

Billy and Crystal Coley

Missionaries in Kenya



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Dear Pastor and Church family:

Breakthroughs

As Crystal and I labor to deepen our understanding of the language, culture, and how to effectively communicate the Gospel of Christ to Kenyans, we often find ourselves frustrated with the slow progress. In short, learning a language and culture foreign to the one in which we were raised is a lot of hard work. We have learned how culture effects the understanding people have. Though we are speaking the same language, yet we have difficulty communicating due to differences in cultural interpretation of the ideas being communicated. Similarly in the U.S., we encounter such cultural differences in understanding as we speak to people of different faiths. We may use the same terminology, but each person has a different understanding of what those terms mean.

As we share the Gospel of Christ with those around us, we must keep in mind such differences and take the extra time to separate Truth from Error. William and his sister Regina are in their twenties and have a lifetime of learning false doctrine. Missionary Cormier and I have been having Bible study with William (Regina joined later.) on available Friday evenings. For several months, we have labored with William peeling back the layers of Error using God's Word. This past Friday as Bro. BJ and I both took turns explaining "Saving Faith," we saw evidence that the Light of God's Word was piercing the veil that had been blinding William all these years (2 Cor. 3:14-16; 4:4). Though William's response on Friday evening was that he needed some time for "soul searching," we trust that in the days ahead both William and Regina will set aside their trust in their own works to put their trust in the complete work of Christ for their salvation. Please pray with us for William, Regina, Paul, Sharon, and others as we follow up with them.

A recent breakthrough for me in Swahili was an encouragement. Missionary Cormier has allowed me many opportunities to preach the English and Swahili services. For several months, I have been trying to depend less on reading the typed out sermon which takes me 3-4 days to translate. The goal has been to be as free in Swahili as I am in English. I had seen some progress; but this past month, for the first time, I preached in Swahili without using notes. This was done accidentally as I began preaching without notes and then promptly lost my place! To avoid a long silence in trying to find my place, I decided to just push on. I thank the Lord that I was able to finish the message without using any notes.

Joys

As I type this letter, Crystal is 38 weeks pregnant. We have had good doctor's reports throughout the entire pregnancy. The doctor told me at the visit yesterday, "Well, keep the engine running!" We praise the Lord for the blessing of a son! By next month's prayer letter, we trust the Lord will allow us to write of our baby boy's birth. Please pray all goes well for Crystal and our baby boy.

Heartaches

Nearly three weeks ago, my mom called me with news from my dad's oncologist. Dad's chemo treatment is not working, and the cancer has reached "end stage." This was quite a shock to us all. My dad will spend his last days here in Kenya. To my parents, Kenya is home; their hearts are here. Please pray for my family as we face this valley.

Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support!

Billy and Crystal Coley