

Brooklyn Howard Mozambique Missions Proposal

As the newest member of the Makua Team in Montepuez, Mozambique, Africa, I will be taking on an apprentice role, working alongside this team in ministry, education, and church planting. More specifically, I will be teaching English as a second language as well as leading women's ministry groups. My main supporting congregation is West Ark Church of Christ located in Fort Smith Arkansas. Legacy Church of Christ in Bartlesville Oklahoma also supports me monthly.

About Me

My name is Brooklyn Howard, and I was born and raised in Fort Smith, Arkansas. I come from a small family that includes my mother, Lana, my father, Rett, and my older sister, Megan. I attended Harding University where I received a bachelors in Exercise Science, with a double minor in Medical Missions and Pre-professional Health Studies. I recently turned 23, and in my free time I enjoy going for runs and baking anything sweet.

I have had a heart for missions for many years now. I've attended West Ark Church of Christ my whole life. I'm honored to have them as my main supporting congregation now because this church first introduced to missions. As a teen, I completed several short-term trips to Guatemala, Canada, and domestic inner cities. These trips introduced me to cultural differences, language barriers, poverty, and acts of service. While in college I spent three months studying in Zambia, Africa. Our team volunteered at the clinic and children's home in addition to going out to villages to encourage new churches. It was there that I began to envision a career in missions. I am a people-person and thrive in people-orientated cultures like those of South-Eastern Africa. In August of 2021, I moved to Montepuez, Mozambique. I spent nine months working alongside this team, learning new skills and making friends. I feel called – and can't wait – to return; to start a ministry teaching English, deepen friendships and to share my faith with others.



<https://www.worldatlas.com/maps/mozambique>

Geographical Location

Mozambique is a coastal country located in south-eastern Africa. The province of Cabo Delgado is the northernmost region of Mozambique and is home to three major people groups: the Makonde, the Mwani, and the Makua people (which is the largest and one of the most unreached groups when it comes to the gospel.) I will reside in Montepuez, the second-largest city in the province, second to the provincial capital, Pemba.



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mozambique_in_Africa_\(-mini_map_-rivers\).svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mozambique_in_Africa_(-mini_map_-rivers).svg)

Purpose and Goals

In joining this team, I am taking on an apprentice role. This team has been working amongst the Makua people for almost 20 years. With more than 80 new churches, they are making disciples who make disciples. I will work alongside them in their existing ministries in addition to starting my own.

Some of the existing ministries include IDP (internally displaced persons) relief efforts; women's Bible studies; village education classes on hygiene and generic healthcare; rice distribution among the handicapped population; Bible distribution efforts; and the administration of a local Bible college. As an apprentice and new team member, I would help coordinate Bible school events, host women's studies, and attending newer village churches to encourage and support. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from existing missionaries who have many years of experience and much wisdom. I could not receive this degree of knowledge in a classroom setting. Therefore, I will be very intentional as their apprentice.



In the fall of 2021 when I came to Mozambique, my primary role was a teacher for the team's kids. In addition to working at the Makua Team school, I was presented with the opportunity to teach English as a second language at *Médicos Sem Fronteiras* (Doctors Without Borders). For several months, I worked with their employees, teaching them English. It was here that I began to see the desire among this community to learn English. I, as well as other members on the team, have had many inquiries from the community about possible English classes. The official language of Mozambique is Portuguese, the world's 6th most spoken language. Because Mozambicans speak Portuguese as well as various indigenous languages, one might wonder why so many want to learn English. From a geographical perspective, Mozambique's neighboring counties (Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, and South Africa) are English-speaking countries. Mozambicans are at a disadvantage when it comes to travel and business transactions. Employers seek English-speaking employees and offer higher wages and job

security to those who do. This begins to explain Mozambicans' desires to learn the world's most used language. In the terms of goals for starting a new ministry, I feel called to continue teaching English in this community. It will make a huge socio-economic impact on the people of Montepuez.

Most importantly, my main purpose in starting an ESL ministry, is to bring people to Christ. I intend for my classes to be an avenue to God's word. I will incorporate the Bible at all levels of English learning. For beginners this means singing children's VBS songs and acting out stories from the Bible. As students advance, I will include more Biblical text with the help of curriculum from Christian publishers like *Let's Start Talking*, and *Tried and True ESL*. The funds I am requesting will go towards purchasing these materials. In an attempt to disciple my students, I will make it a goal to get to know them personally and share my faith with them. We will have non-class activities like Bible studies in my home, soccer games in the afternoons, and bon-fire devotionals with the Bible school students. This ministry will bring a different crowd of people to the existing work God is doing in Montepuez. Individuals seeking to learn English for whatever reason can get plugged into one of the many churches in the area and have the opportunity to be discipled by local Christians.



Former English Students drawing family portraits.

TEFL Training

While I gained some experience and knowledge teaching English this past year, I am by no means an expert. Because I enjoy teaching English as a second language (ESL) so much, I want to devote my time and effort to becoming better at it. This is where the TEFL program comes in. TEFL stands for teaching English as a foreign language and is designed to equip people like me to teach English abroad. They offer an 11 week online course consisting of 170 hours of work and 20 hours of teaching practice resulting in a TEFL certificate.



Language Learning

As previously stated, the official language of Mozambique is Portuguese, as it once was a colony of Portugal. The team, and myself, thought it would be most beneficial to my ministry if I attend some form of language school. I am blessed to have received funding to attend 6 weeks of language school. I will be in Lisbon, Portugal during September and October 2022. After kickstarting my education, I hope to continue language learning with a tutor, either online or in person, while living in Mozambique.