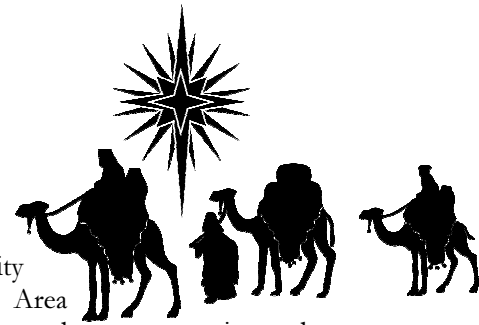


Dear friend:



When David began his position as Area Coordinator for Reformed University Ministries, he sought advice from the National Coordinator and the other Area Coordinators about how to approach the job. To his surprise, their unanimous and immediate advice was, “Get a GPS.” He would be traveling in many states (as well as Canada and Mexico) and he needed a reliable source of navigation to make sure he got to his destination. He proudly demonstrated his new toy to me in the Tampa airport – and we found ourselves in a mobius strip of driving, unable to get out of the airport area. We confidently navigated to a gas station and a restaurant, neither of which existed. Later he found himself trying to get from Edmonton to Calgary, and discovered that the GPS did not work in Canada.

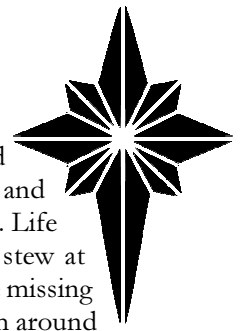
Today is Epiphany, the traditional celebration of the journey of the Magi to the Christ Child. The star led them as far as Jerusalem, but then, in spite of being wise men and having access to this Heavenly Positioning Service, they had to stop and ask for directions. And the answer to their present dilemma was found in the ancient Scriptures. Our lives, too, are a journey to the Christ Child. This year, may we all rely on the only reliable navigational system, the Word which God has given to us!

When people ask me what David does, I have to quickly calculate how much they want to hear. As an Area Coordinator for Reformed University Fellowship, he supervises 20 terrific campus ministers, located in the Mid-Atlantic, New England, Midwest, Atlanta, Mexico, and Alberta regions, which involves assisting 14 presbyteries. He has monthly meetings and weekly conference calls with the other coordinators to discuss national policy issues. He is recruiting and placing new staff, and developing new campuses. In July and December he is responsible for providing the training to the second year campus ministers. Then he gets involved in projects like software acquisition for the national office. The strategic thinking, long-term planning, problem solving, and travel are just his cup of tea! I could tell that he misses the direct contact with Lehigh students, though, when we drove through 24 inches of snowfall to attend a reunion with some of them. Happily, we have gone to more than a dozen weddings this year, which is a great way to see our beloved students. David has done less preaching than former years, but last year he taught the third and fourth grade Sunday School, and this fall he taught a lively adult class in Nehemiah.

Daniel, 28, continues as an intelligence analyst with NCIS. We often wonder if he actually does any work, since it seems as though he is continually taking courses, attending training, or traveling to hacker conferences in interesting spots such as Estonia. He spent the month of October getting special weapons training (“driving backwards very fast”) in preparation for a four month assignment in Afghanistan. We wonder if this is merely a dodge to avoid answering his phone, as he is our (and a few other people’s) go-to person for computer questions. He has a great network of college and church friends, with whom he takes vacations and indulges in hobbies such as auto-cross racing, snow-boarding, and golfing.

Peter, 25, delighted us by marrying Megan Cook last Thanksgiving, and the two of them must be the hardest-working couple we know. Both of them are in M.Div. programs at Covenant Seminary. In addition, Peter traded three part-time jobs to work full time as a night auditor for Marriot Hotels, and Megan works on campus. They also exchange chores for reduced rent in a widow’s home. Peter is the founder and editor of an academic journal on campus, *The Edwards Door*, and interns with a local church. He is scheduled to graduate in May (Megan shortly thereafter) and a Ph.D. program may be the next step if David doesn’t get his hands on them for campus ministry first. They are driving a Ford Escort rejected as “past hope, past cure” by *two* previous owners – such is the life of the impoverished grad student.

Christopher, 23, after whirlwind years of innovation and leadership at Swarthmore College, is living at home for the first time in four years. 2009 marked his fourth summer in China, this time teaching summer school day camps to Chinese elementary students in various parts of the country. Currently he is working as a shift manager at Arby’s (he has a tee shirt which says, “I have a liberal arts degree...Would you like fries with that?”) and he’s



earning his room and board by serving as my teaching assistant. Arby's is providing good training and experience while the Foreign Service conducts its security checks; he has already passed the interviews and exams. Given his competency in Mandarin, it is likely that he will be assigned to somewhere in Asia. Life with Chris home is always unpredictable – whether it is an inspiration to make two gallons of stew at midnight, unexpected house guests, a vigorous debate on foreign policy, or a frantic search for some missing item – his intelligent absent-mindedness and creativity stir up our complacency. It's nice to have him around – he was the perfect candidate to direct the church's Christmas play!

Stephen, 20, is a sophomore at Lehigh in the Business College, having transferred from Moravian last spring. He lives on campus and opted out of the meal plan in order to save money. This means that we see evidence from time to time that he has smuggled supplies and leftovers from our house. With business acumen like this, we shouldn't be surprised that he was notified on Christmas Eve that his business plan is one of three finalists in a university competition. However, he is leaning towards a major in International Relations. A favorite quote from his IR professor: "You are just like your brother [Peter] – you like to make everything complicated!" He was an editorial assistant at P&R Publishing this summer. I see a future for him as the successor to the writer Patrick McManus, given the "real man" adventures he has had camping with buddies in Northeast states. Stephen is active in Lehigh's RUF, as well as Moravian's (true to his loyal and social nature) and his goals are to learn the djembe to play for large group and to bring more women into the group.

Ben, 13, has enjoyed having all his brothers home for the holidays, even if they remind him a little too often that his childhood is so much easier than theirs was. Homeschooling, though taking the bulk of his time, is the least of his interests. He plays soccer year-round, where the idea is to look fearsome, and sings in a church choir, where the idea is to look angelic. Both of these activities are mentored by men of great enthusiasm, inspiration, and character – wonderful role models. Nevertheless, Ben was again cast as a bad-boy Herdman in the play *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. He loves the repertory theater group, and says he would like to attend DeSales University (a local school with an outstanding drama program) "if they get an RUF." Most weeks involve intense negotiations to round up friends for airsoft battles; virtually all of Ben's spending money is shot into BBs.

If the theme of David's year is training and travel, the theme of mine is teaching. There's homeschooling (can it be the 24th year?), and my seventh year teaching an on-line AP Literature course. I have a local co-op group of LitWits in a short story elective class, sub for the Christian high school, and I co-teach the upper elementary Sunday School. In the summer I taught a women's study in Exodus. Whenever asked, I drag out my seminar on writing the college application essay, and have done a couple of seminars with David on leading Bible Studies. The only thing I enjoy more than teaching is being a student, and so I try to fit in a few non-credit classes (including one on Indian cooking) for fun. It's my privilege to assist my parents (who live next door) and another friend who's had extended hospital stays this year. In classic ministry thriftiness, I've managed to get vacation R&R by piggy-backing on some RUF events (in Cape Cod, Atlanta, Panama City) as well as more conventional vacations with friends to Long Beach Island, Florida, the Outer Banks, and Colonial Williamsburg.



At the end of a long journey, we are always heartened to see the brightly-lit star that shines over South Mountain, signaling that we have arrived home in Bethlehem. As our children spread far around the world, how exciting and comforting to know that they – and you, our dear friends – are protected and guided by the Light of the World, the Bright and Morning Star. We so appreciate hearing from many of you at this time of year. May we have the chance to see you in 2010!

The Greens

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

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