

# Pray For The Claypools

Field Address:

Caixa Postal 1040

Sao Tome

Sao Tome & Principe

-----  
claypool.stp.ministries@tutanota.com



## Church Planting Missionaries In Sao Tome & Principe

Mission Board:

BIMI

Doug Claypool #1408

PO Box 9

Harrison, TN 37341-0009

---

*"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,

April 2026

March has come and gone and life has returned to the normal daily grind. The first part of the year is typically slow here on the islands as folks "recuperate" from the expenditures and festivities of the end of year season. It is a chance for everyone to regroup and get set for the year ahead. We are no different, and used the time to establish some new routines in our ministry as well as to take care of some much needed work on both the house and church property.

Grounds work is an oft forgotten but constant undertaking in the never ending growing season of the tropics. Here in our area, an unkempt yard is a bad testimony for both practical and aesthetic reasons. They tend to harbor and generate rats and unwanted bugs, as well as become an eyesore in general. So, after the intense focus of the last months we needed to take the time to get our yard and the church property back under control. Dias in particular was a great blessing in this area as he gathered some young men from the area to come in and trim all the trees surrounding our property that had become heavily overgrown. We also went in and did some serious cutting and trimming within the property itself, spraying the building for termites and ants and generally getting the property to the point of giving a positive first impression.

It also turned into a time of mutual comradery, as we were all there helping with the work, getting caught in the rain and even able to help a neighbor get some work done on their property as well. We often underrate the day to day work when we think of ministry, however, this is where people's reality lies. Through all of this the Lord helped us to be "real", not just to our own people but also to those around us. We became more than just a preacher in a tie talking about God. After working side by side, getting rained on together, cut, sweating, hauling brush, sweeping and more, people who before were just passing acquaintances became friends. Doors that were closed before became portals full of possibilities. We were reminded that Christianity is not just about our identity, but also about our living, and sometimes seeing who we are played out in real time makes a bigger impact than mere words.

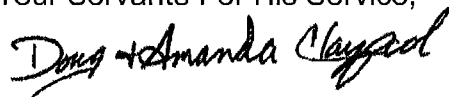
While all this was going on we were also making more focused visits into the area north of Otótó. It is a rougher area and one in which we don't have any direct contacts. It is known for being an area of thieves and strong in the local witchcraft practices. For some time now, Doug has made it a point to walk a circuit through the area while calling on folks on Sunday morning, so they would get used to our presence. Some have started greeting the "Pastor" as he walks through, and a few have been willing to chat as our paths cross, but we would appreciate your prayers for open doors and hearts.

Doug has also been visiting with an older colder couple off and on both as an open door and also to gain more experience in the Sao Tomean dialect, which is still used by the older generation. Their names are Fernandes & Belu [beh-LOO] and they both have a very colorful but interesting past. It took several weeks but Belu started to open up and then Amanda joined the visits as well. It takes time for folks here to get used to interacting with foreigners, but they have been opening up more and more. We have also gotten to know more of their children and grandchildren who live in the area, and one of the daughters, Zita, has said she would like to come to one of our services to see what it is like.

Then, at the first of the year, Belu was diagnosed with a terminal illness and began to go downhill. Both of these dear folks are very religious, but their minds run more down the line of catholic thinking as that seems to be all they have known. It has taken a long time for us to get to the point where we can have real conversations about the Lord. We know that they have family that are saved, and in our talks they have demonstrated more than just a passing knowledge about the Lord, but we do not know of their spiritual condition. Please pray with us for opportunities and open minds. Even if our witnessing is only watering the ground, allowing family to push through, we are asking for God's hand to move.

Once again, we wish to thank everyone for your prayers and your giving. Life relentlessly moves on and we all have to move with it as we walk through each day following the next. As such, we do not take lightly the commitment of God's people, allowing us to be here working where you cannot be. May God's hand be evident in your daily life and may your living reflect His goodness and His grace.

Your Servants For His Service,



The Claypools

Doug, Amanda, Morgan, Kaitlyn, Sean