



# The Harris Happenings

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And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

## 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

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April 2019 Newsletter

Well, we made it to the states-safe and sound. Praise the Lord! The kids did very well, especially considering the long flights, airport activity, and sleep deprivation. We were all feeling pretty glad to be done with traveling, but grateful for God's grace every step of the way. All of our flight connections were smooth and on time, and everything went well, except for one "hiccup."



Tired from the long trip from Africa to America..

Out of the 10 luggages that we checked underneath-none of them arrived at our final destination. After much searching and checking, it was said that our luggages were never even checked from Nairobi! We were disheartened mostly because of the personal gifts we had packed to bring back for our friends, family and supporters (the other items were all replaceable). So, we left with the promise that we would be notified if they were able to locate our luggages, and it would in fact be delivered to us, wherever we would be. (The problem was, no one was sure when or even if this might happen...and we weren't going to be staying in one place for very long!)

But God, again, and as always, came through for our family in such a sweet way! We got word that our luggages had been found and were in Georgia (not sure how they ended up there?!). They had been flagged and held by customs, due to the gifts and foreign objects they contained. They asked some questions, and we were cleared to keep them. So, after only four days without, our luggages were delivered to our door! Every single piece of our "lost" luggage was found and returned back to us, without anything missing. Really, our luggages were never truly lost to the Lord. But they do show some signs of being through the "process" before being brought back to us. (In much the same way that perhaps it happens to us as well?) Right off the airplane, and even before, the Lord is using ALL of these things to bring US back in our focus and faith in His able hand and plan.

Ever since when we first landed, things have been spinning so fast, we feel like we can't quite keep up. Brad's driver's license expired overseas, so he was required to retest to renew his license. As soon as he passed his test, he booked a train/bus/plane to go out to D.C. To pick up the vehicle that a family has so graciously and generously given to our family! Without taking too much time to discuss details, we will just say, if it had not been for the Lord's hand directing even the details of the journey (travel time, connections, etc.) it would not have worked out. Even in this, we are reminded of the phrase our

Kenyan friends often say "God is good, all the time. And all the time, God is good. Because that is His nature."

Brad was able to pick up our vehicle (as well as an abundance of love and generosity SO graciously and generously bestowed by friends in the form of various gifts: toys, winter clothes/boots, snacks, etc.) And he turned right around that same day he arrived and began the long drive back to Nebraska. He was trying to beat a late snow storm that would be blowing in while he was making his way home. Thankfully, through much prayer and driving-Brad made it safely back.

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And he was just in time to do what he needed to do to prepare for sharing with his old high school. He was receiving a "Distinguished Alumni Award" and they gave him free reign to share whatever he wanted. He was thrilled to have such an open opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with so many, in one sitting, and in such a unique setting! He was able to share his testimony, and the Good News of Jesus both boldly and clearly. We pray that any seeds planted will be watered and that God will grow them.



Brad sharing at his old Highschool when he received the "Distinguished Alumni Award"

We were able to celebrate both birthdays (Ben and Brad) and Easter weekend with Brad's family. This was truly special for our family, because this is unique and different to what we would normally do. But even without birthdays, we were SO very blessed by Brad's family. They all have "bent over backwards" trying to help us to do the things that we need to do. We have

been both humbled and encouraged by the ways they have made themselves willing and available to our family, however they can help.



And then even before the end of the month, amidst much repacking, reorganizing, planning, and prep...we were on the road again, making our way out East. We knew it would take us several days to travel, so we thought we would try to do a couple of things to try to make it fun as a family.

We have watched all the seasons of "Daniel Boone." So, we wanted to try to see Fort Boonesborough on our way through. We did-and we were all glad we went! It was a neat place. And it was just fun to try to familiarize ourselves with what we were watching from afar.



Family fun at "Fort Boonesborough"

Rachel's birthday was on the day we would arrive in New Jersey, and the Lord provided for her in ways we never would have even asked or imagined! We wanted to try to make it special, even though we would be on the road...but HE worked it out in a way that was far superior to our plans! Some special friends of ours (who used to live in Kenya with us), came up to meet us where we were, and we all stayed the night together in a beautiful farmhouse. They came ready with Rachel's favorite foods for dinner that evening and birthday breakfast the next morning. And we all shared in food, fun, and fellowship for her special celebration.

After we went our separate ways, we were able to take advantage of the opportunity of being in the area of Amish community, and as a family we did a horse and buggy ride and Amish farm tour. And then, on top of ALL of this: when we made our way to the place we are staying while in Jersey...THEY had

also made a beautiful birthday cake and a bunch of cupcakes, along with a gift to give to Rachel as well!?

LAVISHLY LOVED is the best way we can describe her day! By SO many people-and mostly by the Lord.



And we can see, and say the same for each and every one of us. We have been, and continue to be, loved on LAVISHLY!



We arrived in America 1 month ago, and here in New Jersey 1 week ago today: but SO many times already have we heard our kids describe themselves as "feeling spoiled!" But "spoiled" is not the word I would use to describe what we are experiencing. Because "spoiling" something has the connotation that it is going bad, or rotten (because of too much of something it is being exposed to: time, heat, water, etc.) This is not to say that this is impossible for it to happen to them/us either. But the way that the LORD lavishes His perfect and unconditional love on us, can not, and does not "spoil" us. We were already rotten on the inside-but His love is healing and making us new every day. May we never forget how He loves us, and at the same time, may we never take it for granted, or try to take advantage of it. But rather let us remember how we have been loved, and learn to love others the way He loves us: lavishly, unconditionally, fearlessly.

Thank you for YOUR example of the Lord's love in our lives! We have been enjoying the times we have been getting together with friends and church family. And we are just feeling SO grateful to the Lord for ALL of His bountiful blessings-including YOU!





While we are visiting our sending church in New Jersey, we were encouraged to rest and take some time for family fun. We have been doing just that!

We love you all!

In His love,

Brad and Ellie

Rachel, Ben, Ruth, Beka, and Rose Harris

## Praises:

\*We arrived safe and sound to the United States of America

\*Our lost luggage was located and returned to us intact

\*Brad passed his driver's test and was able to acquire his license

\*Brad was able to go and pick up the vehicle-that was given to our family

\*We have been relatively healthy and safe in traveling

\*We are so blessed to be able to be here and see and spend time with special people that we don't normally get to

\*For the Lord's lavish love on our family

## Prayer Requests:

\*For continued health and safety as we will be traveling a lot

\*For us as a family to take the time to connect as a couple and as a family, with the Lord and with one another

\*For time spent seeing and sharing with others-that we will be a blessing and an encouragement

\*For us all as we adjust to a different lifestyle, place, and pace

\*For our focus to be fixed on the Lord Who does not change-and not on our situation/circumstances that are ever changing



"On the Road Again..."

#### GENERAL ITINERARY

(if interested in getting in touch or getting together with us-please contact us):

##### MAY:

\*spending the month with our sending church family, and other churches, supporters, and friends out east

##### JUNE:

\*traveling from east to south...and stopping to see and stay with family, friends, and supporters along the way

##### JULY:

\*Spending the month with Ellie's family down south

\*sharing with churches, supporters, and friends along the way

##### AUGUST:

\*returning from down south to Nebraska

\*getting the kids situated for the school semester \*sharing with local churches in the Midwest area

#### SEPTEMBER:

\*health and wellness checkups

\*dental checkups

\*sharing with local churches in the Midwest area

#### OCTOBER:

\*traveling to see people and share with some churches farther away

\*Out in Colorado for a seminar/workshop

\*sharing with local churches in the Midwest area

#### NOVEMBER:

\*sharing with local churches in the Midwest area

\*Working on our work permit, allowing us to return to Kenya.

\*TBM Board meeting

\*mission conference with the Bible School

\*Thanksgiving with Brad's family

#### DECEMBER:

\*sharing with local churches in the Midwest area

\*Packing, planning, and prepping to return to Kenya (beginning of January)

\*Christmas with Brad's family

Here is our Phone number while in the States:

308-655-8271



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