

The Harris Happenings

1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asked you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

FBC ELSEWHERE



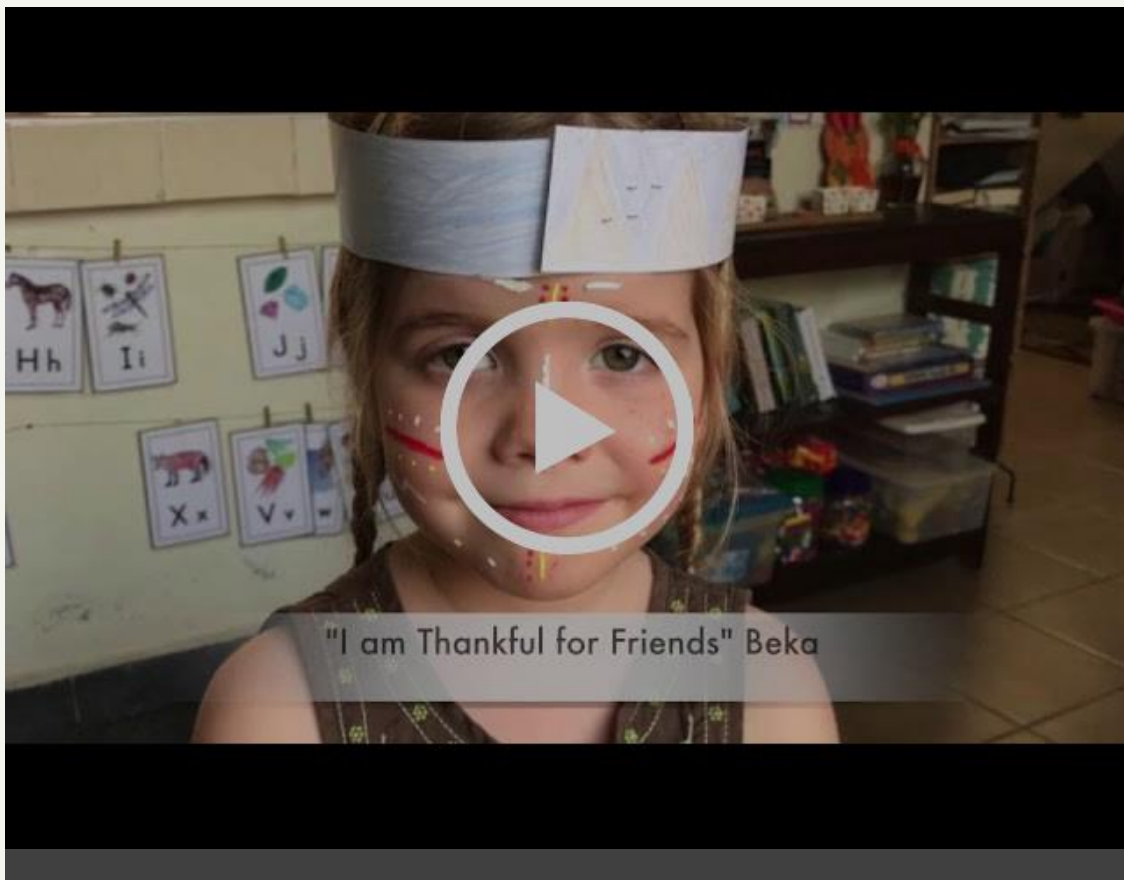
[FOLLOW on FACEBOOK](#)



[Website](#)



[Email](#)



Update

December 2017

On behalf of the whole Harris family: we want to send our greetings and our gratitude for ALL of your faithful love and support of our family personally, and the work we are doing here in Kenya. Thank you for all the Holiday well wishes, greeting cards, emails, words of encouragement, gifts, and prayers. It really helps to make the season brighter! And to feel somewhat better connected across the world.

In October we celebrated "Harvest", recognizing and appreciating the bountiful blessings of the Lord that He has bestowed on us.

Though there were a couple members sick in our home - the Harris household celebrated Thanksgiving with hearts full of gratitude to our great God: for ALL He is, and ALL He does on behalf of His children. We are so very grateful to be a part of God's family. May we

practice thanksgiving in our hearts to God, and proclaiming to the public His praises - each and every day!

The month of December was SO full: of fun, and food, and fellowship, and friends and family! The meaning of "Emmanuel" (God with us) was appreciated in a new perspective. God Himself left the perfect, peaceful, beautiful heavens with His Father - to come down to dwell among fallen, broken, and sinful people of this world. Jesus chose to obey the will of His Father, by becoming like one of us, and being WITH us. He was willing to face the hard and embrace the ugly, to see suffering and endure pain. He humbled Himself to love and sacrificially serve and give to others of His time, His energy, His presence - HIMSELF. What an example for us to follow!

We had wanted to reserve the month of December for "doing nothing" (whatever that means). Our guest was going to be going back home after several months, and we were planning to take this time as an opportunity to "focus on the family " by resting, relaxing, being refreshed, recharged, and regrouped as a family. But as it often happens; when you make some time (by taking off from regular routines) - that time tends to be filled up with other things. But as we found, this is not necessarily a bad thing. True, the month of December was not what we were envisioning for a family break-time together - but it was better than we had imagined as an opportunity for ministry and service together as a family. We were SO very blessed by all the various ways we were able to share in and with the lives of others! The Lord continues to open up opportunities of all kinds to be a blessing...and to BE blessed! So often, we aim to be a blessing - and yet, we end up being the ones who were blessed. We are thankful that although "a man plans his way, the Lord directs his steps." He knows our name, and our every need - before and better than we even do!

And now we are truly thankful to see the start of a new year! He has proven Himself to be faithful and true to our family, and more importantly to His name; yet again, and always - and we are grateful. God has given us the opportunity of a lifetime (literally) - where His mercies are new every morning. May we live our lives for His glory! We still consider it a privilege and an honor to serve Him here in Kenya, as long as He has us here. The Lord did allow us the opportunity to take some time off together as a family after the holidays. When we went to Nairobi to renew a passport, we took the liberty to make the most of it as a trip! So, now we are refreshed and ready to jump back into the "full swing of things" with both feet! Our regular routines of discipleship classes with the pastors and homeschooling our

children (among other things) will be a welcome change to the busy (though beautiful and blessed) bustle of happenings over the holidays.

As for an update on the politics of this country:

It seems the Kenyan elections are over, for now, and things are trying to get back to a new normal - except the opposition team still plans to hold their own inauguration and set up a shadow government. Since we live in the opposition area, there could have been a lot more trouble than there was - and in parts of the city there were many problems. We want you to know that we really appreciate all your prayers on behalf of our family personally, and the country of Kenya. As often as the Lord brings us to mind, we would be grateful for your continued prayers in this specific area.

We hope you know how very much it means to us to have your love, support, and encouragement, as we walk this journey with Jesus. We truly appreciate your part in our lives and the work God has called us to here in Kenya. We wholeheartedly believe that "He Who calls you is faithful, Who also will do it." And He IS doing it - through your faithfulness to Him. We cannot properly express our gratitude for you and all that you do. May the Lord bless you!

His Servant,

Brad Harris



White wolf

Rachel 10yrs. Old (wants to be a missionary to India when she grows up) Rachel is looking more like a young lady each year! Having reached double digits now, she has had the opportunity to enjoy some special privileges like attending "ladies' Bible study" and lunch out with mom. She continues to grow bigger and more beautiful with each passing year. Our prayer for her is that she will not only grow older in years, but to "grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." And to become truly beautiful, mirrored after the image of Jesus Christ. She is still young at heart in many ways. She still loves animals, playing with her siblings, and getting lost in reading books.

Benjamin 8yrs. Old (wants to be an astronaut when he grows up) Benjamin is finally beginning to fulfill the meaning of his name "son of my right hand" being quite capable of helping his dad, when he wants to. Our prayer for Ben is that he will want to be a "son of his heavenly Father's right hand" serving Him in submission and obedience, out of love for Him. We have already seen tremendous growth and change in his life, within just these few years. We have seen him be able to handle responsibility with more competence and confidence than we had imagined from our once timid toddler. He also enjoys reading, and playing with all things



Brown bear

boy, and being the "bothersome" brother that his sisters need to keep them on their toes!



Ruth 6yrs. Old (wants to be a preschool teacher when she grows up) Ruth is our middle child, right between the big kids and the little kids. Sometimes she can make it work to her advantage, but usually the "peacemaking, people-pleaser" in her makes her want to help everyone. Our prayer for her is that she will seek to point others to the only One Who can bring true peace, and that she herself will seek to please Him, not people. She is extremely observant of her surroundings and intuitive to the people in her life. She loves to nurture: babies and animals are among her favorites. And she likes to play outside and be "hands on."

Rebekah 5yrs. Old (wants to be a farmer when she grows up) We have noticed a marked change and growth in Beka that we attribute to an awareness of things/those around her, that must just come with age and maturity. Although she is still young and quite selfish, we are seeing her really try to see those around her, and their needs, in addition to her own. Our prayer for her is that she will see the example of Jesus sacrificial service, laying down His own life, for His enemies even-and someday want to walk in His footsteps.



She loves animals (especially horses and dogs).
She enjoys school (most of the time), and is
beginning to show some interest in artistic things.
She still has a mind of her own and we enjoy the
color and creativity that she brings to our family.



ROSE 3yrs. Old (wants to be a collie dog called Lassie when she grows up) Amelia Rose is our classic last born. (We always thought - very pridefully - how we would never spoil our last born baby)...but we have learned "never to say never!" She is silly and loves to make others laugh (which makes it difficult to discipline) :) She talks well - and a LOT! She loves to dress up. And she spends her time bounced between wanting to keep up with the older kids when it is convenient, and yet still basking in the privileges of being "the baby." She likes to call herself (and imagine, and act) as if she is "the Queen." Our hope for her is that someday she will learn that her life is not to be lived by being served- but to serve the King of ALL Kings.