

Merry Christmas 2013

Dear friend:

Ruth is wrapping Christmas presents for her AP English students, and hopes to beat the rush to the post office. Benjamin is wrapping up his school work in anticipation of most of his brothers' arrival next week. Next on my list of chores is putting the candles in the windows. Christmas is coming in the Green household! Here is a recap of the last six months.



As if a nine day trip from Wheaton, IL to Yellowstone Park last July was not enough, **Daniel and Ginny** made a couple of stops on the way home to Maryland. They visited one of Ginny's college friends in St. Louis, and then her cousin and his 11 children in Kentucky. They have been teaching children's Sunday School this fall. Daniel says it is a new experience teaching children as young as second grade. Ginny is brushing up on her doctrine by teaching the children's catechism class. Here you see them enjoying the sunny beaches of Cancun.



Peter, Megan, and Elijah are becoming travelers. They went to Saint Louis for Kristen Boe's wedding in September, to Seattle for Cook family Thanksgiving in November, and to Bethlehem for Christmas in December. Peter is about half finished his dissertation on *Vineyard Imagery in the Old Testament*, and is now tutoring World History instead of Math. He has been "precepting" for a class of freshman this year, and leading a weekly Bible study for church. He is looking for a job with RUF for next year. Life in their household took a happy turn with the birth of Amelia on August 21. Megan accomplished the superhuman feat of finishing her M.Div. degree while caring for two small children. We're all thankful and impressed.

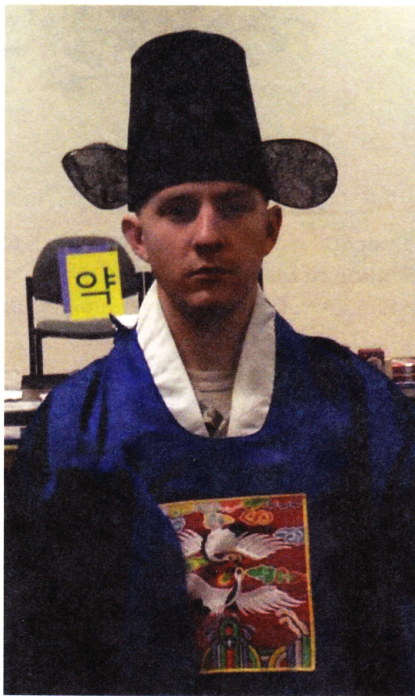
Christopher began his second posting for the State Department in Taiwan. He alternates between helping American citizens in distress, adjudicating visas for hopefuls with dreams of traveling to the United States, exploring the mountains and islands of Taiwan and other countries in the region, and hosting people at his apartment for dinner and board games. Thanksgiving was his crowning achievement so far, with a guest list of 20. At right is Christopher taking a hot air balloon ride.



The Greens

David, Ruth, Daniel, Peter, Christopher, Stephen, Benjamin

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Stephen's days in the army are mostly all the same: early rising, physical training, Korean class all day, dinner, study Korean, bedtime, repeat. His focus and diligence seem to be paying off. He is squadron leader, and won platoon soldier of the month and battalion soldier of the month, while maintaining a 98% in his Korean class. He will finish the first of three semesters before leaving for winter break.

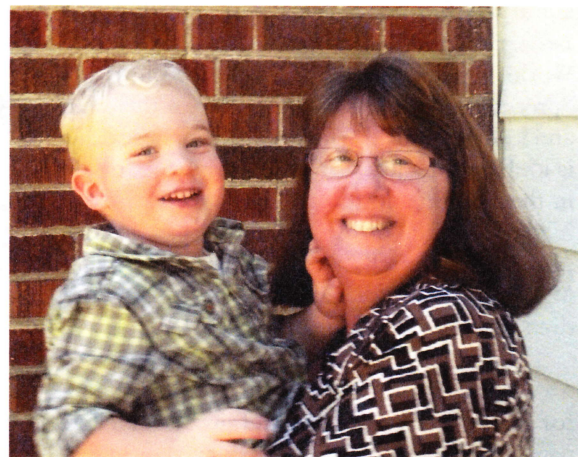
Benjamin is in 11th grade and focused on his robotics team. The real work is in the spring, leading up to the competition in May and June, but this fall he's been raising money to support the team. So far he's raised \$200. Benjamin continues in Excelsior, a local homeschool co-op. He decided they needed a place outside to eat, so he built two picnic tables for them. This year Benjamin learned to drive, so he's no longer dependent on Ruth for transport. And he's doing fine in school.

Ruth enjoys traveling, and this summer in particular gave her the opportunity to visit a variety of states: NJ, MD, SC, NC, IL, MO, and FL. In the school year she juggles teaching three English classes and assisting her parents next door. In the mornings she goes for a long walk through the neighborhood listening to her beloved audiobooks; she won the "Golden Sneaker" award for most miles walked by a member of the school co-op, and completed more than 30 audiobooks in the process! Ruth and I are co-teaching the high school Sunday School class, adapting material used with college students to give high school students an overview of Biblical theology.

I am enjoying my work with RUF, supervising ministries in the Northeast, part of the Midwest, and Mexico. During the summer I tended our garden. I looked carefully at the packages of bean seeds, but nevertheless managed to buy pole beans instead of bush beans. Lacking poles, the beans covered the whole garden until I put a stop to it and pulled them out.

None of the older boys were able to join us for Thanksgiving, so Ruth, Benjamin, and I decamped to California and celebrated Thanksgiving with Stephen. We spent two days in San Francisco and loved our time on Fisherman's Wharf, crossing the Golden Gate bridge, seeing the Painted Ladies, and driving down Lombard Street -- "the crookedest street in the world." We took Route 1 down the coast to Monterey. We had a wonderful time exploring the town, touring the peninsula, and visiting with Stephen. On Thursday we ate Thanksgiving dinner in the base dining hall, saw the latest "Hunger Games" movie, and had a late supper on an outside patio. We want to go back! Maybe we will. Stephen hopes to graduate in October.

May this be a wonderful season for you as we celebrate Jesus' birth to save us from our sins!



David Keen