

Happy Epiphany!

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

Dear friend:

In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
John 1:4-5



When the Magi saw the star appear in the sky, they knew that something big had happened. The light of the star alerted them to the birth of a king – a supremely important king – one worthy of a long trip, worthy of their wealth, worthy of their worship. The light of the star led them through many a dark night to the baby in Bethlehem and shone over the place where Jesus lay. But far greater was the light in the cradle. Just as the star illuminated the way to Jesus, so Jesus illumines the way to God – and just as the star penetrated the darkest night, so the light of Jesus penetrates the darkest human heart.

How wonderful that Jesus pierced *our* darkness and led us to the Father! How wonderful that *our* darkness was no match for the brightness of Jesus! Surely no journey is too long, no gift is too great, no worship is too extravagant for Jesus who is our light and our life. May you rejoice in Jesus' appearing in your heart and in the world this Epiphany season!

Ginny reports, "Our major news is our move to England in June for three years. We will be in Cheltenham in the Cotswolds where **Daniel** will be working alongside British counterparts doing very similar work to what he's been doing the past couple years. Victoria is learning new things everyday and will be two in April."



Daniel, Victoria, Ginny



Eli, Amelia, Isaac

The big news in **Peter's** house is that **Megan** is pregnant, due at the end of June. Eli and Amelia are still doing dance lessons. Megan had a lush garden last summer, but lately their chickens have been tormented by a neighborhood fox. Meanwhile, RUF at West Virginia University is going well.

Christopher is halfway through his ten months studying advanced Mandarin in Taipei. He has enjoyed reconnecting with local friends and places from his last tour there three years ago. His plans to keep a low profile and focus on reading were upended when the State Department selected him to give a speech in Chinese representing his classmates at a private event with Taiwan's Foreign Minister and several ambassador-level American and Taiwanese dignitaries. Since he is still employed, we can assume that it went well.



Christopher giving a speech to Chinese and American dignitaries



Stephen and Christopher manning an AA gun on a decommissioned destroyer at the war memorial park

Stephen sends “Greetings from South Korea! I must confess that I am deeply envious of the glorious blizzards back home. Although perhaps it’s best we don’t get huge amounts of snow because I had to take a PT test last week and the cold weather is bad enough.

It’s fun to be back on the job after exclusively studying for a year. Chris came to visit for Christmas, which was fun, and we spent most of the time in a city called Gangneung which is on the north-east coast. The hotel we stayed in had a traditional Korean-style heated floor in the rooms and a saltwater sauna. We went to a coffee museum, Korean War memorial park, art museum by the sea, historical park, traditional Korean market, and an animal cafe featuring wallabies, raccoons, meerkats, and even wolves that would kiss you if you gave them a treat. We also frequented a few arcades and internet cafes to revel in some of the fastest internet speeds on earth.

Currently I am scheduled to return to the U.S. in November of 2019 and complete military service in early 2020. Because that is not too far off, I have to decide what to do long-term. Pray that God would help narrow down my choices!”

Benjamin says, “I’ve been working remotely for Gecko Robotics during the school year since the summer internship ended. I accepted an offer to work there after graduation. With my newfound lack of needing to excel in school (okay, it’s really due to a light semester), I decided to audition for the fall musical at Grove City College, *Brigadoon*. I got a part in the ensemble, and I had a blast making new friends and getting back into acting.”



Benjamin in *Brigadoon*

Ruth is the gofer and clean-up crew for the basement renovation project. Taking a sabbatical from teaching has given her the chance to enjoy some discretionary reading and travel adventures with David. Highlights include seeing Benjamin’s production of *Brigadoon* and getting snow-stranded in State College. She is grateful for the privilege of helping her mother manage this season of life.



Ruth (right) and friends at a concert

I (**David**) was the architect and manual labor for the basement renovation – a project which keeps growing. I am still enjoying my work with RUF supervising campus ministers and starting new ministries in the Northeast, but spent five weeks in Kenai, Alaska serving a church without a pastor.



David preaching in Alaska

The Greens

David and Ruth, Daniel and Ginny, Peter and Megan, Christopher, Stephen, Benjamin

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