

# Pray For The Claypools

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## Church Planting Missionaries In Sao Tome & Principe

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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,

January 2026

Christmas and New Year's Day has come and gone and life is getting back to normal again. We had a lot happening over the holidays and it was a joy to see the Lord working. Still, it is nice to be able to breathe a little easier as we get back to our regular day to day.

We had a wonderful surprise when our church asked if we could organize a Christmas Eve service for this year. We had tried to organize one in the past but there was no interest in it as they were more focused on the New Year's Watchnight Service. However, this year, the Sunday before Christmas, they came after services asking if it could be arranged. We were thrilled with the new development, particularly as it was all their idea this time.

Considering the time frame we didn't have anything elaborate, but we did go through the Christmas story with the kids and some adults coming to the front and reading the passages with Christmas hymns interspersed between. It was a very serious occasion, but after it was all said and done there was a lot of laughter, rejoicing and a great sense of contentment and completion.

Most of our people have been part of the Catholic church for all of their lives, with varying degrees of commitment. Christmas Eve services are a strong part of that tradition. Those holiday traditions still hold strong for some and we are very pleased that God has given an alternative for all to enjoy, rooted in His Word and centered around the birth of our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ.

Our New Year's Watchnight Service was another time of fellowship and fun. We all gathered together around 9:30 pm. We threw some breadfruit on the fire to roast and eat along with some Kalulu (a traditional gumbo), stew, rice, jackfruit and cookies that others brought in. We even brought some coffee for afterwards, but everyone had such a good time that we never got around to preparing it.

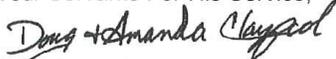
Sean and I used some scraps lying around our yard earlier in the week to build a ladder-golf game. It went over beautifully and the kids had a great time. The only hitch was that the balls were softer than anticipated and the rope kept pulling out. One of the men that came spent most of his evening pushing the rope back through the balls so that the kids could keep playing. There were also a few small fireworks set off and lots of steelwool burned. That's right, it turns out that fine steelwool once lit will continue to glow and send off sparks as long as your spin it around. So the kids spent a goodly amount of time running, screaming, laughing around while pinwheeling their arms watching their lights sparkle and leave light trails in the night.

Just before midnight we gathered everyone together for a devotional, challenging them to look ahead at what God will do in the coming year and then brought the new year in with a word of prayer. After some more fellowship and giving the kids some more time to wear themselves out, we all left around 1:30 am and headed home, very tired but very satisfied and full of the goodness of our great God.

On another note, Morgan is doing very well living in the US. It took some adjustment, but she is learning and growing. She is still working at our home church in the school and they have asked her to stay on for another year. God has shown many times that He is watching over her, which is as much a blessing to us as it is to her.

Once again, thank you for all your faithful support both prayer and financial. Please continue praying as we seek God's clear and distinct direction for the year ahead.

Your Servants For His Service,



The Claypools

Doug, Amanda, Morgan, Kaitlyn, Sean