



We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

2 Thessalonians 1:3

Greetings from Kenya, Africa! We hope your summer has been full of fun and the sun! We sure do miss everybody: all the parades, rodeos, and barbecues, and most of all, spending these times together with all of you. I found myself

wishing we were standing with you all in the backyard, fellowshiping with family and friends as we barbecue on America's Independence Day. It feels a bit backwards here with the weather changing to cooler and rainy (as cool as it gets here anyway)! But we are basking in the goodness of our great God, and in the freedom that we have found in His Son, Jesus Christ. And we are thankful for the technology He has provided to make it possible to try to stay in touch with you.

I want to share something with you, that was an encouragement to me, and hopefully will be for you too! Pastor Boniface is who we might call a "point pastor" (the one whom has invited me to come teach those interested in his area, and allows me to share his building to do so), for our Wednesday meetings. I have known Pastor Boniface for almost 3 years now (he was introduced to me by another "point pastor" of a different area of one of my former classes). However, with our time spent back in the states, and the slow-paced culture of Kenya, we have probably only actually gone through 1.5 yrs. of actual teaching time together.

Not long after we started a discipleship class at a local church in his area back in March 2014, problems arose regarding the color of my skin. The people (particularly the overseeing "bishop" of the area) insisted that I must be helping him (Pastor Boniface) financially, and unless he was willing to share the wealth, I would not be welcome to continue coming. Pastor Boniface was initially underneath this bishop, and so in an effort to respect his authority, but continue learning more about the Lord and His Word-he told me we would be meeting at his house from now on. But when I showed up at his house the following week, he had constructed a separate small, simple building. I know I have shared this story before, so briefly; he did not bring the problem for me to handle, and he did not ask me for anything - but rather, he took it upon himself,

sacrificing of his own time, trouble, and resources, to build this structure for us to meet in. Subsequently, Pastor Boniface ended up leaving the religious denomination that he had been affiliated with, finding that it did not line up with Scripture, or teach the truth. He wanted to become a Bible teaching church. So, they began to meet in the small, simple structure that he had erected on his own, in order to host our weekly meetings. I was very encouraged to see him do these things on his own. He was truly taking steps of faith, to follow what He believed the Lord was calling him to do.

Well, about 2 weeks ago, something really exciting happened...that encouraged us all! A mission organization came to do a “medical camp” in his area about a year ago. It goes to stand, that within each of these areas where they seek to help the physical needs of the people - they also use it as an opportunity to help the spiritual needs of those same people. And when someone has become a brand-new baby Christian, they need a church family to grow in. They asked around of the leadership who might make a good candidate for a church building in that area - and Pastor Boniface was suggested. They said they have really seen change and growth in his life, for the things of the Lord, and in His Word. And even maturing in the ministry: His faithfulness and desire to serve the Lord, and His people is evident. So, this organization gave the money for him to build a church. But being that he already had the small, simple structure he had already raised himself - they were to build on and add to the building that was already existing. Again, one of the biggest blessings (to me personally), is how it was truly the Lord Who provided for the needs of His people, without him having to advertise anything at all! He did not have to ask, or seek after anything but the Lord - and He was found Faithful and True. The Lord is the One Who put it on the hearts of people, to help by building a structure for a church to meet in. And it was the Lord Who helped others to see him as someone who could practically use that church building, and be used of the Lord to build others up by edifying and

encouraging the saints. For sure, this new church building has been used in the building up of his faith! Praise the Lord for the growth and maturity happening in Pastor Boniface's life! And Praise the Lord for HIS faithfulness!

“He Who calls you is Faithful, Who also will do it.”

Prayer Request

We have a special prayer request this month. We would ask that you would join us in praying for Kenya's upcoming presidential elections (August 8). Back in 2007 (before we were here) the presidential election was a horrific time of violence, death, crime, hate, and chaos. Due to this, each time there is an upcoming election, there is a tendency to some level of tension, strain, fear, and uncertainty in the country (though not like has happened before). This month marks 8 yrs. for our family being in Kenya-praise God! We have been here through only one presidential election, but various other outbursts of “demonstrations” and “protests” have happened as well-enough to know that there will likely be some degree of unrest, even if it is mild. Everyone is going into “survival mode” as they seek to stock up as much as is possible, to make sure they have enough food for their families...if things go bad. We too are trying to take precautions, making wise choices for the future (in food, fuel, plans and preparations, etc). But we are also trusting in the Lord and His perfect, protection, provision, and “the peace of God that passes all understanding, and will rule our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

We would really appreciate your prayers for our family personally, and for the whole country of Kenya at this time. Please pray for protection, provision, and peace throughout the whole country, and in our own hearts. And please pray that through this time, the Lord would use us “to shine as lights in this dark world,” as He sees fit. Thank you again for all your love and prayers - we are truly blessed. May God bless you, as you are such a beautiful blessing to us!

In Christ,

Brad Harris

