

# The Williams Family - Harvest Baptist Missions

Ministry Update / Prayer Letter

November 2016

## Greetings!

*"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord..."* Psalm 92:1

For many years I have begun almost every class / seminar session that I have had the privilege to teach with a very simple question - "Who has something they would like to thank the Lord for?" When we contemplate God's unfailing love and faithfulness, we are encouraged to face our trials. We find hope and strength for our difficulties when we focus on the sufficiency of God for all our needs. Thanking Him for His work in our lives requires us to reflect on the wonderful things He does for us on a daily basis. In addition, praising and thanking God reminds us just how dependent we are on Him, for all the good things in our lives are gifts from Him. Thank you Lord! What would you like to thank Him for today?

## Youth Missions Trip - Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation

One of our objectives with HBM has been to provide hands-on mission field experiences to the people of our churches. Over the years, we have led many trips to both foreign and domestic fields. This past summer, we were able to take the youth group from our home church to minister to the Tohono O'odham native Americans in southern Arizona. This experience was special in that we were able to be involved over the entire ten month process of fund raising (over \$12K), field preparation, and then ministering with them on the mission field. Our teens were challenged to develop and conduct "day camps" on the reservation (four 8 hour days) at two different reservation locations. They did a phenomenal job, making us all very proud. The gospel was shared, kids were shown the love of Christ, and several made professions of faith. What a great experience this was for all involved. Next up, Kris and I are in the beginning stages of planning a return trip to Togo, West Africa to minister alongside David Laodima and his family. Please be in prayer as to the timing and necessary expenses for such a trip.



Teen Missions Team



Along with the trip out West, Kris and I were able to visit with our oldest son and his wife in Clovis, New Mexico. It was made even more special by getting to meet our newest grandson, Evan, who was born in late May. Tyler, Ashli, Anah, and Evan are all doing well, enjoying the Air Force life, and serving in their local church.

### HBM Missionary Spotlight

**The David Laodima Family** - The work in Togo continues to flourish. I spent several weeks this Fall working on a Comprehensive Ministry update for Bro. David that is presently being sent to all of his supporters. What a joy it is to see this robust and thriving work in Togo. David and his team have started nine churches, a Bible Institute, provide work/skill training for their people, and have eleven orphans at their Redeemer House orphanage. I am also working with David and Justine to develop a program designed to get more financial support for the orphanage. While they currently house eleven kids, they have the capacity to care for a total of sixty children. However, more finances are required before they can realistically grow. In the near future, we will be rolling out a "sponsorship program," soliciting regular financial gifts to care for the ongoing support of a child in the orphanage. \$50 per month is what is currently needed to provide for their housing, clothing, food, and education.

**The Shawn Bowman Family** - It is exciting to see how the Lord is continuing to guide this family and their ministry in Ireland. A significant prayer need is an upcoming (early 2017) visa application for permanent residency. Up to this point, they have been required to be approved on an annual basis and have always run the risk of being denied. The permanent residency status they will be applying for will eliminate the need to continually re-apply. The cost of such an application is also quite high (\$4500-\$6000). The Lord has been blessing an appeal that Bro. Shawn recently made to his supporters and much of this has already been received. Please continue to pray for this family.



Redeemer House Kids

It continues to be a tremendous privilege to daily serve the following HBM missionary families: **Aaron Freeman** (Iglesia Bautista Esperanza, Rio Grande City), **Manny Catriz** (Philippines), **Napoleon Pinos** (Philippines), and **Moses Yoder**, serving at our home church in North Olmsted.

## Ministry Activities Update



The biblical counseling ministry that was started following my ACBC certification in 2014 has continued to flourish. My regular counseling load each week fluctuates, typically consists of around ten active clients. These folks are from both our church as well as churches surrounding our area. Many have been helped through the timeless principles and truths from God's Word

as it proves over and over again that it is completely sufficient for "*all things that pertain unto life and godliness*" (2 Pet. 1:3). It continues to be my desire to teach biblical counseling on the mission field, better equipping our missionaries to help others grow in Christ-likeness through the medium of counseling. As with all other aspects of our HBM ministries, all counseling continues to be provided free of charge.

### PureMen

For almost ten years now, I have been teaching the PureMen study at CRBC - Teaching Men to be Passionate About Purity. Our 9th PureMen study started in September and will continue weekly (Wednesday nights) for the next six months.

While the theme of this study has been finding lasting freedom from addiction, its primary focus has been discipleship - making men more like Jesus Christ. I certainly do appreciate your prayers as there is a constant spiritual battle that rages when you confront strongholds in a person's life. Praise the Lord, "*where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.*" (Rom. 5:20). If you are interested in having me share the message of PureMen at a men's meeting in your church, don't hesitate to give me a call.



**New HBM Website Coming Soon!** Check out our new site early in 2017!

[www.harvestbaptistmissions.org](http://www.harvestbaptistmissions.org)

### Family Update

In addition to helping me with several counseling cases, Kris has been busy preparing our church's choir for the upcoming Christmas cantata next month. She has led our church's choir for twenty-five years now! Abbey is in the 7th grade at First Baptist Christian School and enjoys playing volleyball and basketball for the school. Corey's life is consumed with studying (2nd year of college/pre-med), but he was able to join me in coaching the varsity soccer team at First Baptist again this past Fall. We both share a love for the game and truly enjoyed investing our lives into the nineteen players that made up our roster. We appreciate your prayers for Tyler and his family as he soon will be deployed into harm's way again. God has been good to us and we



are so thankful for each of you who have labored with us for so many years now.  
May the Lord bless you and you continue to faithfully serve Him!



As always, thank you for your constant care for our family. We are hoping each of you has a wonderful Christmas season as we reflect on the most precious gift we have ever received - Jesus!

May the Lord continue to bless each of you as you faithfully serve Him!

Sincerely,

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