

The Williams Family - Harvest Baptist Missions



Ministry Update / Prayer Letter

January 2016

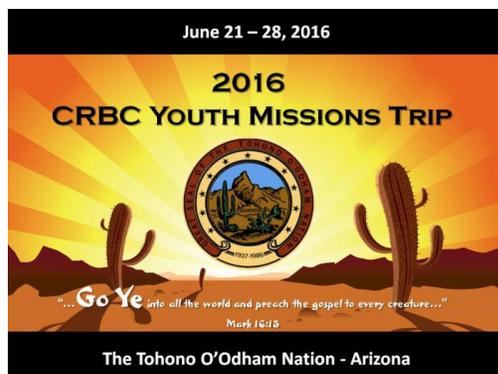
Dear Steve,

Isaiah 43:7 states, *"Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him."* As the new year is upon us, it is certainly an appropriate time to renew our efforts to become more like Christ. Isaiah tells us that we were made to glorify God. We best do that by becoming like Jesus. What are you doing in the New Year to become more like Him? This is the thought that has personally driven me over the past several months. Being saved in 1975, I have been a Christian now for over 40 years - and I am not yet like Christ. Thankfully, it is not all "up to us," as the power of God's grace molds us into His likeness. Nonetheless, we do have to personally join together with the working of the Holy Spirit to allow Him to continually change us into the image of Christ. May 2016 be your best growth year yet!

Below is a brief highlight of the Lord's work in the ministry of Harvest Baptist Missions.

Upcoming Missions Trip

In mid November, Kris and I began a temporary stint working with the youth at CRBC until a new youth director can be put in place. It had been many years since we've been in this role but we are enjoying the opportunity, especially the Sunday morning teaching time. Along with this, we will be accompanying the teens on a missions trip this summer to the Tohono O'Odham Indian reservation in southern Arizona. We are in the midst of a significant amount of fundraising in



order to help the kids achieve their goal of making it to the mission field. We've done numerous trips like this with teens in the past and we are certain it will be a life changing experience for the youth group of CRBC. We certainly appreciate your prayers for this upcoming outreach.

HBM Missionary Family Update

It remains such a great privilege working with these fine families who are giving

and sacrificing so much for the work of the Gospel. While we remain small in number, great things continue to happen all over the world through the work of the HBM missionary families. The **Laodimas** and their team in Togo continue to push further north in the country, having recently started several works that will hopefully become future churches. The orphanage is now operational and housing eight children. The **Bowmans** in Ireland continue to make solid inroads among the Irish people. The Golden Vale Baptist Church is doing well. The **Freemans** keeping pressing forward in the Rio Grande Valley and their work, the Iglesia Bautista Esperanza, is impacting the lives of its members as well as the community as a whole. The **Pinos and Catriz** families in the Philippines are faithful, hard-working families that continue to endure for the Cause of Christ. Only eternity will tell the scope of the impact that the work of HBM has made. Your investment in our family and this ministry helps to make this all possible! "Thanks!" seems like such a small expression of our gratitude - but we do sincerely thank you for your many prayers and financial support!



Restore Biblical Counseling

The Restore Biblical counseling ministry has been very active during the recent holiday season. Looking back over the past year, I was involved in over 115 formal counseling sessions. Counseling serves both as an outreach (when a counselee is lost, the primary objective becomes evangelism) and discipleship ministry. For the saved

counselee, an underlying objective is always to assist them in glorifying God by becoming more like Jesus Christ. As I write this letter, I have been putting the finishing touches on a dissertation project. This is the final step that culminates several years of study and research that will result in a PhD in Religion / Christian Counseling from Bethany Divinity College and Seminary. My dissertation is entitled, "Abounding Grace in the Battle over Pornography - Helping Counselees Find Lasting Freedom From Sexual Sin through the Power of God's Grace." It is designed to help the counselor to be better equipped to counsel the man who is in bondage to pornography and other sexual sins. I would be happy to send you an electronic copy once the final report is completed and approved. If interested, shoot me a quick email and I'll add you to the distribution list.



HBM Growth

We are excited that the Lord has brought two new families that are considering affiliating with Harvest Baptist Missions as their missions agency. We are still in the early stages of discussions with both families but certainly do appreciate your prayers as we seek the Lord's will in this matter. In its sixteen years of existence, HBM has never proactively sought growth; rather, we have endeavored to serve

and be a blessing to the missionary families that God sends our way.

Various Ministry Activities

Kris and I are excited to be conducting a couple of marriage conferences for churches this winter. We always enjoy challenging couples to continually invest in their marriages but we also don't really look forward to the "challenges" in our relationship that always seem to come our way when we speak about building God-honoring marriages. We certainly appreciate your prayers as we conduct these retreats in February and March. Kris is managing to keep very busy in her work for the Lord as well. In her role as Choir Director at CRBC, she has already started working with the choir on the upcoming Easter Cantata - Amazing Grace. In addition to this, she also has a few speaking engagements coming up as well. Please pray for her as she works with the choir and puts her "talks" together. The 9th PureMen study at CRBC kicked off in November. PureMen is a men's ministry focused on teaching men to be passionate about purity. I also had the opportunity to teach an abbreviated PureMen class at the Lorain Correctional Institute this past Fall. What a blessing it is to minister in all of these capacities!



HBM Website Project - Overhaul!

We have begun working with Iler Networking and Computing to do a complete overhaul of the current HBM website. Because of some problems with the older platform, we have not been able to add additional content, including updated prayer letters for most of the past year. We are excited about this project and encourage you to check out our site in the coming months. We hope to have the new site in place by the end of the first quarter.

Family Update

Corey finished his first semester of college in outstanding fashion, earning "straight A's." His course work (Biology/Pre-Med) was challenging - chemistry, biology, calculus, and English. We have been very impressed with his commitment to apply himself to his studies. Abbey is enjoying playing on the First Baptist Christian School junior high girls basketball team this winter. She is learning and doing well and reminds us so much of Tyler on the basketball court when he was younger. Tyler, Ashli, and Anah are anxiously awaiting the arrival of baby #2, due at the end of May. We are certainly excited to meet our second grandchild as well. Please keep all of our kids in your prayers. They face many challenges in this world as they endeavor to be lights for Jesus Christ.



As always, we thank you so much for the love, prayers, encouragement, blessings, and support that you have bestowed upon our family. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful support team standing behind us in the work of the Great Commission!

Sincerely,

The Williams Family (*Steve, Kris, Corey and Abbey*)

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