

The Williams Family - Harvest Baptist Missions



Ministry Update / Prayer Letter

April 2018

Greetings Praying Friends!

Psalm 19:14 " Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

I love this verse! But certainly not because I always get it right. Many times I fall well short. However, I greatly desire to please God in everything I say and think. He is my strength and He is my redeemer. Because of this truth, I can have success in this area of my life. Have you meditated on this verse lately? I challenge you to make it an everyday reality in your quest for Christ-likeness.

HBM / CRBC Leadership Transition

HBM began almost 20 years ago based on the vision of Pastor Alan Jenkins. Pastor Jenkins shepherded our church for over 35 years and provided outstanding leadership. Sensing the Lord's leading to "pass the pastoral mantel," Bro. Jenkins officially retired from the pastorate at the end of March of this year. Our new pastor is Bill Giallourakis, a young man who was saved in our church at the age of 18. The Lord has prepared and called him to lead our church into the future. In addition to his new pastoral role, Pastor Giallourakis also assumes the position of President of Harvest Baptist Missions. He has a love for missions and will undoubtedly continue to provide outstanding leadership just like his predecessor. He is a man of extraordinary gifting and I am excited to see how the Lord through him will work in the coming years. My primary role as Director of HBM remains unchanged.



Togo Trip Update

It had been our desire to complete our trip to Togo in the April 2018 time frame. Due to a number of circumstances, we have decided to postpone our trip to the 4th Quarter of this year. In working with Bro. Laodima, he has assured us that he plans to keep us busy during our upcoming visit. Here is a list of objectives he has

established for our Fall visit:

"Concerning your coming up trip, the following is what we would like you to do for us:"

1. Teach pastors, missionaries and deacons on **BASICS IN BIBLICAL COUNSELING**;
2. Speak in 7 churches on **"MENTAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ILLNESS**;
3. Speak to married couples from many churches (A one day marriage conference) on a subject of your choice;
4. Speak to pastors, missionaries and deacons wives from many churches on **HELPING THEIR HUSBANDS BE EFFECTIVE IN THE MINISTRY**.
5. Visit our missions field and Redeemer House (Orphanage);
6. Answers our co-workers questions during **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TIME**;
7. Help us organize the Savior Baptist Church dedication and autonomy ceremony.

Whew...I get tired just reading through that list. Please pray for us as we continue to prepare and raise the needed funds to make this trip a reality.

Another exciting opportunity that is developing in Togo relates to a project that has been deemed **"Togo Safe School."** Emmanuel Agbovi immigrated to the US from Togo in 2001. He was born and raised in the same village where Bro. David built the Redeemer House orphanage. Bro. Agbovi found educational opportunities very limited in Togo (which remains the current reality). Once in the US, he pursued his education with passion, earning both his bachelors and masters degrees. The Lord has blessed him in his work life and now he is committed to raising funds to build schools in Togo. Working with Bro. David, significant funding has been sent to Togo and construction is well underway for the first fully functional school in this Safe School project. Education coupled with strong bible teaching, local church presence will definitely make a huge impact in Togo.



Finally, we are working with Bro. Laodima to plan a brief furlough for him and his family in the late Summer / early Fall of this year. Many details need to come together to make this a reality so your prayers are greatly appreciated.

HBM Missionary Napoleon Pinos - At Home in Heaven

Our good friend and faithful co-laborer in the Gospel entered into his heavenly reward on February 3rd. Please be in prayer for his wife Esther and their adult children as they continue to mourn the loss of Napoleon. He was a humble, quiet servant who labored in the background - but accomplished amazing things for the cause of Christ. The number of churches birthed from the church he pastored and the souls saved through his ministry is truly overwhelming. Heavenly reward indeed!



HBM Missionary Shawn Bowman Family (Ireland) Update

Our HBM missionaries in Ireland have been continuing to plow through the rocky soil there to reach souls for Christ. Over the past couple of years, they have been aggressively pursuing permanent visas which would better secure their long term viability in the country. This has been a costly process and one that has required a tremendous amount of patience. What a joy it was to hear from Bro. Shawn last week that the process is now complete for him, his wife, and their oldest son. In fact, they will be participating in a citizenship ceremony on May 21st where they will achieve citizenship status in Ireland (dual US / Ireland citizenship). Praise God for this amazing answer to prayer! Continue to pray for this wonderful family as the ministry opportunities continue to greatly expand in Ireland.

Restore Biblical Counseling

This aspect of our overall ministry has certainly continued to flourish. In fact, I have gotten to the point that I have to turn down (or waitlist) some counseling opportunities. There are so many hurting folks today that have very messy lives. What a joy and privilege it is to speak truth into their lives through the vehicle of biblical counseling. It has been my goal and desire to lead others to grow in this area as well. I am thrilled that eleven individuals from our church signed up recently to take an intensive ten-week counseling class through the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC), the organization that I have my certification through. It will be a real pleasure to shepherd these folks through what I'm sure



Association of Certified
Biblical Counselors

will be a tremendous time of personal growth and equipping this summer.

PureMen Ministry

In March, I was able to complete our 10th PureMen study at CRBC. This six month bible study is conducted on Wednesday nights at our church and challenges men to be passionate about purity. It is always a thrill to see the Lord work in men's lives and see them grow to become truly passionate about becoming more like Christ. While I enjoy the brief respite from this ministry, I sure do miss the weekly camaraderie of meeting with these men!

Marriage Conferences

For the past two decades, the Lord has given Kris and I the opportunity to invest in the lives of marriages throughout the world. In fact, this ministry really gave rise to my pursuit of additional training in the area of biblical counseling. In the first quarter of this year we had the opportunity to lead two marriage retreats - one at Salt Fork State Park in southern Ohio and one in Amish Country. Both were wonderful opportunities for us to speak truth into the lives of those in attendance. In an effort to maintain proper ministry balance, we try to limit our commitment to four of these conference per year. In addition to the conference in Togo scheduled for later this year, we have also been invited by missionary Paul Harrigan to conduct a marriage retreat in Haiti. Please be in prayer for this valuable aspect of our ministry.



New HBM Website Update



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

www.harvestbaptistmissions.org

Family Update



In mid-March, we had the great opportunity to travel to Montgomery, AL to witness Tyler's graduation from USAF Officer Training School. Tyler traded his "stripes for bars" and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. His new base assignment is Tinker AFB in Oklahoma City. His family has since moved to that location and are enjoying the blessings of being together again. Corey recently finished up his junior year at Ohio State. He will take his MCAT exam on June 1st and will start the arduous process of interviewing for Med Schools this Fall. He is pursuing a career in pediatric medicine. Abbey just celebrated her 14th birthday and is finishing up the 8th grade at First Baptist. We are excited to watch

her in the school production of the "Ransom of Red Chief" this coming weekend.

Finally, as hard as it is to believe, Kris and I will be celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary next month. God has truly been good to us!



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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