

Happy Epiphany!

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

“I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”
Revelation 22:16

“How bright appears the Morning Star, with mercy beaming from afar
the host of heav’*en* rejoices.”
Philipp Nicolai



Dear Friends:

It's hard to bounce out of bed early on these dark winter mornings. I like to begin the day with a short jog, but I'd rather stay in the house when it's so dark. The morning star brings hope that the darkness will soon fade away, and then morning breaks and I feel ready to face the day. Jesus declared Himself to be the bright morning star. His birth was the first glimmer of hope that the darkness was about to disappear. The magi saw the light of the cradle in the sky and were the first of many gentiles to worship Jesus. That light spread through all Galilee and Judea expelling darkness everywhere. The light returned at Pentecost and multiplied Himself in Christians all over the world. Now we are lights in this dark world, overcoming the darkness with mercy – and the host of heaven rejoices! The host of heaven rejoices in the brightness of Christ seated on the throne and shining afar in Christians everywhere. And they will continue rejoicing as Jesus triumphs over all His enemies and dispels all darkness. Let us join the host of heaven rejoicing in the light of Jesus shining into all the world!

Here are some dispatches from the Green family around the world:

“**Dan, Ginny,** and Victoria have successfully moved to England. They've now settled into a house, driving on the wrong side of the road, and being five hours ahead of most of the their friends and family back in the U.S. Dan is enjoying his new work and Ginny and Victoria are enjoying going out for tea times and exploring new grocery stores. Victoria is picking up British words, but not yet an accent, though we expect that to change when she starts school in April shortly after turning three. However, the big news is that in July she's going to become a big sister (to a younger sister)!”

Peter's ministry with RUF at West Virginia University in Morgantown continues to grow. **Megan's** parents, Britt and Chris Cook, moved from Alaska to be close to them. Peter gets his morning coffee from Britt, and Chris helps Megan with cooking, gardening, and much else. Their big news last year was the arrival of Lydia in June. She survived a name change and is growing happily. The latest development in their never-ending house remodeling project was completing an office for Peter in the basement.

Christopher finished a year of advanced Mandarin study in Taiwan and moved to his new post with the State Department in Wuhan, China. There he continued his life work of improving the State Department “one post at a time” until the coronavirus epidemic broke out. He reports:

“After a fairly intense week in which we attempted four different evac plans in sequence that all were thwarted by daily new Chinese travel restrictions, we successfully pulled off the closure of the consulate and the evacuation of the entire consulate Americans as well as about 160 other Americans and government contractors. By the time we left Wuhan, the entire city was locked down.

We flew in a retrofitted cargo plane to Anchorage, received the warmest welcome imaginable, and after refueling (both plane and people), we continued on to March Airforce base in Ontario, California...I am scheduled for three days of quarantine and testing to see if I have developed any new superpowers, and once I am deemed fit to return to society I will report back to D.C. for orders.”

Christopher's flight was quarantined for two weeks, but no one had been infected with the virus. He is now in D.C. where Ruth and I plan to visit him at the end of February.

Stephen reports: “Against all odds, I made it back to the land of the free and the home of the brave. Or, the “beautiful country” as the Koreans appropriately call it. I came back just in time for winter, but unfortunately Louisiana is both warm and infamously humid and even Pennsylvania didn’t get a white Christmas this year. Hopefully if I stick around long enough I can experience a good blizzard stateside before I get shipped off somewhere else!



In November I moved to Fort Polk in Louisiana where I am working in a military intelligence company that supports an infantry brigade. Even I don’t know (yet) what all this entails, but I do know that it will be vastly different from the work I did in Korea. Here I can expect to spend a lot more time on “tactical” endeavors like riding around in futuristic trucks with satellite dishes on them and collecting and processing intelligence directly. That being said, there will also be a “healthy” amount of ruck marching and weeks spent out in the field. Alas, I re-enlisted for three more years which means I’m in the Army until at least 2023. I am at the point in my career where I have to decide how I want to proceed.. Please pray that I can settle on a direction soon!”

Benjamin says, “I have now graduated from Grove City College with my degree in Computer Science. The last notable thing I did my senior year was to play Melman the giraffe in GCC’s Children’s Theatre production of *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure*. After enjoying my last time (as a student, at least) at RUF Summer Conference, I promptly started my new job at Gecko Robotics in Pittsburgh. I’m a Software Engineer, working on a program used by fellow employees to control our robots. I enjoy my work, even though it’s always crazy busy. I’ve been playing Ultimate Frisbee whenever I get the opportunity, and I’ve started playing disc golf more, since my friends have gotten into it. I officially became a member of First Reformed Presbyterian Church, and I just joined the choir as well!”

Ruth is 95% retired from teaching – just co-teaching a biweekly literature discussion group. In the summer she was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease, and so much of her time is given to therapies and learning to make accommodations. This includes a dance movement class and a boxing class, which she loves. Freedom from other responsibilities means that she has been able to accompany David more, especially when his travels take her to visit the grandchildren!

I (**David**) continue to enjoy traveling around the Northeast supervising RUF ministers. It has been a joyful experience to take Ruth on some trips. The boys got me a clarinet for Christmas, so I have been practicing that.

For the first time in many years all of our family was together at Christmas. We can’t all fit into our house anymore, so we rented a cabin in the Pennsylvania woods north of Hancock, MD. Benjamin and I put up and decorated a tree, Daniel was our accountant, Peter organized the meals, Christopher brought the cheese, Stephen provided the sound system, and Ruth played with the children. It was a wonderful holiday!



The Greens

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

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