

THE HARRIS HAPPENINGS



The Harris Girls

PRAISES

- Such a blessing to have family here
- Safe travels and good overall health
- The good news of Jesus Christ-the glorious Gospel-changing lives
- My sister, LeAnn being here, and being such a big blessing to many
- Another step in the paperwork process completed
- The Lord's faithful and abundant provision and protection of our family

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Paperwork process continues
- Internship with LeAnn
- Continued cultivation of our personal relationships with the Lord, and with one another
- John and Jeremiah in their new found faith
- The pastors to have the desire and discipline to seek and serve the Lord
- Continued protection; health and safety

"And on my behalf, that utterance may be given unto me in opening my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

Ephesians 6:19-20

Rose resting on Uncle Mike. Tired from a full and fun day.



Gramma and Ben reading books. The kids loved having her here.

We loved having time together



The Power of the Gospel

August UPDATE

It has been quite some time since our last update - and we apologize for “such a long silence” as they say here in Kenya. We consider it a blessing to be able to write and send out a regular letter...and especially to have people who are interested enough to take the time and the trouble to read them! It truly is a privilege to have this opportunity to inform you about how the Lord has been working in and through our lives - so that you can know how better to continue to pray for us and the ministry we are involved in. And it also allows you to see some of the ways the Lord is already answering prayer - and to give Him thanks and praise!

We have been busy - but very blessed by visitors, here in the Harris household. As you know, after the short-term mission team left in June, one stayed behind for a 6 month internship! My younger sister LeAnn, will be staying (Lord willing through December, depending on paperwork), to see whether or not the Lord is leading her back to Kenya to minister “long-term.” So, the month of July was spent with her getting settled into her own place, and space with a regular routine regarding ministry to the local ladies, the missionary community, and our own personal family. We have been so tremendously blessed by her presence/person already! It has truly been an honor to hear her honesty about how the Lord is working in her heart, and to see how she is really learning to listen to His leading in her life. Having her here, as part of our family, is proving such a powerful

and positive experience for us personally! She has been a great encouragement to us, and has challenged us (in the best ways), in our own walks with the Lord, and in this life lived with others. We are going through this series on “honor” with the kids for family Bible Time, and Aunt LeAnn has been a wonderful example of what it “looks like” to show honor to others. “Treating people as special. Doing MORE than what’s expected. And having a good attitude.” We are grateful for this time where we can all learn and grow together, “in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

In August, we were blessed again, with some more very special visitors. Both my mom and brother were able to come to Kenya, for about 1 1/2 weeks! My mom has been once before, but this was the first time for my brother Mike. We were so blessed by their willingness and availability to take the time and the trouble that it is to come all the way to Kenya, specifically to see and spend some time with us! We took some time off from homeschooling and “scheduled ministry” to just enjoy one another. It was such a special blessing having my family here, together under one roof, on this side of the world in Africa! We are so grateful to God for the family He has given us, the whole world over, by the blood of Jesus, being born into the family of God. And thankful to Him too, that borders don’t have to be “boundaries” between the “tie that binds.”

So, when I went back to my ministry meetings with the men, instead of starting up again where we left off, I thought I would do a review on the clarity of the gospel. I use a little 27 page booklet called “The Gospel” by Ron Shea (www.cleargospel.org). I like it because it is very clear and simple. In my newest group we are still talking about the gospel, after already 2 months. They come with so many questions regarding what the Bible teaches on a certain subject...so it takes time to make it through any teaching. In addition to our Lord’s perfect example in Scripture, He has been teaching me experientially about how true discipleship is much more than just teaching. It is a lot of investment; of time, “trouble” and really your very own self/life. To be honest it is a lot of caring. Please don’t misunderstand me, of course I care. I want others to see the truth. But am I only willing to be the one to help show/share the truth to them, IF I think I have the time, or want to take the trouble, to do it? I want to share an example of how the Lord used me, in spite of myself.

One day a few weeks ago, when our “teaching time” had ended and we were wrapping up with question and answer time, I was feeling a bit discouraged, like no one was understanding or at least retaining the things I have been sharing with them, even over time. A lot of the questions/concerns were the same as had been brought up numerous

times before, and I wasn't feeling very patient. The heat of the day, beating down on us only made me more weary and irritable. On the really hot days, when there is no breeze, it can feel a bit like being baked in a brick oven (being altogether in a small room with mud walls and tin roof), under the direct sun! I was ready to wrap things up and go. But after class, we oftentimes take (hot) tea together at the "point pastor's" house, and share in a time of more casual, personal conversation. On the way to his house for chai (tea), I asked a man by the name of John, "Did you learn anything today?" John has recently begun attending our discipleship classes. He stopped walking, and with a broad beaming smile stretched across his face, he confidently proclaimed "I got saved today!" The way he shared it with me was unique to most of my other experiences with someone who had just put their trust in Christ. His obvious joy and excitement, confidence and openness were refreshing! I shared in his excitement and told him this was wonderful news, and also asked him a couple of questions to "confirm" his claim, in my own mind. He really seemed to understand in his heart and embrace in his life this new TRUTH. WOW! What a blessing! When we reached the house, we all prayed and thanked the Lord for opening his eyes. It was a wonderful time of praising God for His goodness and His grace in our lives together.

Later, as we were finishing up our tea time talk, another (new) man by the name of Jeremiah joins us. I guess "better late than never," right? In true Kenyan fashion, he introduced himself as "born again" and then proceeded to share his testimony with me, as is customary, this being the first time we had met. However, from what he was sharing, it most definitely sounded as if he had been deceived by the Father of lies, and in fact was dealing with demonic forces, believing them to be God. We spent the next 2 hours going through Scripture, showing him what God's Word says about being "born again." Jeremiah repented, he changed his mind about what he was believing before, and put his trust in Jesus Christ alone for his salvation. Wow!!! Once again, the Good News of Jesus Christ is proven the "power of God unto salvation to everyone who believeth..."

I am both hugely honored and humbled at the same time...that the Lord would allow me to be a part of this beautiful blessing of new life! Thank you Lord for using me, even when I am not the most willing or eager participant, when I am more concerned/focused on the temporal rather than the eternal. I am grateful to God for giving me the grace and the patience I needed that day to take the time that was required. And I'm thankful for the boldness he has given me to speak the truth in love. But I also realize and recognize the truth that it is actually only by His strength, His patience, His grace, His love, and by HIS

Word that anyone - including me - comes to salvation. Thank you Lord, that you are not willing that any should perish, but that ALL should come to repentance.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth...”Rom 1:16.

By His Grace,

Brad Harris

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