



Entrusting To Faithful Men...

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:2

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! It has been some time since our last news update, and so much has happened in the lives of everyone, all over the world!

We want to thank you for ALL you have always done to show love, support, encouragement, and generosity towards our family personally, and also the ministry work here in Kenya. We appreciate you and ALL that you do SO much! There is just no way we could have made it these 11 years on the foreign mission field without the

faithfulness of others, to the Lord, and in our lives. And there are just no words that would accurately articulate our feelings of gratitude and thankfulness towards the Lord, for you. He has absolutely used you, in our own personal lives, but also in the lives of those whom our lives have touched, and ultimately for His kingdom.

We would like to ask you for an extra measure of patience, grace, and understanding, in your reading and reception of this latest (and QUITE lengthy) letter of ours. We have some news of a more personal nature that we feel is important to share. Please know that while it feels selfish and insensitive to even try to write about our own personal lives, when the world right now is in upheaval and dealing with all kinds of hurt and heartache: we also feel that it is only fair to inform you (sooner rather than any later), what has been happening in our own hearts and lives. And we would like to ask you to PLEASE PRAY for our family.

We write to you today, with heavy, yet hopeful hearts. It is heavy because our world and life here in Kenya as we have known it is coming to a close. We have been seeing/sensing the need for change in our own personal, family life for some time. We knew the time could come when it would no longer work well for our family to continue serving in Kenya, but we were unsure of when that time would come, or even how we would know it was here. However, after returning to Kenya in February, the Lord began to make it more and more abundantly clear that the chapter here is indeed coming to a close. This was certainly sooner than we had expected or anticipated.

The changes needed for our family are in the area of lifestyle, schedule, and the need for more stability, structure, routine, and security for the kids. These “growing pains” have been grabbing our attention for every area: physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual. In light of what is happening in the world and an inability to do ministry as we have done in the past and the need to shelter in place, we were able to really focus on the needs at hand. Some specific needs for our family weigh very heavily in our decision. As we have prayed and sought counsel, we believe it to be best for our family right now to make the big move back to the US.

This beautiful, and very special season of our lives coming to an end is very difficult for all of us. It comes with heartache, and hardship as we look at saying goodbye to special people, and places, and memories. It brings up feelings of loss and uncertainty of the future. We are all processing many emotions, thoughts, and feelings that come with this change and transition.

But at the very same time, with this difficulty and heaviness comes Hope. We are hopeful-(full of hope)-because although this “chapter” in our story is ending, the story is not over yet! While we will in one sense, never be “done” until our Lord returns (which may also be sooner, rather than later, by the looks of things)?! We have at the same time, “completed what we came to do” and are walking away with SO much more! Our goal was for “The things which (they) have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, (to) entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2) And I have had the incredible opportunity to see and experience this very thing taking place before my own eyes! And what a privilege it has been to allow the Lord, to use even me, in the teaching, training, and disciple-making of pastors/people in Kenya.

But while we set out so many years ago, to teach, train, and disciple others-the Lord Himself has been doing the same thing in our own hearts and lives. We have learned and grown SO much in Him, and He has used you, as well as the very same people we thought we were helping to know and love and serve their Savior. May we ALL continue to “grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” and to help one another in this process.

The Author is still writing. We don't know what He will write in the next chapters of our lives; but we know and trust Him as He is our hope. HE is the only One who can ever bring true Hope-and we know Him! THIS is the hugely hopeful part in our hearts! It has been my utmost honor to take part in God's Great Commission, by being able to share from my heart, His heart for the world. And we will continue to serve Him, and share His heart, from our own, wherever He has us in this world.

While we do not know yet, how everything will fall into place, where we will go, what we will do, how it will work, whom we will work with, etc.-we DO know the One Who

will go with us, and before us, and behind us, and beside us. This comforts us and gives us peace. Would you join us in praying for what God has?

Here is what we are currently looking at in our return.

We are praying and planning to try to come back to the states as soon as the international travel bans are lifted, and we can feasibly fly as a family. July will mark our 11 year anniversary of when we first moved to Kenya. What a bittersweet month this July is for our family!

There is so much complexity and complication in trying to make a trip of this magnitude and measure right now, especially in the middle of everything else going on. But we are feeling somewhat of a “sense of urgency” as a family, for a few reasons:

*The country of Kenya has just issued a partial re-opening of the country for a 21-day trial period to see if this partial re-opening can really continue safely in the interest of the people. If not, the country will be completely locked down with “zero option” indefinitely, until things clear up enough to safely and slowly try to re-open again.

*The international borders are supposed to open August 1st (but this date falls AFTER the 21-day trial period is over). So, while we would like to try to leave the first week of August, we may not be able to, depending on how things go between now and then.

*A 2-week quarantine will be required of our family first-off, upon landing, before anything else can take place

*We would like for the kids to be able to make it for the start of the school year in August (or as shortly thereafter as possible)

*The process of trying to get settled/situated/adjusted to a new “normal” (school, work, church, family, friends, etc.) takes so much TIME.

*Some of the current needs of our family, and what is more readily available and accessible in the US, as opposed to what is available here, does weigh heavily in the decision.

*And that is all on top of, the initial landing and re-entry (in more ways than one)-and ALL that this will entail (figuring out transportation, place to live, education, service in the church, family, etc.)

While we would like to see something happen soon, we realize that “A man’s heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.” (Proverbs 16:9) So we will wait and watch, with open minds, hearts, and hands to what HE has for us.

We are looking at re-entering the US and starting life in Cambridge, Nebraska. This is where Brad is from and it would mean being near his mom, brother and his family, and Brad’s sister, when she is home from Kenya on furlough.

There is a local church there that we are looking at attending and we are praying about the kids attending the local public school, where they have intermittently attended in the past, during furloughs. We are looking at the need for jobs for both of us.

***Special Note:**

Our mission organization (Tentmakers Bible Mission) has agreed to allow us to stay on with them for up to 6-9 months after our return to the US, in order to be a blessing to us during this transitional period. If you would like to continue to support us financially, through this time of transition, they have made it possible to do so. This would be a tremendous blessing to us, during this “season of change.” However, if you do not feel led to continue to support our family financially, we would completely understand. Please feel free to use the finances that the Lord has entrusted to you to steward, as you believe He would have you to do. We would not want it any other way. We have always, and will always, appreciate ALL of the sacrificial sharing that has happened, on our behalf, and that we have been SO blessed by. May God richly bless you too, for the blessing you have been to others!

Please pray specifically for the board and leadership here in Kenya and for God's direction as we depart. There are several options we are praying through. We have always wanted to "work more behind the scenes" so to speak, to both allow and encourage the Kenyan pastors/people to "take up the torch" of evangelism and discipleship within their own country and countrymen...and beyond. Our hope has been that our example and influence through the society, formal discipleship, and living life as we love the Lord and love others would impact those we have worked with and lived among to continue the Great Commission.

We don't have all the answers or details. We know it will not necessarily be simple and straightforward but we are trusting God in how He is leading. "He will never leave us or forsake us" and "He will provide for ALL of our needs, according to His riches in glory, in Christ Jesus." We know that He is good, He is in control, He loves us, and He has a perfect plan and purpose in everything according to His timetable. And we also believe all of this same truth to hold true for those we know and love.

We are looking to the LORD to be the Provider, the Savior, the Teacher, the Counselor, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, for our family and also for those who we love, but will leave behind when we move.

As you have always been such an encouragement to us, to continue to keep "kingdom work" in the forefront of our focus, we want you to know that will always be our goal. While we still remain in Kenya (however long that may still be), we will continue to try to be faithful to be a blessing and encouragement to others with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, here in Kenya. While the state of everything these days requires creativity and flexibility...we believe it is always possible to share the love and life of Jesus with others. And this certainly does not change or come to a close when we leave Kenya! We do hope and pray that our time in Kenya, and the lessons we have learned, along with the many precious people we have been privileged to meet and befriend; will help us to better serve our Savior and fellow man, in our next chapter. We love the Lord Jesus Christ and want to live these lives He has so graciously granted to us, for HIM and His glory! May our faithfulness to the Father be

not in regard to a certain location or vocation, but rather in relation to the placement of our hearts towards Him.

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33)

We hope you know how very much it has meant to us, over ALL of these years, to share in this missionary partnership together with you. Our lives have been SO blessed by being “linked” with your life. We will most certainly miss this more “regular” and direct means of hearing updates on how things are going, how you are doing, etc. But we would welcome any and all continued correspondence from your side, as much as you would still like to see it happen? We would absolutely LOVE to hear from you! We do not want you to feel any pressure-just to know that the door is WIDE open and welcoming!

*Special Note:

We do plan to continue to try to send out regular (hopefully monthly) updates as we can. We will do our best to keep you informed and updated, as things take place and transpire in this next part of our journey with Jesus. At the very least we would like to keep you updated until we get back to the US, and then the next 6-9 months following would be for those who would still want to know what is going on in our lives, how we are doing, and any new changes to plans, etc. But if you no longer care to receive our regular updates for the duration of that time, again, please feel free to “unsubscribe” without concern for our feelings. We would understand. We thank you for all the time you have taken to read, and even respond to our letters over all of these years. We truly appreciate your interest and investment in our lives.

We want you to please feel free to ask any questions that you may have for our family. We will do our best to try to answer as honestly, openly, and clearly as we can. We would love for you to feel like you were allowed the information and opportunity to better understand things from your standpoint. You have always faithfully stood by our side, and we want you to feel freedom in our friendship. (We

only ask that you please be patient in the process). We will try to write back as quickly as we can manage to do so.

We love you. And we are so very grateful to God for bringing our lives together. We would really appreciate any and all prayers on behalf of our family, before our Heavenly Father. May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord cause His face to shine upon you, and give you rest.

In Christ,

Brad and Ellie Harris (and family)



He is with you!

The Blessing

"God go before you to lead you, God go behind you to protect you, God go beneath you to support you, God go beside you to befriend you.

Do not be afraid. May the blessing of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you. Do not be afraid. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen."

~Cornelius "Neal" Plantinga Jr