



“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way of everlasting!”

Psalm 139:23-24

October-November 2018

It has taken some time since our last letter, and a lot has happened. So, we will share more of a “photo update” this time. We want to apologize for our seeming “silence” and to let you know that we really appreciate your patience, understanding, and love regardless of our faithfulness to update or communicate. Things have been busy, but we have been so blessed. Not only by the visitors themselves, and all that happens while they were here-but also by what God has been trying to teach us personally, in the process.

As the Lord has been leading these particular people to come to Kenya, (whether it be on short-term visits, scouting trips, or long-term living), He has allowed us to be part of the process. And we count it as a privilege and honor to be able to be

involved in the Lord's work-whatever that looks like. So, whether we are being encouraged by seeing the Lord's provision and protection in their lives, challenged by the various tests or trials they may be going through as they learn to lean on Him, or grateful for His forgiveness and patience throughout the whole process...we get to see Him at work! It is exciting and encouraging to see the way He is growing and guiding, shaping and molding others!

And it has made us stop and think, and reflect about the ways He might be trying to work in our own lives. Any time questions are asked, or concerns raised regarding something we do or don't do, or even the way in which it is done in our lives, raises an opportunity for us to consider what we are doing, and WHY we are doing it? Having various visitors in and out of our home over the last half year has provided quite the climate for "self-evaluation" and reflection. Although this can sometimes feel heavy-hearted or burdensome, it is actually a blessing, because it has the capacity to bring forth growth and maturity.

As prisoners of the Lord, we want to "live a life worthy of the calling to which we have been called." We want to be people whose outer and inner lives are compatible, and consistent with our convictions. We want to be people who "practice what we preach" and have our "walk match our talk." We have had the blessing of being reminded that we should search our own souls, examine ourselves, and repent of any sin against God, ask forgiveness, and then continue in faith that He has indeed forgiven us, and cleansed us from all unrighteousness. We want to be "vessels for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."

And ultimately, we need to remember that HE alone is the standard, HE is the mirror we should be measuring up against. And it should cause us to be filled with gratitude and love to know and serve a God Who loves us-in spite of all of our short-comings, failures, wickedness, and weakness. He loved us enough to come down to live among us, die for us, and if we are His, live in us, and never leave us alone to ourselves. Praise God!

And we thank the Lord for you too! Thank you for your tangible example of God's faithfulness and steadfast love for our family. We love you. And we thank God for

you, and ALL that you do! May He bless you, as you are SUCH a big blessing to us. We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Much Love,
the Harris Family



Kara and Nathaniel McRae made it safely to Kenya for a visit, and back home again. We were all grateful for the opportunity and time together that God provided. However He leads their family, we know that He will use their visit for all of our good, and His glory!



After much time and many prayers, some very dear friends (the Pottengers) who used to live in Kenya for our first several years, came back for a visit!

We had about a week's worth of time together, before they were joined by their church team from the US. So we tried to do some fun things, like pumpkin carving for Harvest.



The team came to the house each morning when we were led in worship and a devotional, and each night we were able to join in on the time of “debriefing” their day, and what the Lord was showing them through their time here. This was a sweet and special time for our family, to see how the Lord was working IN and THROUGH them, and to even be able to be a part of it!



We had a time of worshipping the Lord together at the local animal park.

We had a "Picnic and Prayer" time with the leaders from our local church, the team, and our families in order to spend specific time in prayer for the needs of the church here.



Kids always love climbing on our car



While the team was here, Rebekah turned 6yrs. Old. What a special way to celebrate, with new friends! We are so grateful to God for the years He has given this girl to us. She is something special, and we love her so much. We pray that however many more years God chooses to give her, she will continue to “grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”



The team ministered to the kids of the church (including ours) with games, skits, Bible stories and songs...but mostly love and laughs! Here is Rose all “tuckered” out on the church floor afterwards.

We were all blessed by the way we were ministered to in our marriages, as 2 couples shared about their life and love in the Lord, and with one another. It was a beautiful blessing to see it truly lived out in word and deed. The older couple has been married for 46 years! Praise God for HIS faithfulness to sustain us.



Here is a photo of our family, along with the Pottenger family, the Otieno family (the pastor of our local church here), and the team members. We thank God for bringing us all together to serve Him!

Aunt LeAnn had a break from her language school, and was able to come back to Kisumu to celebrate Thanksgiving together with our family! She was literally like a “God-send” for us, because Brad got very sick (with shingles) and really needed to rest. So, Aunt LeAnn was there to help Ellie with all the food, fun, and festivities that are part of Thanksgiving weekend. We were feeling very thankful for God’s faithful provision, in every area of our lives. He knows our needs before and better than even we do!



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- We would love prayers for general good health all around for our family.
- ‘For our eyes to be focused and fixed on Christ alone; not ourselves, or even others.
- ‘For the lessons the Lord is trying to teach us to go from our heads to our hearts, and actual application in our lives.

PRAISES:

- For health, protection, and safety.
- For all of the people the Lord has brought to our family over the last few months: friends, family, and fellow-laborers.
- ‘For the ways we have seen Him working IN and THROUGH the lives of others-and the things He has

- For us to be nurturing, cultivating, and maturing in each area of our relationships (marriage, kids, family, friendships, fellow-laborers, neighbors...and especially the Lord).
- 'For a new "bunny project" we would like to try in the new year as a "tentmaking" opportunity for the pastors and their families.

- been teaching us through these times as well.
- For ALL of you who have shown us love, grace, patience, and understanding as you faithfully invest (in various ways) in our lives and the work God has called us to in Kenya.
 - For God's steadfast love and faithfulness to our family, even when we are not.