

The Harris Herald



My Friday class with Pastor Mike and other pastors in the surrounding village.

Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief: howbeit for this cause I obtain mercy, that in me as chief might Jesus Christ show for all his long-suffering, for an example of them that should there after believe on him and to eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:15-16



My Wednesday class with Pastor Boniface, Pastor Thomas and other laymen from other churches.



My Monday class with Pastor Moses, Ken, George and Evans.

Greetings from Kenya. On behalf of the Harris family we would like to once again thank you for all your love, prayers, and support for our family, as we seek to serve the Lord in Kenya, Africa.

I would like to take this time and opportunity to share with you a little bit about the ministry that we are doing here in Kenya. It's been almost 9 years that we have been ministering here teaching and discipling, in order to help strengthen and equip the already existing local churches here in Kenya. Our intention is not to build on the foundation of another man/missionary-but in fact, to build on the foundation of Scripture, with Christ Jesus as the Chief cornerstone. And through this time, we have experienced what would feel like to us, as ups and downs. But we believe wholeheartedly, that God can and will use all of these highs and lows, twists and turns...and turn it ALL into something for our own good, and for His glory. Because we "know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

One of the many things that God has been teaching me throughout these years of ministering through discipling: is that discipleship takes time, and time takes patience. I can honestly say that when we came here almost 9 years ago, that I had a very different picture in my mind of what our "work" here would look like. I imagined having enough influence to make a big impact on the country of Kenya, by ministering to the masses. And then overtime you start to see the perspective of what things really are, and maybe even how important we really are? We CAN make a difference in this country: by investing in and influencing individual lives, which affects marriages, which in turn touches families, and subsequently changes churches, conditions communities, and ultimately transforms the country of Kenya. But, this is the Lord's doing. Only HE can truly change hearts and transform lives. Does God really NEED me? No, He does not. And although this may sound offensive to some (as it probably was for me in the past), it does not make it any less true. God does not need ME to fulfill His perfect plan and purposes...but He DOES want to use me, as part of His plan, for His purposes. And I consider this an even greater privilege: though He does not necessarily NEED me - He does WANT me.

As much as I believe the Lord is using me to teach others, He has taught me so much more. He has shaped me, and humbled me, and changed me, and is still teaching me. Perhaps one of the biggest reasons for the Lord leading me to Kenya, was to teach ME...rather than for the teaching I was to do. He has used this time of living in Kenya as a training grounds: to break me and mold me. And I wouldn't change a thing. I would do it

all over again to be the child of God he has made me today. I now know and understand Him a bit better - and love Him so much more. Wow, how long suffering He is, and patient He is, and loving He is, to put up with me!

I need to remember how patient Jesus is with me, to remind myself of the need, to in turn be patient and loving with others. We would say the classes continue to go well, if we are referring to gaining more knowledge. The men are learning with their heads, but whether or not their heart is following is the challenge. I am finding myself continually correcting and repeatedly reproving some of the men in my classes. I know we are to say something "speaking the truth in love" if we see a brother sinning. But it is discouraging, when it seems it is more often that, than encouraging edifying conversations. There are many strongholds in the lives of the men I am trying to minister to, and then that mixed with those in my own life!

I do ask for prayer for all of the pastors in my classes, for all the people that come...and for myself as I try to teach them. Please pray that they would not depend upon me or any other missionary or any other programs that are out there. Pray that I would be seen merely as someone who points them to JESUS; the only One Who can truly help them, change them, and offer them true Life, hope, and peace. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would prick hearts. That eyes will be open to see, ears open to hear, and hearts ready and open to receive Truth. We pray that they would allow the knowledge and understanding they are learning to actually penetrate their hearts...and change their lives. And I could ask the same prayer for myself and my own family. That we would allow the Lord to change and shape our hearts and mind after Christ Jesus, through the power of His Word and the Holy Spirit.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

We want to thank you for your part in our lives personally, and the work that the LORD is doing: both in and through me and you, and the people in Kenya. We are truly grateful to God for you, and all that you do. May God bless you, as you seek to be a blessing to Him!

In Christ,

Brad Harris