

Philippians 4:6,7

Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication, with Thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God; and the peace of God, surpasses all understanding, will guard your heart and mind through Christ Jesus.



Newsletter November 2019

Greetings to you from Nebraska! So much has taken place since our last update, and we would love to share with you what the Lord has been doing in and through our lives...and yours, by your faithful care and prayers on behalf of our family.

PRAISES

- Ellie and I have had more opportunity and availability to pursue good growth and health in our marriage through some counseling, and just time together
- Fellowship times together with supporting churches and friends
- For the Lord's faithful provision for our family
- For the way we can see the Lord's hand in our lives...even in the "little things"
- For the things the Lord has been teaching us: lessons in life, learning to lean on HIM

- Our missionary visas were approved! We were unsure how things might turn out, in light of the changes that Kenya is presenting in the process for entering and staying in the country. Thus far, the Lord has allowed the door for our family to be in Kenya to stay open-and therefore, we will continue to walk through it. We are hoping to head back to Kenya in January of 2020, Lord willing.



DAR

- For our time away as a family at a “missionary debriefing” ministry: We were very generously “gifted” a week away at a mission conference center geared towards “Debrief and Renewal” for missionaries. Our experience exceeded our expectations with the level of love we felt from the Lord, through His people, and we enjoyed a wonderful time of reflection, rest, relaxation, and rejuvenation. We left feeling heard, understood, affirmed, validated, accepted, and LOVED. And with a feeling of being both refreshed and renewed in body, soul, and spirit.



- For the mission conference at FSB (the Bible School we graduated from). We had the honor of being some of the many participating missionaries for the annual mission conference of the Bible College we graduated from. It was a unique blend of both young, zealous, energetic, and passionate young people-leveled with the more “seasoned saints” serving both locally and on foreign fields. What a blessing to witness, and experience the beautiful blend of both, in one place-encouraging and challenging one another in our faith and walk with our Lord.

- Meeting with the Board of our mission agency (Tentmakers Bible Mission). This was yet another time for our family to feel listened to and loved. We are incredibly blessed by the board of our mission organization. With each term that we finish on the “field” and come back here-we are met

by this group of wise and godly men who genuinely care about the Lord, His people, and His work, all over the world. They have faithfully supported our family through their prayer, and care.



Ben had to have 3 teeth removed: one of them was an "extra tooth" in the front top of his mouth, that had to be surgically removed.

- In medical update: While we have been back here in Nebraska, using my mom's house as a "home-base" and visiting local area churches, we have also been taking this time as an opportunity to take care of all things related to medical checkups, dental appointments, eye exams, etc.
- We were pursuing the possibility that Ben might have scoliosis. However, we have discovered that the unevenness of Ben's back is not skeletal scoliosis, but more a muscular imbalance. We have already seen improvement with chiropractor visits and regular stretching!
- We got a good report on eye exams for Ellie, and everyone else as well! (We will be "keeping an eye" on Ben's eyes regarding the possibility of future

changes with him as he grows). But for now, we are all grateful for healthy eyes that are working well.



First day of school

We decided to put our kids into the public-school system for the semester we will be here. While we were unsure about whether or not this was what we were wanting to do, with much thought and prayer; the Lord gave us peace of heart and mind to do it. This does not mean we were not afraid or nervous, etc. (about any number of things) that could happen, good or bad. Because we believe there are both pros and cons that could come of it. But we believed it was the best option for us as a family, in this season and situation. And we are trusting that God will use this time for all of our own good, and for His glory. And He has proven Himself faithful, again, and always...through this different and difficult time.

- And we must admit that we are very proud of our children already, (and always)! They are “doing the hard thing.” They are demonstrating courage, by doing something that scares them. They are exemplifying strength, stepping

out of their “comfort zones” and doing so many new and different and foreign things for them. They are learning to be flexible, and cope with change. And they are certainly exhibiting surrender to this season of life the Lord has them in, and submissiveness to His will and way, by honoring and obeying their parents (and ultimately the Lord). Rachel is now 12 years old in 7th grade, (junior high). Ben is 10 years old and in 5th grade. Ruth is 8 years old and in 3rd grade. Beka is 7 years old and is in 1st grade. And last, but not least, Rose is 5 years old and in preschool.

- One of the beautiful things that we have seen with our kids is that they now have to own their own faith. And they have been doing so! We have been SO very encouraged and challenged by their example and testimony of putting their faith into practice, in a more public way than they are used to. We are blessed to see how the Lord is molding and shaping them, even though what could be considered sometimes trying and testing circumstances.
- And the Lord has provided open doors and opportunities just by having the kids in the local public school!
- RUTH finished her “assessments” through the public school regarding possible learning differences. We were able to meet with the panel of people involved in the evaluations, and were incredibly encouraged and blessed by their advice, support, and input. We feel very grateful for their willingness and availability to help us better know how to help our daughter.



Losing teeth and "student of the day" stickers are both evidences of good growth in these kids' lives



Rachel running in JH cross country team.



Cross country was a "bright spot" in Rachel's school experience this semester. What a neat opportunity for challenge and growth-and she LOVED it! Many people commented on how she always wore a smile when she ran :)



Ellie and Rachel did a Passport 2 Purity get away. They had a special time together and would HIGHLY recommend this for everyone. We look forward to going through

it with our other kids as well!



Passport 2 Purity
For Boys & Girls

[Play Now](#)



We celebrated three birthdays Ellie, Rose, and Beka over the last few months.



Family fun at a place I grew up going to called "Pioneer Village"



Whether being back and forth between 2 countries or standing on the 4 corners: as a family...we are in it together!



Ruth riding on a carousel at a county fair I grew up going to when I was a boy.



Have enjoyed the gift of getting to play in the snow!





One thing I enjoy about America:
New Jersey

One thing I look forward to in Kenya:
seeing Daisy (our dog)



One thing I enjoy about America:
sports

One thing you look forward to in
Kenya:
getting a cat



One thing I have enjoyed about America:
seeing all the horses
One thing I look forward to in Kenya:
Daisy (our dog)



One thing I enjoy about America:
all the animals here
One thing I look forward to in Kenya:
getting a cat



One thing I have enjoyed about America:
the Pumpkin patch
One thing I look forward to in Kenya:
Daisy (our dog)



One thing we have ALL enjoyed about America:
All of our friends, family, supporters, and churches we were able to see and spend time together with
One thing we ALL look forward to in Kenya:
Our life as we know it, shared with the friends and people we know and love over there



One tiny taste of some of the very special people in our lives, that cross over to touch the lives of those we love over there. Pastor Nathan and the church have supported us through prayer, and sharing both financially, and of their very lives (they were some of our very first visitors in Kenya).

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- For wisdom and peace regarding some health concerns that have surfaced with Rachel (Our oldest). She has been experiencing some seizures. We have another consultation with the doctor, but the tests we have had done already have returned back “normal.”
- For a site visit/office location/logistics for my sister’s visa to be granted under our society
- Unity, grace, love and peace in our marriage and family
- Stamina, patience, and motivation to “finish well.” As we received word of our visa approval, and are winding down our time here, we still want to be “fully present” where the Lord has us right now.
- Continued travel mercies
- Protection: continued good health and safety (as winter weather is here-so are the colds and flu viruses and bugs)
- That we would be a blessing and encouragement to those we interact with - and also be blessed and encouraged at the same time.

Thank you all for your faithful prayer and care for our family. As we approach the holiday season especially given to "Giving Thanks," we cannot help but remember you in our thoughts and thanksgiving to God. Thank you for your sacrificial giving of yourselves: in love and support. We thank God for you, and all that you do. May He abundantly bless you - for the bountiful blessing you have been to us!

Gratefully,
Brad and Ellie Harris and family