

# The Williams Family - Harvest Baptist Missions



Ministry Update / Prayer Letter

December 2017

**Dear Steve,**

***Psalm 13:5-6 "But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. I will sing unto the Lord, because he hath dealt bountifully with me."***

As I reflect back on another year coming to an end, one constant that always remains is the Lord's faithfulness. Even though we tend to forget about Him at times, I am encouraged to know that He always remembers us. He fully knows us, sustains us, and is always so good to us. Sing His praises! God is Good!

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## 2018 Trips - Togo, West Africa and Haiti

In early April, Kris, Abbey and I will be headed to Togo to visit with HBM Missionaries, David and Justine Laodima. In addition to conducting a marriage retreat for the Togolese people, we will be visiting each of the churches throughout Togo (as well as the orphanage) that this family has helped to establish. We will also be assisting with the celebration service of the "main church" in Lome reaching fully indigenous status. It has been quite a few years since our last visit and we are very excited about seeing how things have



prospered under their leadership. We have raised close to \$1500 for this trip but with three of us traveling, we still have quite a way to go (estimated total need about \$4-\$5K). If you would like to invest in this trip, your gifts can be sent to Harvest Baptist Missions, labeled as "Togo Missions Trip." **Please pray** for us as there will be many speaking opportunities, safety as we travel, and for the remaining funds to be raised.

We are also excited to have been invited to conduct a marriage retreat in Haiti in the Fall of 2018. Our good friend Paul Harrigan has built a wonderful work in Port-Au-Prince as he has labored there for many years. While I have travel to Haiti on numerous occasions, this will be the first time for Kris. **Please pray** for us as there are many details that need to be cared for to make this retreat a reality.

## Restore Biblical Counseling

The unfortunate reality is that counseling can be a real heavy load to bear at times. The heartaches, life tragedies, and disappointments often make me feel like I'm riding a roller coaster of emotions with the counselees that I am privileged to work with. Without question, there are many who are hurting and suffering in our world today. But what a joy it is to share with people the unfailing, timeless, life-changing principles of the Word of God. As we work through the many layers of emotions, hurt, pain, bitterness, etc. to get to the real heart of the issue, it amazes me to see the Lord bring restoration where there was only alienation. As a counselor, I endeavor to offer hope - hope that is found in a loving, forgiving, restoring Savior. As I think back over the past couple of months, I rejoice as I see marriage relationships that were on the brink of divorce mended and growing again. I see people who were once in bondage to some sinful behavior now having those chains broken and set free. I experience those who have been



overwhelmed with depression finding joy and peace once again. And as I've mourned with those who are mourning, I see firsthand how the Lord brings them through. Yes, counseling can be an exhausting, heavy load to bear but what a privilege to speak truth into the lives of God's people and see them find the lasting change they are looking for. As this ministry continues to flourish, please pray for the wisdom and

endurance necessary to press forward. It seems with each new counselee I am confronted with a problem that I have not dealt with before. Truly, my first reaction is fear (how am I going to be able to help them) - and then the Lord gently reminds me, "You can't - but I can!". I am sure glad it doesn't depend upon me! Thank you for your faithful prayers for this area of our ministry.

### **PureMen Ministry**

Our 10th year of conducting the PureMen bible study ([www.puremenministry.org](http://www.puremenministry.org)) is well underway. I worked over this past summer to do a re-design on the class in an effort to "keep it fresh." For many years, we have used as our textbook, "At the Altar of Sexual Idolatry" by Steve Gallagher (Pure Life Ministries). This is an outstanding, biblically based resource that has been a great help to thousands of men caught in the bondage of sin. Earlier this year, Pure Life Ministries released a DVD series from this book and it is outstanding. If you know of men in your church that are struggling with issues relating to purity, I cannot recommend it highly enough. Thanks for praying for this needed ministry as we strive to help men to become passionate about purity.



### **Marriage Conferences**

Kris and I have the privilege of leading two marriage conferences in the 1st quarter of 2018. The first will be at Salt Fork State Lodge in Cambridge, Ohio and the 2nd will be in Ohio Amish Country (Walnut Creek). This is another extension of our overall ministry and one that we thoroughly enjoy doing together. Please be in prayer over the many details that need to be cared for in the coming weeks. Also, there are a few remaining spots open in the Salt Fork retreat (2/9 & 2/10). Let us know if you are interested in attending.

Love

### New HBM Website Update

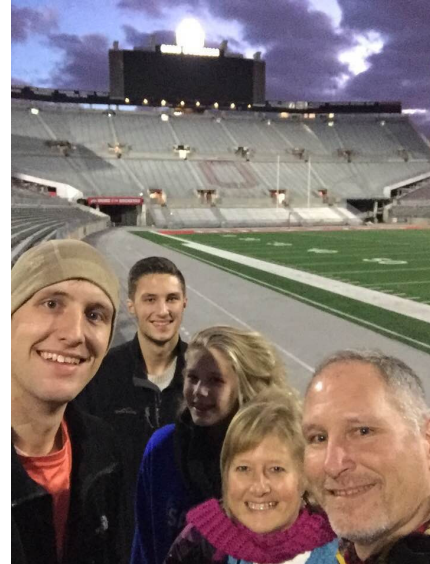


Don't forget to check out our newly redesigned and refreshed HBM website:

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

### Family Update

In early December, Tyler had to fly to Wright Patterson AFB (Dayton) for a pilot's physical. His being "in the area" gave us a wonderful opportunity to get together with our three kids for dinner. Corey is a junior at Ohio State, so Columbus became our rendezvous point. Those were certainly precious moments as they are unfortunately all too infrequent anymore. Corey is finishing up final exams at OSU as I write this letter. Abbey is enjoying 8th grade at First Baptist Christian School. Her volleyball team went 18-2 this Fall and played for the State Championship. She is now following in her brothers' footsteps and doing well in basketball. Later this week, Kris,



Abbey and I are headed to New Mexico for Christmas with Tyler's family. Corey is staying home to study for his upcoming MCATS (med school entrance exams). As Tyler heads off to Officer Training School in January, we get the privilege of bringing our grandkids (Anah and Evan) home with us for a few months so Tyler and Ashli can pack up their house and prepare to move to Mississippi. Please pray for safety as

we make the long drive to/from New Mexico.

As we bring 2017 to a close, Kris and I want to express our heartfelt thanks for your love, friendship, prayers, and support. I can't believe it has been over 18 years since we began this journey with HBM and so many of you have stood with us from the very beginning. THANK YOU! Enjoy your Christmas celebration with family - and may 2018 be your best year yet!

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As always, thank you for your constant care for our family.

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

Sincerely,

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



Harvest Baptist Missions, 4116 Columbia Road, North Olmsted, OH 44070

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