



*Billy, Crystal, & Hudson*  
**COLEY**



August 2024

Dear Pastor and Church Family:

**Speaking Swahili... in Texas!**

This last month we had meetings in Kansas and Texas with back-to-back conferences in Amarillo, TX. One of the pastors whom we were with has known me since I was seven years old. The other pastor reached out to me sometime last year regarding an African family who began attending their church. I learned that this family spoke Swahili and that the pastor was contacting me for help with materials in the Swahili language. I was thankful to have access to some Bible studies translated from English to Swahili that missionaries had previously done, and I sent them through e-mail. This pastor and I stayed in contact over the year regarding Swahili-speaking people and the need in Amarillo for the Gospel of Christ to be presented in a language they understand.

According to *Statistical Atlas'* website, there are over 200,000 Africans living in the United States. Texas has the largest concentration of Swahili-speaking Africans out of all other states (over 26,000 people). Amarillo alone has nearly 1,600 people who speak Swahili in their home. Upon request from a Sunday school teacher and bus captain in Amarillo, we were glad to have the opportunity to visit a very small portion of these families (representing the countries of Burundi, Congo, and Tanzania). In one of these homes, we spent an hour or so with Peter and Zawadi who understood very little English. Peter has a Baptist background from Tanzania and assured us of his salvation, though a solid salvation testimony was not given. Zawadi followed East African custom by greeting her guests and staying for the conversation a short time before attending to the needs of the home. We did not have a chance to hear from Zawadi regarding her salvation.

The Sunday morning that we were in Amarillo, I had the opportunity to teach the combined class for junior boys and girls. Since there were a couple of Swahili-speaking children in attendance, I taught the lesson in both English and Swahili. Though I have preached in Kenya in English and Swahili separately, I have not preached in English and then translated for myself. I thank the Lord for His help with the challenge of teaching in two languages. Please pray for the churches in Amarillo who seek to reach the lost around them regardless of the language barrier. It encouraged my heart to see these churches do their best to reach Swahili-speaking people. We pray the Lord allowed us to be a help to them in their effort.

Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support!

*Billy, Crystal, and Hudson Coley*

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