

Billy, Crystal, and Hudson Coley

Missionaries in Kenya



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Dear Pastor and Church family:

America's "Newest Citizen"

This past month, we had a lot of Kenyan and American government paperwork come due. For Kenya, my permit allowing me to remain in Kenya expired and needed to be renewed, along with accompanying documents for Crystal and Hudson. The permit renewal was a several-month process which ended this month with my taking the whole family to the immigration office in Nairobi. We praise the Lord that our Kenyan paperwork has been approved and completed for another three years.



On the American side, I made the earliest appointment available at the U.S. embassy in Nairobi to report Hudson's birth and to apply for transmitting our U.S. citizenship to him. The appointment was made while we were still in hospital after Hudson was born. The earliest appointment available was 13 months later. We thank the Lord that all documents were collected and were of sufficient proof for Hudson to be declared at the end of our embassy interview, "Congratulations to our newest American citizen!".

Inviting Kenyans to Become Citizens of a "Better Country"

After dealing with various government paperwork for several months, my mind naturally drifted to some spiritual comparisons. While we call ourselves "missionaries," we certainly perform a ministry not too different from that of the "ambassadors for Christ" (2 Cor. 5:20) who call all to be reconciled to God and invite them to become citizens of a "better country" (Heb. 11:16). For Kenyans, it is a common dream to get the opportunity to go to America. If they can just get to America, then their problems would be solved (or so many believe). This month, I had wondered how differently Kenyans would respond if, rather than Gospel tracts, we handed out invitations to become American citizens. Truly, our evangelism efforts are offering citizenship to a better country, a heavenly country to which no earthly citizenship can compare.

Among those to whom I had the opportunity to present the Gospel, I spoke with a lady named Eunice who was very polite with us and allowed me time to share with her how she might come to know the Lord as Savior. She seemed to me to be receptive, yet she was struggling with the use of terms. Eunice's understanding of the Bible terms that I used was not the same as how the terms were being used in Scripture. I could see the struggle that Eunice was having. It is hard to accept something as true when you have been taught differently all of your life. So often, we see this Biblical Truth: "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." - Mt. 15:9. Please pray for Eunice that the Lord will continue to work on her heart about setting aside her works in favor of Christ's perfect work on the cross. Please pray for us as we hold forth God's Word that the Lord would shine the Light of His Word into the hearts of men, women, and children and pierce the "vail" that is blinding their hearts and minds.

Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support!

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