



## Hearts Full of Gratitude

When Paul writes to the Colossian believers exhorting them to continue to walk in Christ, established in the faith as they were taught, one virtue appears again and again in his strategic letter: gratitude. Even in well-known passages like Romans 12:1-2, gratitude plays a part, though it is not mentioned by name.

**I beseech you therefore, brethren,  
by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies  
a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God.**

Thanksgiving for the Christian takes a measure of hope, sometimes in the face of opposition. Satan tempts us to complain and assails our assurance that God is on our side. The world hammers us with solicitations to discontent, pushing us to borrow and to buy. And we betray ourselves by assuming we deserve better than what our loving Creator has ordained.

In this life God often grants us only a foretaste of many of his incredible gifts. Yet reasons to rejoice today abound: the abiding and transforming presence of the Spirit and assurance that we are God's children, for example.

Another one of many gifts we can enjoy today is the joy of Christian partnership. Paul talks of this joy in Philippians 4:10. The Philippian church had renewed their



## Reconnecting

During our five months in the States God granted many great opportunities to connect with friends and partners in the gospel. It was a joy to roast coffee (above), play a strategy game called Machi Koro, or just sit around a meal and talk. As our evening conversations drew to a close, I found myself wishing for more, only to be eager to return to Kenya again the next morning.



**Traveling through beautiful western US** brought us in contact with eight of our partnering churches in that region. As we reported to each church, we also were able to better understand their context and pray more knowledgeably for them as well.



**Packing and preparing** took up a considerable part of this last month. After shopping for sturdy storage totes for travel, we came back to this white stuff on our car! Jenny and I concluded together, "That's it! We're moving to Kenya!"

partnership with Paul through their messenger, Epaphroditus, and Paul rejoiced in the Lord to see it. Not so much because he wanted their gifts, though I am certain that the gifts were useful to him. But Paul rejoices because of "the fruit that abounds to your account."

We have had the opportunity to enjoy meeting face to face with many of you over the last several months. Our hearts are full of gratitude toward our God for our partnership in the gospel with all of you. Thank you for your kind hospitality and your enduring generosity. Though you may have little opportunity to see it in this life your investment in developing church leaders in Kenya will continue to reap benefits eternally, "fruit abounding to your account."



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](mailto:pittsley@gbmke.org). You can also keep tabs on me through my blog [www.pittspot.com](http://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** (right) and his brothers had a great time at Disneyland during our vacation time in California. A highlight was that my mom was able to come along as well. Like mosts tourists we ran ourselves ragged visiting the various attractions, but it was an amazing, memorable change of pace.



All three boys enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner with the Moore, Huffstutler, and Boone kids upon our return to Kenya. Our kids have been looking forward to being back with these friends since we left for the States in June.



## Praise and Prayer Reminders



We're thankful for all the safe travel over the last five months. The kids did really well with the trip back. And our brains are slowly catching up with our bodies' new timezone.



Thank you for continuing to pray for the work in Kenya. Dan and Jonathan just completed another school term, equipping shepherds to feed God's flock. In the lives of these men, God is answering your prayers!

### Please Pray for:

- Wise & godly parenting
- Health and security
- Reintegration into life and ministry in Kenya
- Study and Preparation for next semester; I'm planning to teach Orientation, OT Writings, and Church Life.