks when Amanda's blood pressure shot up rather high. The concern was pre-eclampsia. On the 16th when we went for another clinic visit her pressure was higher still, and they immediately sent her to the hospital. Sean was born CEsarian the next day, after a conference of 4 doctors advised us that it was the best route for both mother and baby.

We knew that the way things were going CEsarian was a possibility and had been praying. The Lord gave us both peace about it, and we were ready when the doctors approached us. Praise the Lord everything went extremely well, and 5 days later both Amanda and Sean were home resting.

Since then Amanda has fully recovered and has gotten back into her normal routine. Well, almost. Having a baby introduced into the family has changed a lot of what we do. But we are all adjusting, and the girls have been a tremendous help doing chores around the house and even helping with the baby when they can.

Sean spends most of his time sleeping interspersed with eating, crying, smiling and cooing/talking. He grew a little over 3 inches his first month, but thankfully has slowed that down a bit since then. Gracious, we can't even imagine what it would be like if he kept up that pace. For those that receive our email prayer letter, there should be more pictures in the quarterly newsletter going out soon.

As for ministry, we have some more exciting news. To begin, we have continued the visits up at Sao Nicolau, but all the indications point to the fact that it is going to take some time. Please continue to pray with us for open doors and hearts, as we continue visiting. However, along with Sao Nicolau, God has blessed us with a great opportunity to see something started at a small "roça" [rō-suh] (old plantation) named Salanza.

While heading up to S. Nicolau one day in September, I gave a ride to a man who took us to Salanza in order to show us around. When we got there we found that the manager is a young man named Clayton, which some of you might remember. He was one of the first involved in our Classes/Bible studies that we had running our first term. We lost track of him some time ago, in fact I thought he had actually left the country, but God literally brought us right back to him again.

He was very excited to see us, and through the long process of talking and catching up, he suggested that we set up a Bible study there at the "roça." It has taken a few weeks to make sure the interest was genuine and not just generated by the excitement of our meeting again, but things are progressing well. We do not have a definite date for starting but should have something up and running by the end of November. Praise the Lord!!

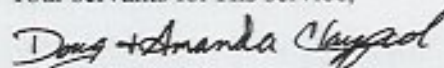
We have decided to run a type of English help class also but separate from the Bible study itself. This will help to fill the need for community involvement, and should also help to generate interest and spread the word about the Bible study. But the main point is the Bible study. It is why we have kept it at a separate time, so that anyone interested in the Bible study can come regardless of their age or connection with the English class.

We cannot tell you how thrilled we are at this open door of opportunity and ask that you would pray with us in this endeavor, that along with this door of opportunity the people will also listen with open hearts.

In parting, another important prayer request that we want to put before you concerns our visas. Our current visas run out the end of December, so within a month or so we will need to begin the process of renewing them. The laws have changed several times since our last visit to immigration, but as far as we have learned there is a type of permanent visa now available that we are going to apply for. One way or another this will all be decided before the next prayer letter comes out in January, and we would greatly appreciate your prayers during this whole process.

Thank you again for your faithful prayers and support.

Your servants for His service,



The Claypools

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