

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

## Numbers 6:24-26



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### To our faithful friends, family, and fellow saints;

We are so sorry for staying silent for so long! We have been meaning to send out an update sometime sooner...but it just kept getting pushed to "later."

Thank you for your faithful interest and investment in our family's well-being, even when separated by such distance (and/or silence)! We do appreciate being pursued, contacted, and asked about how WE are doing. We have

always appreciated the various means of support you have shown towards our family; whether it be through encouragement, prayer, giving, hospitality, etc.

\*We do hope/plan to send out something more as an update on how our family is fairing soon...but before then:

We want to apologize that we have not done the same asking, and pursuing specifically for you, any sooner. We do hope this email finds you healthy, safe, and well in the Lord, during this difficult time of dealing with the chaos created by the "Cornoavirus pandemic." It seems overnight the world has been "turned upside down" and shaken to the core. Our hearts hurt for the amount of pain, suffering, and loss being experienced all around us, all over the world, and acutely in America. Please do let us know if there are any specific ways that we can be praying for you, your family, and the church family during this difficult time. In the meantime, please know you are being held close in our hearts and minds with all of this "hitting so close to home." We are grateful to be able to hear small updates about what is going on, where, and how those we know are being affected. This helps us to be able to better know how to pray. Please continue to be careful and stay safe...and to put your trust in the One Who has everything in HIS control, and Who holds everything in His able hands.

The Coronavirus is still only "slowly by slowly" as they say here, making it's way through Kenya. But please do remember us, (and all of the especially vulnerable people in this country as well). Each day the numbers are continuing to climb, and although those numbers are nowhere near what we have seen in other parts of the world...all of the ramifications of this pandemic are able to do as much, or even more damage as the actual virus itself...and those without a comfortable "cushion" of any kind will feel it the most acutely. More recently

people have started to ask for help and assistance (more than before), which means they are feeling the hunger and the pain more than they had previously.

Everything we are seeing in the states is trying to be emulated over here as well, in an attempt to combat this international pandemic. With meetings being discouraged or even considered "illegal" (including church), evening curfew, borders closed, enforced "social distancing," wearing of masks, strict rules and regulations regarding hygiene, moving out and about, etc...we have personally pretty much just been staying in, "hunkering down" at home, much like everywhere else in the world.

For Ellie and the kids, the days still seem very similar to what they once were: we still do school at home, and otherwise, the house, and all of the things and people in it, take up a lot of time, energy, and attention. After our arrival back, even more so; as we sought to unpack, put things away, re-open up the house, etc.

But for me, things look quite different: I go out to do the grocery shop at least once a week. And any other outside errands that need to take place, I am still able/allowed to do. However, I am not allowed to hold my regular "class meetings" etc. that I once did. In fact, I had not quite made it "back" yet before all of this started to take place.

So, although I am not doing "formal teaching ministry" with the pastors and people from the villages, we are still trying to be an encouragement to others spiritually, by sharing scripture, and we have had some small personal interactions. Otherwise, we are also seeking ways to help with some of the more "material" needs when/with what we are able. Our family, like everyone else, are doing our best to "obey the governing rules of the law" while at the

same time, trying to figure out other measures/means to "let our light shine" in a dark and dying world.

We have also had quite a bit of time together as a family, as we are ALL required to spend more time around and with one another. What a unique opportunity we all have to be learning better how to live well with those in our family, and how to love one another well!

We have personally been so very blessed by all of the various means of encouragement and resources, especially applicable to the situation at hand, that are available to us right now. We thank the Lord for technology today.

And we have also been blessed by the way the Lord has been using other people personally, as a special encouragement to our hearts and in our lives.

While we are not allowed to meet together for weekly worship as a local church (or otherwise), we are definitely missing this means of fellowship. We wish we were able to be involved in the lives of others, in a more physical and tangible way. But because we are ALL literally experiencing restrictions to this very thing (and yet still desiring and needing it) this forces creativity for creating and enjoying community collectively.

It is somehow special to feel connected to "community at large" as the whole world is struggling through similar situations.

We continue to think of you, and to thank God for you. We love you.

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; May the Lord cause His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; May the Lord lift His face upon you and grant you peace."

## PRAISES:

- \*We are all physically healthy
- \*For God's faithful provision for our families' finances, while so much of the world is struggling/suffering without work
- \*For the blessing of technology and wonderful, bountiful resources that promote growth in God's Word and our walk with Him
- \*For the various many ways we are being blessed by the encouragement, prayer, and giving of others in our own personal lives
- \*Our (extended) families are also staying healthy and well
- \*For the faithfulness of our Heavenly Father: in love, leading, forgiving, pursuing, grace and mercy

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- \*Our family is really in need of the Lord's wisdom, patience, grace, and strength
- \*For clear direction and guidance from God
- \*For our friends and families to stay healthy and safe, and have their needs met-and most importantly, that they would find this in HIM, as they draw closer to Jesus
- \*For the world at large to turn to the Lord: the only Light, Hope, and Life offered during these dark days...or anytime.
- \*For families to have their hearts turned "toward home"
- \*That people would see, in us, and in all of what is going on: that the most important thing in the world is a relationship with Jesus. HE is the foundation of our lives, and through HIM everything else flows out.