



# HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not  
perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
Isaiah 43:19

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Rachel (turned 9 in April)-wants to be a missionary to India

It's hard to believe that my firstborn little girl was born almost a decade ago! And she has grown and changed SO much! She is a huge help around the house, and such a big blessing to our family. She still LOVES to read books (sometimes more than interacting in real life with real people and real problems!) She was inspired by the missionary story of Amy Carmichael, and decided sometime this past year, that

she wants to be a missionary to India. She seems mature for her age, but she is still very much my little girl. We pray that we will take this tender time to cultivate the seeds that God is growing in her; a deep desire to know and love the God Who gave her life, that she would seek to serve Him with it-however HE sees best.



Ben (turned 7 in April)-wants to be an astronaut (or) pastor (or) missionary to South America

It has been really neat to see the way the Lord has been working in and through the life of our one and only son, Benjamin. God has allowed something really sweet and special between the two of us to develop, where before it was lacking. There is a real relationship forming; one of friendship, trust, and honesty between father and son, and I thank God for it. I pray that this relationship would provide

opportunities to point my son to His heavenly Father as the One Who has all the answers, and all the wisdom in the world! And that I too would be reminded that I have a Heavenly Father Who can help me in my time of need too.

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Ruth (turned 5 in June)-wants to be a wife and mom

Ruth is learning and growing bigger and more beautiful each day. She is noticeably taller, and is learning to



read in school. She was the only “quiet” mild tempered, easy infant of all five of our children...and she still doesn’t demand much. Therefore, she can tend to be more easily overlooked/unnoticed. She is a very loving and affectionate little girl, who craves attention from people. We pray that WE will be the ones to show her how much she means; to our family, to the world, and mostly to the One Who made her, and loves her more than anyone else ever could.



Rebekah (turned 4 in November)-  
wants to be a farmer’s wife

She has a beautiful mind that lives in her own little world. Full of passion and creativity, we could learn a lot from this little girl, about one’s outlook on life, and laughter. She lights up our lives, and livens up our family unit...and doesn’t even seem to notice. While we are glad that she does not live to please people, we would pray that she would learn to be aware of, and care for those around her...while seeking to please

the LORD in her life, and not  
herself.

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Rose (turned 2 in September)-wants to be a princess

She is quite the character, preferring to be called “Princess Elsa of Aerendale” as opposed to “Rose.” She is a very happy and healthy little girl, growing more and more with each passing day. She is cute and clever as any, and uses this to her huge advantage. We pray that we as parents will continue to be consistent with her as “the baby” with healthy boundaries and discipline in her life, as well as love and grace.

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“Happy New Year!!!”

Once again, seasons are changing. It is probably colder than cold where you are, and it has been averaging in the 100’s over here! We are in what is called the “hot season,” while you are in your winter. But either way, with the changing/passing of seasons comes new life. Whether it be unbearably hot or cold climates for a time; it makes more welcome the refreshing rains that bring relief and green growth, or warm sun that thaws the ground (and your bones) allowing the blood to flow more freely with new life and growth.

Different seasons of life bring change and growth as well. And we are truly thankful for the season of life the Lord has us in right now. We are encouraged by the new life and green growth that we are beginning to see!

As we look back and reflect on the year 2016-we are reminded of God’s goodness and faithfulness to us always. It is good to look back on what the Lord has done, and how He has been working in our lives, and on our behalf. It is important to take some time to really reflect, and to thank the Lord for His faithfulness...to all generations.

We would like to share just a few of the “highlights” of this past year with you.

We actually spent the first month of 2016 still stateside, preparing for our return to Kenya. We had the honor of welcoming in the new year with family, but were back in Kenya even before the end of January.

We then spent the first few months getting settled/situated into a rhythm and routine of our lives in Kenya, after being back in the states for furlough for almost a whole year! Most of the “ministries” that happened in this time period resulted naturally from simply living life (seeking to serve Him in all things), and loving people (as we shared the love of Jesus with them). The Lord provided plenty of ample opportunities to witness for Christ to those people placed right in front of our faces: neighbors/and their employees, the groundskeepers, etc. and we were both blessed and challenged by the reminder that the way we live our very lives is ministry...as unto the Lord, and not unto men.

But then we became more busy with more “formal/full-time” ministries:

In June we had the largest group yet, of students from Frontier School of the Bible, come to minister alongside our family for 2 weeks. We are grateful to God for the open door and the opportunities to be fellow workers with students, faculty, etc. from the Bible School where we attended, and friends and co-laborers in Kenya.

My sister LeAnn, was one of the group, and she stayed on after they left to complete a 6 month internship here in Kenya. She was a blessing to so many, in various ways; the Kenyan women/people, the missionary community, and our personal family.

My mom and brother also came to visit for a couple of weeks in August. It was a beautiful and blessed time to be able to be together on this side of the world!

In October, Becci Rohrer (a former intern and friend) also came back for a visit while LeAnn was here, and stayed for a month. It was really special being able to see and spend some time with her again!

Becci left in November, and LeAnn left in December-and both are going back to the states with the prayer that the Lord will guide and direct their next steps in this new year...back to Kenya, if it is His will. We consider it a privilege to have been ANY part of the process that the Lord used to lead these young women, in the way He wants them to go.

Meanwhile, we have continued with the main ministries of teaching/discipling the pastors that the Lord puts in front of us, and teaching/discipling our children where He has done the same. The Lord continues to teach Ellie and I a lot from the counseling we did when we were back in the states about a year ago, and we have been really encouraged to see how the Lord has allowed us to implement some of the things we have learned regarding “heart issues” and not just “head knowledge,” into both my teaching times with the pastors, and things at home.

The year of 2016 seemed like a long year, though the same 12 months has past, it seems so full, and yet so fast at the same time?! This has only been a glimpse of some of the things God has been doing in and through us here. We look forward to what the future holds and eagerly await what the Lord has planned for us...in His time. We are so grateful to play a part in His perfect plan-and thank Him for your part as well. Thank you for ALL your faithful support; through financial giving, prayers, and encouragements. The Lord has used you in our lives, and His work here...and we are grateful. May He bless you and

keep you in perfect peace, as you fix your mind on Him this year...and always. Happy new year!!!

Because of Him,

Brad and Ellie Harris and family

## Prayer Requests

- For our work permit renewal
- Growing more in the Lord individually and as a family
- For the salvation of our children
- For the pastors I am discipling to not only have a head knowledge but also a heart change

## Praises

- For living to see another new year-and seek to serve our Savior in it!
- For God's faithful and abundant provision for our family...and using you!
- God's Word that has the power to change lives
- Receiving God's gracious love-learning to live it out



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