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BAPTIST FAITH MISSIONS

bfm NEWS & REPORTS

Assisting Baptist churches to send God-called missionaries to fulfill church-planting missions in the nations of the world

FIRST MISSION TRIP OF 2021



Mike & Beverly Creiglow
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January 27, 2021

Dear Brethren,

Things are far from normal. Yet the rainy season has started and the rivers are coming up. We are enjoying pretty good health. The church continues to meet, albeit with much lower than normal attendance. People have been saved in almost every service. Fear and panic is still widespread. We have lost many friends and brothers. Many more are still coming down with the virus. Vaccinations have started here in Brazil. So it is a mixed bag.

Pastor Ezi and I went on our first mission trip last week. We went up the Moa River to visit 2 of our works. We were in the open boat with smaller outboard. I was not sure how I would do manually starting and running the engine as my strength is still not where I was. On top of that we got rained on big time going and coming. Rain always presents a big challenge and even bigger on a small, winding river. All went very well though. God continues to give me strength and He is a great pilot.

We dedicated the new building at Serra do Moa (Mountains on the Moa River). We held 4 services with



The new building at Serra do Moa



Sunday Morning Service at Serra do Moa

them. Missionary Rivaldo is doing great. He worked there when we first started the congregation. Later he took care of 2 other fields. Now he is back where he started his ministry 24 years ago. This is the fourth build-

ing that we have put up. The first three were tiny wood frame structures that didn't last that long. This time they put in a concrete foundation and partial brick walls. The rest is wood, but this one should last much longer. The last building is still in good shape and is used for Sunday School.

There were over 200 people present. Most of these were from 5 of our other congregations downriver. There 4 professions of faith. I baptized 8 on Sunday morning. This was squeezed in between rainstorms. The rains hardly ever stopped. In fact, we were scheduled to be with our mission at República (Nukini Indian reservation), but the missionary and his family were not able to return because of the rain. We plan to visit them in a few more days.

One thing that was sad was seeing the reach of the panic over the virus reach all the way up river. They were handing out masks and spraying gel at the door of the new church building. Now, I am not against masks at the right place



Pastor Ezi and Mike with the new motor on the river.

and time, but this was very disheartening to see. Many of them had their masks on upside down! The reach of tyranny seems to have no limit.

The new 25HP 4 stroke outboard worked very well. Thanks to all who have helped me purchase and maintain my boats and motors.

Thanks for all of your prayers and support. God bless you as much as He has us.

In Christ,
Mike Creiglow

View more pictures on our FaithWorks Blog!



@BFMNOW

"And...they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how He had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles." -Acts 14:27

www.bfmnow.org

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month is for the Missionary Support Fund.*

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Benton Glover • Dan Hillard • Kenny Hurst
Randy Jones • Darrell Messer
David Mitchell • Dave Parks • Mark Pyles
David Pitman • George Sledd
Sheridan Stanton • Steve Wainright

*May God give them wisdom and discernment
as they prayerfully make decisions.*

PREPARING DVD ON FURLOUGH



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January 1, 2021
Dear praying friends,
Happy 2021! Hard to believe that
another year has passed so quickly.
I (Nathan) am sure many of us

are wanting to get
2020 over, as it was
a very challenging
year with the coron-
avirus. It was cer-
tainly an unprec-
edented year, and
one of the most
challenging in my
lifetime. I am sure
many of you can
say the same. With
all the restrictions,
lockdowns, etc.
it was difficult,
but God saw us
through, and He
will see us through
2021 as well. He is
so faithful. Psalm
33:4 says "For the
word of the Lord
is right; and all his
works are done in
truth." Amen.

In all of the chal-
lenges of this past
year, I am com-
forted by many
passages of the
Scriptures, and
have found many
encouraging verses
we can cling to in Psalm 34. I will
mention just a few. Psalm 34:4 says
"I sought the Lord, and he heard
me, and delivered me from all my
fears." What an encouraging verse,
with all the fears and distresses we
faced this past year.

Also, Psalm 34:19, which says
"Many are the afflictions of the
righteous: but the Lord delivereth
him out of them all." I could men-
tion others, but these are a couple
of my favorites. I would encourage
you to read Psalm 34 completely
through to find many promises
from our faithful God in these

challenging times. May we trust
Him and His promises in the year
ahead. D.L. Moody said "God never
made a promise that was too
good to be true."

Our daughters are currently on
break from their schooling and
have worked hard in their stud-
ies. My wife has done a great job
homeschooling them and they are
really enjoying it. Of course, there
are challenges with homeschool-

them in prayer at this challenging
time, as well as the missionaries
that are currently serving in Kenya.
Please pray for all involved in this
difficult situation. Prayer changes
things. Hopefully there will be a
treatment in the near future, all over
the world, so people get the help
they need at this time.

I will very soon be working on my
missions DVD, so I appreciate your
prayers for that. There is always

so much to do with
it and it is a lot of
work, but I am glad
to be receiving help
at this time with it.
Please
pray for me and the
helpful man that
I will be working
with, that we will
be efficient, get our
work done
in a timely manner,
and develop a good
missions DVD from
our last term in Ken-
ya.

I will be sched-
uling churches in
the near future, so
please be in prayer
for this as well. I
know there will be
different challenges
with coronavirus
this furlough, so
I am trusting the
Lord for this. We are
pleased
with our housing
situation in Milton,
WV and God truly
provided this for us.

We have never lived in Milton, so
pray for us with our adjustments to
the area. We will trust God day by
day, as you all do as well.

We will be sure to keep you up-
dated on our furlough. We appre-
ciate each of you so much for your
letters, emails of encouragement,
prayer support, and sacrificial giv-
ing. We could not do this without
you. You are each a great blessing to
us. Please note our new mailing ad-
dress above.

Blessings,
Nathan and Carrie Radford



The Radford Family
Nathan, Carrie, McKenna, and Camille

ing, but my wife has done fine
and has her degree in education,
so she is well qualified. Please
pray for her and our daughters,
as they learn together. Life is truly
all about learning. There are new
things to be learned all the time,
and we need His grace and help
through it all.

Kenya has continued to get hit
hard with the coronavirus. There
are over 96,000 cases at the cur-
rent time, so you can imagine that
the health facilities, doctors, and
nurses are getting overwhelmed.
How they need us to remember

MINISTRY CONTINUES AMIDST COVID-19



Bobby & Charlene Wacaser

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January 1, 2021

Dear Friends,

Last month I mentioned that a new wave of the COVID-19 virus was passing through our area. Well, it certainly did and Charlene and I were caught by it. To God's praise, we both have fully recovered, but our youth minister is still in the Intensive Care Unit four weeks after contracting the virus. This is that same youth minister, Cledson, that had gone through several trials unrelated to health before. Our church people are praying earnestly for him and have seen much improvement in his condition.

Our Uber driver ministers continue to report many opportunities for sharing the gospel and praying for their customers. There are 5

or 6 members of our church who earn their income as Uber drivers. As a church we try to teach our people that they are all ambassadors for the Lord wherever they may be. These Uber drivers started out just trying to make a living for their families, but each one discovered that the Lord would open up opportunities for them to share God's love with their customers. Sometimes it's just an encouraging word to a fellow Christian, but on many occasions, they have been able to fully share the gospel with a customer and have the customer surrender to Christ right there in their car. It has been very encouraging to hear their testimonies. They all meet once a month to share their experiences, pray for one another and discuss strategies for how to better serve the Lord through this medium.

In a few weeks we are going to be hosting our first Missions Training Seminar of the new year. We are praying that the crest of the

COVID wave will have passed by then so that our volunteers who have to travel from out of state will be free to come. We will be prepared to host the seminar online, if necessary, but we hope that we can have the trainees actually come and participate in our evangelistic workshops and outreach events. I will keep you posted on how these plans develop.

I am excited about what the Lord has in store for us to do in 2021! We know that the challenges can be even greater than they were last year, but we also know that the Lord will be with us through them and that He will provide the grace, the strength and the resources to accomplish everything that is His will.

We ask that you remember to pray for us. We daily need His guidance and strength to serve Him faithfully.

In Christ's love,

Bobby and Charlene Wacaser

“As a church we try to teach our people that they are all ambassadors for the Lord wherever they may be.”

- Bobby Wacaser -

ANOTHER DELAY



Aj & Barbara Hensley

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Thursday, January 14, 2021
Friends and family,

Well, in the prospect of not sounding like a broken record—plans have been made, ticket have been purchased, COVID tests have been scheduled (72 hours before take-off). Then we got a notice from Brazil!! The two cities where we are planning classes had been put on lock-down. What that means is ANOTHER delay!!

Plans changed, classes cancelled, letting our professors know and calling the pastors in Brazil. This is the first step in the cancelling of these classes that were in place for the Spring. We had to call our Brazilian brothers, the IT people, the translator, and all others that had their plans to attend the Seminary classes.

So now the Spring classes will become classes in the Summer and the Summer classes will move to the Fall and the Fall classes move to the Winter. Do we need your prayers? Yes, yes, yes, now more than ever. Please pray for us and our Brazilian students and

helpers.

Here is where I ask myself, “Am I doing something wrong and do I need to change something?” Well, one thing I know is I need more patience; however, in light of praying for more patience, I will be praying for wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and remember that we are not in this alone. And when I fail to remember ALL that I get, reminders to me from me: remember—Pastors, Congregations, and how easy it is to displace them when you are keeping the main thing the main thing. We were going there to help them in understanding the

Bible better and how to pass that knowledge on to the Brazilian people.

All the changes that have had to be made are disturbing to us and the budget, but we need to remember Who is in charge. And He has our best interest at heart. So, I know that we serve an AWESOME God and it is all in His plans.

Thank you for your continued prayer support and financial support. And thanks to BFM for their continued belief in our work to train our Brazilian brothers.

In His service,
Aj and Barbara

“All the changes that have had to be made are disturbing to us and the budget, but we need to remember Who is in charge. And He has our best interest at heart.” - A.J. Hensley

PRAISING GOD FOR HIS PROTECTIVE HAND



Judson &
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São Paulo, Brasil

January 25, 2021

Dear Friends,

This was a roller coaster month for us.

I started the month participating in an ordination council of two qualified men for pastoral ordination. Due to COVID-19, the council met via Zoom conference. It was a real joy to hear how the Lord worked in the life of these men and their families in their ministerial journey.

Two baptism candidates began orientation and discipleship and will be baptized soon. It is always exciting to see people surrendering to the Lord and following in believer's baptism.

We took a 6-day road trip with the kids to celebrate our (Raquel and I) 22nd wedding anniversary on January 8th. We took a 9-hour drive to visit Florianopolis, the capital city of Santa Catarina. It was an exceptional trip as we also made a quick stop to visit Curitiba and Joinville. These cities are in the southern part of the country and are also in a region of Brazil that has the least number of churches and is generally considered hard to reach people with the Gospel. Florianopolis is a city with roughly 500k inhabitants on an island. Truly a beautiful city. We stayed at an Airbnb apartment and the host happened to be an evangelical



Melissa's recent trip to the ER

Christian Pastor. We spoke about the difficulties of reaching people in his city. Historically, this is a city that received a lot of German and Italian immigrants. I always enjoy learning new insights for Kingdom expansion.

Several close friends died from COVID-19 this month. Three of them were beloved pastor friends that died. I am still in disbelief as to how many families - spouses and children -

"It is always exciting to see people surrendering to the Lord and following in believer's baptism."
-Jud Hatcher-

are mourning the loss. The second wave of the infection has hit the country harder than the first. The intensity of the infections is due to the mutations and variants of the virus along with ill-equipped hospitals. We celebrate the spiritual legacy these friends left behind and know that they are face-to-face with the Savior. We also realize that every family with

lost loved ones will need to mourn their physical absence and adjust to the new routines. Please, pray for these families.

Today is a holiday in Sao Paulo City, so Melissa and I (Judson) went on a bike ride before lunch. She was struck by a vehicle that ran a red light as we were crossing a street. A fire station was nearby, so she received immediate attention from an EMT. There were no ambulances available, so we had to go to the Emergency Room in our own car. The police were slow to arrive and write up

a report. It took us 3 hours from the time of the accident until I could take her to the hospital. I am truly grateful to Bro. Dave Parks and all BFM directors for the change in the health insurance, as it provides effective coverage in Brazil. After the doctor's evaluation and x-rays, we were released to go home at 5:30 pm. Thankfully, the car only ran over the bicycle, and not over her. She was thrown 4 feet away from the automobile. She suffered no broken bones or fractures and no head injury. We are blessed by the Lord's deliverance.

Please, continue to pray for us, our ministry, and our plans.

Grateful always,

Judson and Raquel Hatcher

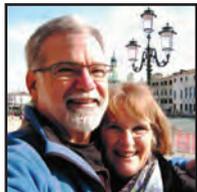


From Mike Creiglow in Brazil: "We dedicated the new building at Serra do Moa. We held 4 services with them...I baptized 8 on Sunday morning. This was squeezed in between rainstorms. The rains hardly ever stopped." [more on page 1]



The Hatcher Family

EXILES IN OUR WORLD; ONE NOW AT HOME



John Mark & Judy Hatcher
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January 10, 2021
Dear Fellow Exiles,

We just finished the Sunday meeting with our church in France, morning here but evening there. Being able to meet electronically with them is a great blessing. Today was the beginning of a new series of messages from God's Word, "Exiles in our World". Philip suggested that we make this our next series as God's people are clearly presented in the Old and New Testament as pilgrims in exile.

This morning we looked at the outstanding encounter of Elijah with Ahab, Jezebel, the prophets of Baal, and Yahweh on Mt. Carmel and Mt. Horeb. You might like to reach I Kings 18 and 19 and meditate on the wonderful lessons we learn about God's love and interaction with us in the midst of the calling we have received. It is very applicable to the times in which we live.

And, speaking of times in which we live. What a year 2020 was globally and personally. Judy's sister Peggy left us to be in the presence of the Lord in the wee morning hours of December 24. Our children and grandchildren who live in the USA



Peggy Foster

were here for an early Christmas celebration on Tuesday, December 22. This was the last day that Peggy was cognizant of her surroundings here on earth. Our family in France had Zoom time with us singing Christmas carols to Peggy. A little later, all who were here sang hymns

to Peggy for about an hour. Peggy would join us singing a word or two in her breathless state. She is now singing in perfection.

Peggy had a passion to help the needy and loved reaching out to children. She actively served in these areas.

Her life touched many who she is now with and others who will join her in the presence of the Lord because she was a witness to them of Jesus Christ.

Thank each one of you who have expressed your concern and love in many different ways. We are now working hard at wrapping up the physical and legal matters so that we can be back in France soon. It is our hope to be there within the next couple of months. God has manifested His presence in many different ways and things are going well.

Thank you for your prayers now and during the past months.

May God display Himself in all of us during this year and until our Lord and Savior returns for us.

Your fellow pilgrim exiles,
John and Judy

A VISIT FROM FAMILY



Odali & Kathy Barros
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January 15, 2021
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It's hard to believe that a new year has begun. With so many changes we have had to make in our way of living and ministering, we are thankful to God for His protection in our family and those around us in the churches.

Things had gotten better but after Christmas and New Year's, things have gotten bad again. The cities have closed down most of the stores and malls. They only allowed what are major necessities to be open. So once again we are taking precautions with the services.

God has given us the opportunity to have our son Joshua Odali here with his family. Since we live in the middle of the jungle the grandkids can have fun even though everything is closed in town. We have had a wonderful time together.

One of the things that we have started helping with small communities that are in the middle of the jungle is making wells. Now a friend of our son has joined in this ministry. He donated money to drill a well. The cost of a well is \$3,000, which includes the labor, the mate-

rials, and the pump. Here will be coming to help. There are many communities that have no running water. So, this is a great opportunity to reach out to them with drinking water and Living Water.



Fishing with Family

If anyone would like to help, make the donation to "well drilling".

We want to thank each one of you for your constant prayers and your faithful support.

Please continue to pray for us as we deal with the difficult moments, that God will give us wisdom to work through this time.

Love in Christ,
Odali and Kathy Barros



The Barros Family

Your December 2020

OFFERINGS



[Transacted in January 2021]

Your total offerings you contributed in December 2020 was \$156,307.22. The extraordinary total of these monthly offerings is due to two very generous year-end gifts we received: one for the **Missionary Support Fund** and the other for our Thanksgiving Offering.

\$68,749.04

Missionary Support Fund

We are thankful to God and to you to report that \$68,749.04 was given this month to our **Missionary Support Fund** [formerly called General Fund]. We now call it our **Missionary Support Fund** because that is what we do with it: we use it to supply ALL the standing commitments we provide for your missionaries during each month and throughout the year. It is essential and critical that we emphasize and highlight our giving to this **Missionary Support Fund!**

Realizing the Lord is in all things, from a human perspective, here are the services and benefits BFM commits to provide for your missionaries "as the Lord provides" through your faithful, committed, and generous giving:

- Base salary
- Housing expense account
- Mission field ministry expense account
- Health insurance premiums
- Furlough transportation expenses
- Outreach and promotional activities on their behalf
- Retirement contributions expenses

- Stateside administrative and legal reporting services
- Accounting, financial, and tax reporting services

ALL of these base commitments and services that we provide for your missionaries from the **Missionary Support Fund** are 'big-ticket' services and activities, but they are essential because these provisions are what supplies their daily, on-going needs to keep them on their fields of service.

So, PLEASE! may we appeal to you to prioritize helping us to continue providing these essential assistive services to relieve our missionaries from assuming the burden of providing them for themselves! In this way, they can devote the full measure of their time, attention, and energies to the ministries they are on their respective fields to fulfill.



\$43,881.00

Thanksgiving Offering

ALSO, in addition to the generous **Missionary Support Fund** offerings you contributed during December, *you also gave an additional \$43,881.00 to our 2020-2021 Thanksgiving Offering!*

We had set our goal for \$50,000, but you exceeded that!

AND, I am just now receiving word from our Treasurer, George Sledd, that we have received another additional \$6,283.00 during January for our current Thanksgiving Offering!

\$74,199.00

We are thankful to report to you that THIS is now our updated total for our 2020-2021 THANKSGIVING OFFERING!

The Thanksgiving Offering is also allocated toward supplying these same **Missionary Support Fund** commitments to your missionaries over the coming year. The **Missionary Support Fund** and our **Thanksgiving Offering** are the only two sources we have available to us to supply your missionaries' essential needs and services we have committed to them.

We are blessing and thanking God for His grace bestowed on you all – and for your generous sharing with your missionaries!

*"...for all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You."
- 1 Chronicles 29:14 -*

BFM REPRESENTED AT THE 2021 NATIONAL FOUNDERS CONFERENCE



David Pitman and George Sledd introduced BFM to more than 1,400 registrants at the 2021 National Founders Conference in Fort Myers, Florida. Pray that like-minded churches and believers will come alongside and help us.

WAYS TO GIVE



Give Online

You can make a secure donation online with a check or credit card.

Just click the **Give** button on our homepage at www.bfmnow.org



Mail a Check



All offerings should be addressed to:

**BFM, c/o George Sledd
P.O. Box 471280
Lake Monroe, FL 32747-1280**

If your offering is for a specific missionary or project, it should be so designated.

The greatest need each month is for the Missionary Support Fund.



QUOTABLE QUOTES

“To be a soul winner is the happiest thing in the world. And with every soul you bring to Jesus Christ, you seem to get a new heaven here upon earth.”

-C.H. Spurgeon

Follow BFM on Social Media



We encourage you to like, share, and retweet our posts!

Also visit us at www.bfmnow.org.

GIVE NOW!

“...that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality...” [2 Corinthians 8:2]

BAPTIST FAITH MISSIONS

NEWS & REPORTS

Assisting Baptist churches to send God-called missionaries to fulfill church-planting missions in the nations of the world

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February 2021 Issue

ONLINE EDITION

PRAY & PRAISE

...IN THIS ISSUE

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► **MIKE & BEVERLY CREIGLOW:** PRAISE GOD for the first mission trip of the year! PRAY for the church at Serra do Moa and Missionary Rivaldo. PRAISE GOD for the new building! [PAGE 1]

► **JOHN MARK & JUDY HATCHER:** PRAISE GOD for Peggy's life and witness! PRAY for the Hatchers as they wrap up physical and legal matters to return to France soon. PRAISE GOD for the church in France! [PAGE 5]

► **JUD & RAQUEL HATCHER:** PRAISE GOD for the two newly ordained men and two baptism candidates! PRAY for the families of Jud's friends who have recently passed from COVID-19. PRAISE GOD for protecting Melissa! [PAGE 4]

► **AJ & BARBARA HENSLEY:** PRAISE GOD for how He is working through the delays and challenges! PRAY for the Hensleys, their Brazilian students, and helpers. [PAGE 3]

► **NATHAN & CARRIE RADFORD:** PRAISE GOD for providing for their needs while on furlough! PRAY for Nathan as he prepares their DVD and prepares to travel to visit different churches. [PAGE 2]

► **ROGER & JULIE TATE:** PRAISE GOD for the regular attender at the Chapel who is growing in the Lord! PRAY for the visitor who the Lord provided for and PRAISE GOD for meeting her needs. [PAGE 8]

► **BOBBY & CHARLENE WACASER:** PRAISE GOD for restoring their health! PRAY for Cledson who is still in ICU. PRAISE GOD for how He is using the Uber drivers in their church! [PAGE 3]



TIMES OF UNREST AND TRIALS IN AMERICA & KENYA



Roger & Julie Tate

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January 11, 2021

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

In times of unrest and trials in America and in Kenya, what do we do? The best that I can offer is to trust God and pray, knowing that God sees all and that he knows our plight and that he is for us.

While you all in America are going through turmoil, we in Kenya (myself and the Kenyan people) are learning to trust and pray too. For a long time, Kenyans have lived with political unrest, government and police oppression and mistrust, and economic disaster. They also need to be directed to trust God and pray.

I have had one lady and her daughter that has recently started attending our worship services at the Chapel. She has had no work lately because of the changes that have occurred as a result of Covid. Her daughter was supposed to go back to school this month because the government has reopened schools after a 10 month Covid hiatus (that's right, the schools have been completely closed for 10 months). Unfortunately, her daughter did not have everything she needed in order for her to return to school. After our services at the Chapel the lady would approach me and begin this rehearsed speech: "I am sorry we were late this morning. My daughter delayed me because she was crying. She doesn't have everything she needs to return to school. I don't have a job and I don't have any money. How can she return to school without the things she needs? Covid has really been hard on us. I don't know what to do. What am I going to do? Do you have any suggestions?" This is the cultural way of asking for a handout without explicitly asking for a handout. I told her I was sorry, that times really were hard, that Covid has effected many people but that God is still in control and that we should pray that God help her with the

things she needed. This only caused her to repeat her speech again, which she repeated many times during this conversation. Each time I told her I would pray for her (I can't actually give her the money she is asking for because of the many, many problems it would cause not only with her but also with the rest of the Chapel members and with the overall health of the Chapel). When she returned to worship this week (which I didn't think she would) she was rejoicing in the fact that she not only was able to purchase her daughter's necessities, but she also landed a job that would bring her some steady income. She told me it was all because I prayed for her and blessed her and that God must really listen to me and how thankful she was that I had blessed her. Of course, at this point I had more lessons for her that she needed to learn in order to dispel the myth of my magical praying powers.

Moving in a more positive direction, I have another regular attender at the Chapel who also regularly has no money and is also always in need of school fees, rent and clothes for his children. And yet he is always helping out others who are in need. I tell him all the time that I know times are hard and that I will pray that he gets everything he needs. He always tells me, "Roger, God always takes care of me. He always provides everything I need and that's all I need". I tell him that I agree but that maybe he should not give so much away to other people and then he will have more to take care of his own needs and necessities. He always tells me: "Roger, if I give all my money away and then I need something, then God will take care of me and provide what I need".

So, you see, sometimes I have something I can help others learn and sometimes they have something to teach me that I need to learn.

May God bless my Kenyan people and my American people with his presence, his Spirit, his love, his grace, and his mercy.

Blessings to you all,
Roger, Julie & Chloe

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