



Mameme 2

Goats as gifts



As we drove up the road to Mameme 2, I could hear African songs in my head. 335 days earlier I had been in this very place with The Outreach Foundation and every one of those days in

between I had heard the music. As we rounded the bend in the road, the villagers poured out of the huts, the village bell sounded, and the children came running. Then the beautiful songs began to welcome us.

Mameme 2 is one of the poorest villages we will visit on this trip and one of the most happy. The word “happy” begs the question, “what is happiness?” For our friends in Mameme 2, “happy” is having friends visit. “Happy” is waiting all day for visitors to arrive. “Happy” is showing us their new church.

Last year, our family worshiped with about 40 villagers in a 10 foot by 15 foot hut. This year, we celebrated God in their new church which was sponsored by South Highland Presbyterian in Birmingham. At the end of worship, the villagers brought us a live goat in thanksgiving for our visit. Imagine how the poorest of the poor were willing to share such a valuable gift! Would you be willing to take the most valuable item in your home and give it away with joy?

As we traveled away from the village, we named the goat “Rex.” The village midwife, Peelee, had told me, “Today we lift the church roof in praise to the King for you and for your building this church. Praise the King our God.”

On Sunday morning our team divides into three villages for preaching. Tom Boone, Cesar Anunciacao, and Berry Long will be preaching in villages 2-3 hours from our current location. We are looking forward to experiencing the local churches and their singing, dancing, and worship.