



## Saved By God's Grace Newsletter

### March 2014

Hi Friends,

**Loving our neighbor as ourselves...what does that mean?** This month there has been a lot of controversy about gay marriage and one of the things which caught my eye was World Vision's (a ministry which works with impoverished children all over the world) change in policy and then re-change in policy...and it brought with it a lot of commentary. World Vision has a policy that they will not hire a person who is in a gay marriage. They changed that policy, but then about 48 hours later reversed the decision after discussing it with "Christian partners" and others. They are now back to their policy which states they will not hire anyone involved in a gay marriage. Now to be fully transparent, the policy also says people must stay celibate until married and that married individuals must stay faithful to one spouse...all of this staying true to Biblical interpretation of sexual sin and marriage. For full disclosure, I believe homosexual activity is a sin. After my research (yes I did a lot of research since it was such a sensitive topic) I still believe any sexual engagement outside of a marriage between a man and woman is a sin (including pre-marital sex and adultery). That said, how do we love individuals who are living a homosexual lifestyle?...just the same as you would love any other person who continues to live in sin. We pray for them, love them by telling them the truth which is found in Scripture and remembering we are in the same boat only under different circumstances (offering our vulnerability to them as we work together on our sanctification). If I were on the "wide path" that leads to destruction and living a life of sin without repentance, I would want my brothers in Christ to alert me to this fact. I would want them to love me enough to care about my eternal salvation; to gently guide me back to where I should be...living a life honoring to God and obeying His commands. That said, if I continue to live in sin and choose to reject God's law, then I have made my choice to reject the saving grace of Jesus. The Gospel becomes "foolishness" to me and is no longer salvation.

The bigger picture here is whether my wants and desires (whatever they are) are subject to Scripture or I hold them above Scripture. As I have grown in my relationship with Jesus (and the Spirit becomes stronger in me by His grace) I have come closer to the point where I want to submit all my human desires to Him and allow His will totally to be done (some days I do this better than others)...even to the point of dying to selfishness of all kinds which keeps me away from Him. Desires which are contrary to Scripture must be denied until they are overcome by the Spirit...or maybe they will always be in conflict with the Spirit and I must continue to simply turn to God's grace to live with them as they are. In any event, to love me would be to continue to gently let me know I am not following the one I call Lord and Savior, but to continue to embrace me as a fellow sinful creation of our Creator who needs grace. But, on the other side of the coin, loving me would not be agreeing with me on the path I have chosen (or supporting it in anyway) if that path is one of destruction and loss of my eternal salvation...that to me would be the most hateful thing a person could do as they watched me give up the most precious thing which has been granted to me by God, eternal life.

**Onto lighter things...we have a MATCHING DONATION DRIVE!** We have been blessed to have two donors create a matching donation program of \$7,500. For the next \$7,500 donated to this program, they are matching the donations dollar for dollar for a total contribution of \$15,000. These funds are specifically going to be used to complete the farm well, work on the upper floor of the mission home, and for general needs of the children's home. If you would like to participate in this, simply click [here](#) and select "Children's Home (C4KK) and Farm

Project" in the allocation drop-down box and write "Matching Program" in the comment box....your donation will be doubled! Thanks for your prayerful consideration of this most generous offer by these two donors.

**How are the projects coming?** Our animal project is proceeding well. We have the funds for three dairy cows. It is taking us a little longer than expected to complete the shelter, but that is expected in Kenya. We hope to have the first of the cows here by the end of April. We will then work on the chickens and pigs. We have found our personnel and a market for the milk to be sold. We are preparing a separate shelter for calves based upon their sensitivity to disease. Our well has been dug and the stand is being worked on. The first "floor" of the stand was just poured. Now it must dry for 21 days until we can place the pillars to go up to the second level of the stand. While this is happening, the fundis (craftsmen) have shifted to the second floor of the mission home and are working on finishing the outside (plastering and putting in windows). So, we continue to be very busy every day with the goal of honoring Jesus with our faithfulness to what He wants done and working for the good of the children He has given to us to support. On our resident passes, we have obtained a letter stating I can stay for another three years, but we still have not received the official permit. We will be going back to Nairobi this week to see what is what. We have been given an extension on our old pass so we are not in Kenya illegally...this was a big concern of mine which the Lord has taken care of.

**By the grace of God the kids continue to shine.** Out of our primary school of 550+ students, 10 of our kids have been selected to go to the regional sports games (half of the participants). I was able to meet with the Head Master of the school as I dropped the kids off to catch a bus to the games and he congratulated us on our kids. He said not only are they leaders academically, but they also are leaders in the sporting program. I tell you my friends, God wanted these kids to have opportunity so He could bless them and they could bring Him honor. I am very proud of them. Being with them during this transition from where they came from (being abused, not fed, and not being taken to school) to where they are now has been a blessing to me to watch and participate in. I hope you feel the same way as you have been faithful to work with us in bringing them to this point by the grace of God. We expect great things from these kids since the Lord Himself has brought them this far...the best is yet to come.

**Please know I continue to pray for you...and I consider it a blessing to do so.** To partner with you is indeed an honor and to pray for you, in general or as you request specific prayer, is a blessing for me. It challenges me to stay in communication with our Lord many times a day on a consistent basis as I lift you up for His will in your life. What we have accomplished together as His people continues to amaze me, as well as others on the ground in Kenya. It is even more amazing to see their reaction as we tell them why we do it...because Jesus calls us to serve Him in this manner, reaching out to the poor and orphaned, for His glory and their good...they can't comprehend it, but are seeing the Gospel in action. Simply thank you for continuing to be faithful to our Lord and this mission He has established.

As we continue to love our neighbor as ourselves, let us come closer to Him who gave us the command, Jesus. As we walk closer with Him our lives become richer, with more contentment, even in the midst of adversity. He did not tell us life would be easy, but He did tell us we would overcome with His Spirit...just as He did. Let us continue to look toward Him as our example, becoming Holy as He is Holy. Serving one another and bearing each other's burdens...loving as He showed us to love. He is the Way, Truth, and Life...no one comes to the Father except through Him!

Serving with you only by His grace,

Chuck

Missionary to Kenya

