

TEAM BILLS

MISSIONAL SCHOLAR-MISSIONAL FAMILY

Many of you are aware that at the start of the semester year in 2019, a new family joined the staff of Heritage Christian College. Nathan Bills is teaching Old Testament at HCC and HBI, and he and his family send out a monthly newsletter called: TEAM BILLS-MISSIONAL SCHOLAR-MISSIONAL FAMILY. We thought you would enjoy getting to know this wonderful family from Tennessee, and their transition into a new exciting culture that is Ghanaian. Nathan, Jenni and their four kids, Sam, Ruby, Judah, and John Moses share a unique and real look into what it's like to move across the world and learn all the nuances of a strange but exciting culture. Here are some excerpts from their latest newsletter:



It's hard to believe that over 7 months have passed since we arrived in Accra. Nathan and I still look at each other sometimes and say, in awe, "We live in Ghana!?!". Fewer things seem unfamiliar, and some experiences that were jarring to us on arrival have now become part of our lives. For example:

- It's no longer as stressful when the doorbell rings. Who will it be? What will they want? Will they ask for money? Will we know the right thing to say if things turn awkward? We've learned that it's ok to feel our way through these conversations with God going before us, standing beside us, and behind us. Sometimes we will mess up, and that's ok.
- We've gotten to know many of our neighbors and feel at home in our neighborhood. We are forming relationships with a lot of the kids who come over to jump and shoot hoop. Nathan has started a Bible study with two of the security guards around us--never hurts to be in good with the security!
- We expect to be sweating every day, just doing every day things! Oh, blessed deodorant.
- The Ghana currency (Cedis--pronounced CEE-deez) no longer looks like play money to us. In fact, US dollars are starting to look more and more like play money!
- One day when we were coming home from church, it looked like rain was coming and it began to sprinkle. John Moses looked up at the sky and said, "Mom, are there any clothes on the line?" A clothes dryer is a thing of the past!
- 'Ubering' and bargaining with taxi drivers is a normal part of getting around for the kids and me, and Nathan no longer loses his mind driving in the insane traffic (well, maybe every now and then).

We're finding our way, and this place is slowly coming to feel like a home. The HCC community continues to confirm our decision to make home here while also challenging us to greater trust in God. *Thanks to all who help make our being here possible.*



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH HCC STUDENTS

We were blessed to be able to host students in our home on a few occasions in recent weeks. First were Mai and Rose Patrick and their kids Blessing (4) and Joel (1). This family is here from South Sudan so that Mai can get his Bachelors in Theology at HCC. Even though the Patricks and the Bills are coming from different home cultures, we can both identify with some of the same difficulties in transitioning to our new context in Ghana! We shared a very Ghanaian meal together on Saturday night, the Patricks spent the night, and our families had a meaningful time of worship together at home on Sunday morning. Fun fact: the Westside Church of Christ in Searcy, who supports mission work in South Sudan, is supporting the Patrick family while Mai gets his degree. The main point of contact for the Mais at Westside is Jenni's former microbiology professor and college advisor at Harding, Dr. Steve Moore!



At the end of January, some students from Nathan's smaller freshman Old Testament class rode home from HCC with him on a Saturday afternoon. They stayed the night, and rode back to HCC with us on Sunday morning. We knew our big 'tro-tro' van would come in handy! It was a pleasure for Jenni, Sam, Ruby, Judah, and John Moses to get to know these 5 guys and 5 girls, and for Nathan to get to hang out with them in an informal context. Much fun was had playing FIFA on Xbox, listening to music, eating a big meal, and ... dancing! Of course, dancing is big in this culture. So it was no surprise when one of the class members said after supper, "When are we going to dance? I just want to shake my body." We can't ever recall saying something like this in one of our professors' homes in college. :)



We hope you enjoyed reading some excerpts from the Bills Family Newsletter. As being part of a family who experienced moving to a different country at a young age, I can definitely relate and smile while reading their newsletters. Please continue to pray for Nathan, Jenni and their children as they serve HCC and The Kingdom.

"In all our prayers for all of you we always pray with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...." Philippians 1:4-5

We close our newsletter with the prayer requests from Nathan and Jenni, and pray that you might be moved to partner with us as we continue to support Heritage Christian College, its staff, students and powerful impact this institution is having all over Western Africa.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

'Jenni's dad Dean's stem cell transplant was successful, but it did not wipe out the last of his cancer as we had hoped. He will begin radiation treatment this month. Would you say a prayer right now for Dean to be completely healed of cancer? Please also remember Jenni's mom Laura, and Jenni, her sister Alisa, and her brother Charles as they try to support their parents over distance. Continue to lift up prayers for HCC. Our next term starts at the beginning of March.

Please pray for American International School. The school has weathered some unexpected difficulties this year. Please pray for a renewed resolve, energy, and mission among the teachers and staff. So many of our students do not identify as Christian; pray they encounter Jesus in all his glory at AIS.

The school is growing, and along with growth is the ever-present need to raise additional funds for scholarship and infrastructure. It is such good work!'



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