



The Importance of Your Church

As you might imagine since returning to the States, I have had the opportunity to talk with folks about missions—a lot! One of the ways I have tried to go about these talks biblically is to look at the model Paul set out on his first missionary journey. This account (in Acts 13–14) gives us a solid concrete idea about how the apostles understood their commission.

If you take a moment to read the chapters, you will see that much of the material records Paul's sermons in these cities. Whether Paul and Barnabas are working with Jews or Gentiles, proclamation was central to their activity.

However, they pressed beyond merely proclaiming the gospel. Their commitment to the Great Commission compelled them to gather these believers into congregations with qualified leaders:

So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed (Acts 14:23).

You see the apostles understood that Christ's commission was related to his promise to "build his church" (Matt 16:18).



Reunions

One of the highlights of our time here in the States has been the opportunity to spend time with family. When we arrived, my parents spent a few days with us in Michigan. Then we were able to hang out with Jenny's family just about every day while we were in Syracuse. We recently left Texas where spent most of September with my folks. Family is one of God's best inventions.



Helping with Vacation Bible School kept us busy during the month of July while we were in Syracuse. We taught the missionary lesson of one and the Bible lesson of the other. It's a delight to help churches fulfill their local mission too!



InterCity Baptist's **family camp** broke up our routine in August. It was a delight to hear some solid, practical Bible teaching from our pastors, to hang out with families from our sending assembly, and to watch the boys on the unforgettable waterslide!

They knew that it was only in the context of the community of God's people, the practice of Christ's ordinances, and the shepherding of qualified men that people could be taught "to observe all things" that Jesus commanded (Matt 28:20).

While we report to churches here in the States, we feel a growing urgency for believers to see how crucial their church is to their own spiritual walk. If "we must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22), then we must never attempt to go it alone.

Thank you for your zeal to see Christ's church built. Your partnership with us in helping churches train leaders is a testimony not only to the importance of sound gospel proclamation but also to the treasure of true gospel community.

I have sent this newsletter to churches and individuals who have expressed interest. If you would like to receive updates like this through email, please email me: pittsley@gbmke.org. You can also keep tabs on me through my blog www.pittspot.com or on the "Pittsleys to Kenya" Facebook page.

For Christ and Kenya,
Jeremy & Jenny (with Josiah, Jonas, and Jamin)

Kids' Corner

Jonas, Josiah, and Jamin are fans of trampolines—big fans. It seems that just about any day involving a trampoline is an automatic favorite. Their imaginations are ignited by these bouncy contraptions, and they can't seem to exhaust the possibilities for fun. What's great is that they have had opportunities to enjoy them now in at least four states in addition to Kenya.



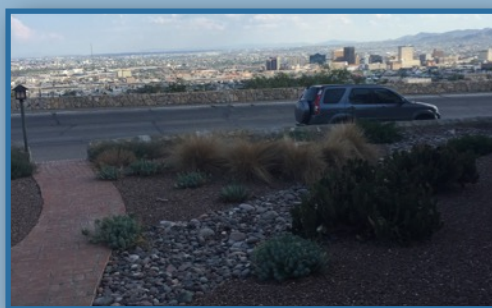
One new thing that we've done since we've been in the States is take time to visit some of the monuments and artwork in the cities where we stay. This sea monster can be found snaking its way across the Creekwalk in Syracuse.



Praise and Prayer Reminders



We're grateful for several boxes of books that have been donated to the library of East Africa Baptist School of Theology. Each one of these represents a teacher who can help equip our students to become qualified to teach others.



We don't take our safety on the roads for granted, and we're thankful for the way the Lord has granted mercy for the journey—virtually from Canada to Mexico in the last couple of months. God's goodness in protecting us has come in answer to your prayers.

Please Pray for:

- Wise & godly parenting
- Health and security
- Travel in the United States
- Our teammates in Kenya
- Mutual encouragement of faith with partner churches