



The Harris Happenings

*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose
under the heaven.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Growing up in southwest Nebraska, I remember well the days of fall. I especially have fond memories of this time, due to "hunting season." Sometimes we would wake early in the morning, before the sunrise even, and head out to the lake to

do some bird hunting. I can recall the coolness of the air, and the wet smell that comes with early morning Autumn. Before the sun comes up, and melts away the mist, and lights everything else up...there is a thick fog that lies ahead. Before you can actually go out to do some hunting, it requires the taking of time: just waiting and watching for the sunrise. I remember in those moments of eager anticipation for what the dawning of this new day would bring, and wondering what excitement and adventure awaited...that at the very same time, there was also a quiet peace, as I silently sat and passed the time. I remember as a boy, just resting and waiting for when the time was right, when we were ready to make a move forward, when we could "go ahead." And I can even remember a mixture of emotions: impatience sometimes, but also quiet contentment at others. But always, grateful I got to be there. There is beauty in the misty morning fog-like I am sitting among the clouds. There is a stillness before the rest of the world wakes up. And there is time to just listen to the quiet, soft sounds around me.

I recognize something very similar in this transitional time that we are in as a family right now. There is so much unknown and unseen at this point in time. I cannot foresee the future or where our family will be, and what it will look like perfectly clearly at this point. And yet there is still so much peace in this moment-in fact, quite like a "peace that passes ALL understanding." Normally, I would be "beside myself" with worry, trying to figure out our next steps, where we will go, what we will do, and how we will do it...with the Lord's help, of course. But right now, I am quite content to let HIM be the ONE Who is in complete control (as He actually already always is), and to just "be still, and know that HE is God" and I am not. Even when I have no idea what the future holds...I DO know the One Who holds it in His very able hands. And I also know that He loves me, He knows best, and He has good plans for me and my family. While I wait for this "foggy, misty time to clear up, with the warm rays of light of the morning" I get to rest in my Heavenly Father to let me know when the time is right to make a move, taking our next steps forward.

The Lord has been so faithful to our family, and so very good to us in this time of transition, as always. And while transition and change always comes with its challenges, we are encouraged by what we are seeing and experiencing so far!

The kids are all learning and adjusting to the routine of school. They are all working very hard and trying their best, at school, and at living life! We are very proud of each and every one of them. And I am so very grateful I get to be there for them during this tough transitional time: helping with homework, projects, attending their events, etc. I see it as a big blessing to be able to take care of my family in such a tangible way: with my presence and my personal assistance.

Ellie has stepped completely out of her comfort zone, with working at the school. She loves to just be at home, with those she is most familiar with (her family). But I am so blessed to be able to be there for her, support her, and help her, as she steps out in faith to allow the Lord to use her in the lives of others, outside of our own home.

And although I am not yet "officially" working or "doing ministry" I am keeping quite busy myself! In addition to various projects and things to do around the house, I have had the privilege of being involved in a variety of other things in the community. I have filled in for preaching a couple times, helped with "meals on wheels for the elderly," am participating in the midweek Bible study, and aim to start up a Bible study for men sometime soon. I have given my resume to the local church here, for the position as pastor. Their flock is in need of a shepherd, and I LOVE to lead others in the Lord, through His Word! If the Lord allows me this platform through such a position, I would be both humbled and grateful! But if this is not in His plan for our family right now, I will also be thankful for His involvement and clear direction in our lives. Please pray that the Lord will allow "doors" to open and close very clearly. As a good friend of ours once said "not just a crack open" where we might be tempted to "get our foot in the door" and try to pry it open. And as someone else once said "not a glass

door either" where we try to walk through a closed door and run straight into it! :)

In other news:

*We continue to celebrate birthdays (Ellie and Rose) in September.

And Gramma (Brad's mom) just turned 70 yrs. old yesterday!!! We sure are grateful to God for each passing year, and do not want to take even one day for granted.

*We traveled to the Bible School for a meeting with our mission board last weekend. The organization (Tentmaker's Bible Mission) celebrated their 35th anniversary and so were all together. It was a special celebration for all. Brad's sister (LeAnn) had the honor of speaking at their banquet, before she leaves for Kenya in just over a week! She (along with all of those in our families have just been such a tremendous support and big blessing to our family as we adjust to life back here again). We thank God for each and every one of them, and the various parts that they have played in our lives. We are very proud of LeAnn and are fully supportive of how she is following the

leading of the Lord in her life. But we have to be honest in admitting, it will be hard for us to see her go...especially back to Kenya. Please pray for all of our hearts in this process.

Our meeting with TBM went well. The board is made up of a group of some of the most mature, and godly men we have ever had the privilege of meeting. And their love for the Lord, and for people, and specifically our family is always evident in their conversation and conduct with us. They were very kind and caring as they listened to and loved on us, as always. They prayed with and for our family and will continue to do so. And then we enjoyed a sweet time of food and fellowship together. As an update: TBM has agreed to allow us to stay on with the organization **through the end of the year**. So, through the end of **DECEMBER**, if (and only IF) you would like to continue to send financial support for our family: you can continue to send support to "Tentmakers Bible Mission" on behalf of our family. If not, please know that we would completely understand, and always appreciate any prayers, love, and encouragement you have shared with us.

*We were able to stop by and see one of our supporting churches 2 weeks ago, when we were up visiting the Bible School. It is a super special church body for our family, because it is the one where we attended together when we were still at the Bible school...and they have loved and supported our family SO well all this time until now! It was good to be together again. We are so thankful for them.

We would really LOVE to stop through and see each and every one of you! You are each and every one so very special, with our own separate story of how the Lord has brought us together and bound us by His love. And through the years, you have served the Lord faithfully and selflessly, through your sacrificial sharing with our family, and those who we were reaching. We would love to thank you in person! But for now, we will have to be content to thank the Lord for you.

Unfortunately, for now we will probably only be able to stop and see those that are located closest to us in proximity. It takes a LOT to travel (time, energy, resources, etc.) while we are

also in school/work, etc. However, we want you to know how VERY much we appreciate each and every one of you. We appreciate you and ALL that you do. May God bless you, as you have been SUCH a special blessing in our lives and family...and continue to be!

Love in Christ,
Brad and Ellie Harris
and family



Rachel

Rachel is running cross country again...and still smiles!

BIRTHDAYS!!!



Ellie and Rachel

Rachel is just about the same height as her mom by now!

Prayer Requests & Praise Reports

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Wisdom, trust, and patience in the process of finding our own place

PRAISE REPORTS:

- Job position for Ellie at the SAME school where the kids attend: allowing for similar

- Our kids as they get adjusted and adapted to going to the local public school
- Ellie as she adjusts and adapts to working outside the home-and opportunities/open doors for sharing the love of Christ with others (specifically at the local public school)
- Ministry opportunity for Brad (specifically pastor position at the local church).
- Work/job for Brad
- For our family as we attempt to appreciate others for the way they have given and lived sacrificially, allowing us to live and serve the Lord overseas for the past 11 years
- For continued protection of and provision for our family hours/schedule/holidays/breaks, etc. AND being more involved and aware of what the kids are doing/going through!
- ALL that had to happen in order for our family to be able to travel back to the US: the Lord's provision and protection ALL along the way!
- Beautiful place and space to stay, and rest and reflect on our time in Kenya before leaving that beautiful land and life.
- The love of the Lord shown towards our family throughout the whole process of "re-entry" through His people
- Good health and safety for our family so far
- God's continued protection of and provision for our family