

Happy Epiphany!

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

Dear Friend:

Before Christmas Ruth and I had a wonderful visit from a Lehigh alumna. She had come to Lehigh from China for one year as an exchange student, and through RUF and a local Chinese church she grew in her faith. Now ten years later she is a strong Christian, looking for opportunities to minister to others, particularly those from afar.



This is the spirit of Epiphany! At Christmas we celebrate God's coming in the flesh to save his people, and at Epiphany we celebrate God's revealing Himself also to those who are far off. Certainly the magi were far off geographically. They traveled a long way to see the Savior. But Paul calls all of us to "remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." (Ephesians 2:12-13) It is such a relief to know that God took notice of people in Greece and Rome, Persia, Africa, and Europe – and sent messengers to reveal Jesus to them – to our ancestors. Now we who know Christ have the opportunity to reveal Him to the nations – especially those who have come here to work or study. May God use us to bring many who are far off near to God!

Ginny reports, "**Daniel** (34) is still enjoying his job and teaching third grade Sunday School. I'm still teaching kindergarten Sunday School, am our Women's Ministry treasurer, and work a few hours a month for Maryland Delegate Pete Hammen. The big thing was my sister's wedding on December fifth. At right is a picture at the Peabody Library in Baltimore, for Dan's college friend's wedding on Halloween weekend." →



Christopher practicing his Russian on a clerk at a Russian store



Christopher (29) is almost half-way through his Russian training, and knows how to cover essentials such as "our government released a statement endorsing nuclear non-proliferation and opposing unannounced air strikes," but not fripperies such as "I'd like pepper with my chicken, and then the bill, please." He's hoping that these non-essentials will be covered in the second half of his training, or during an immersion trip to Russia he is planning for the spring. This is to prepare him for his next Foreign Service post in Azerbaijan. He is spending his spare time convincing friends and family to visit him in D.C. to experience his cooking, board gaming, and contra dancing.

Benjamin (19) says, "I finished my first semester at Grove City College, which went well. I was on the programming team, which participated in a competition, and our team did okay. I was captain of an intramural co-ed Ultimate Frisbee team, Floppy Discs. We won, earning free t-shirts. I made some new friends. My classes generally went well, and I believe I finished the semester strong."



Floppy Discs, Benjamin's Ultimate Frisbee Team



Elijah as John Knox
Amelia as Mary, Queen of Scots

Megan reports, “Our lives revolve almost entirely around Peter’s dissertation at this point. **Peter** (31) works day and night on his dissertation when he’s not working on the North Slope oil field. I work on editing his chapters when I get a spare minute. **Elijah** is enjoying pre-K school, and **Amelia** has decided that she should be in pre too. She keeps surprising us with how much she absorbs just by listening in on our lessons. We are expecting new goat babies any day and are enjoying lots of homemade cheese. We would appreciate prayer that Peter would finish his dissertation draft by the February deadline and that his dissertation would be well received by the Ph.D. board.”

Stephen (26) says, “In October I went home to see friends and family and to attend the wedding of my friend Joe Plowman. It was wonderful being home for that and also for my birthday which I was able to spend with family. I am now the only one out of all my best friends who is not married!

“The next month, after returning back to Korea, I went to Yonsei University where I did my annual language refresher training. After a placement test and interview, they decided to put me in the level 5 class (out of 6) which is so advanced that it’s rare to find a non-Asian student there. As such, I stuck out like a sore thumb and had to work significantly harder than I was originally anticipating, but had a great time nonetheless.”

Ruth decided to celebrate the end of homeschooling by taking a Spanish class this year. With the addition of continuing to teach two English classes, it means that her schedule is not much different than before. More of her time is blessed by coming alongside her mother, and a highlight of the fall was accompanying David on campus visits to Vermont and Connecticut.

I (**David**) continue to enjoy my work as the RUF Area Coordinator for the Northeast. This fall it was a special pleasure to take Ruth along on some of my travels to visit campus ministers. We went to Grove City for Benjamin’s Homecoming weekend, then visited



Stephen with his friend Joe at Joe’s wedding



At Saint Joseph’s Oratory in Montreal

Derek and Luda Bates in Pittsburgh. Later, Ruth accompanied me to Vermont and Connecticut during the peak of the fall foliage. We left two days early and visited Montreal, which is only two hours north of Burlington, Vermont. We loved Montreal, and want to go back!

The Greens

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

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