



August, 2020

Dear Friends:

Well, this year has been different! The coronavirus pandemic has overturned plans for the Green family, as for everyone. Here are the reports from around the world of how we weathered the lockdown.

**Daniel, Ginny, and Victoria** got in a ski trip to the Austrian Alps (Victoria's first time on skis and she loved it) right before the UK went into lockdown. Because of the lockdown, Victoria didn't start school in April, but she is very much looking forward to starting in September. In July we welcomed **Adeline** Green to the family! Victoria loves her new baby sister, and we love that she is a pretty good sleeper at night, although a bit colicky during the day.



Victoria and Adeline napping



Megan watching Eli, Amelia, and Isaac at the birthday carnival

**Peter** says the pandemic was rather uneventful for his family. "**Lydia** learned to walk and is now climbing on everything." They filled the summer with yard and garden work, and house projects – chief of which is a new bathroom in the basement. **Megan** and her mom Chris produced an epic birthday party for **Eli** which included an hour's worth of carnival games. They rounded out the summer with a family vacation at Doubling Gap Center where Peter spent his childhood with student ministry camps.

**Christopher** spent four months in DC coordinating additional evacuations from Wuhan and managing the logistics and new policy changes as hundreds of diplomats and their family members evacuated from Asia and were temporarily assigned to the United States. In June he volunteered to be a flight lead for an experimental State Department charter plane back to China, including a two week hotel room quarantine in China (enforced with motion sensors and hazmat-suited security guards), during which he organized an online short story book



Christopher recreating art

“July concluded with a MITS (Military Intelligence Training Strategy) evaluation. MITS is essentially an annual “test” that military intelligence units undergo in order to be certified capable of performing their essential and critical tasks. My team spent most of the two weeks sweating buckets out in the Louisiana wilderness while we collected intelligence on national bad guys. The experience was good, but we are all glad it’s over.

“My latest adventure has brought me to the desert: Fort Huachuca. Temperatures here regularly reach over 100 but the weather is balmy compared to Louisiana so I’m loving it! I will spend two weeks here in a tactical SIGINT course that should teach me some useful job skills. After I graduate from the tactical SIGINT course, I move on to Cyber Quest! I don’t know yet what sort of adventure this quest will be-- only that I’ll go to Fort Gordon (Georgia) for three weeks in September. Stay tuned for an update on that.”

**Benjamin** says, “Things haven’t quite developed as expected, thanks to the coronavirus. Thankfully, since I work in software, I’ve been able to work from home without any (significant) issues. Sadly, I’ve had to shift my free time away from playing Ultimate Frisbee, but I’ve been able to fill it with disc golf. The big highlights of my summer have been visiting friends and my parents in late June/early July and spending a week at the Outer Banks with my roommates and a couple other friends in mid August. I’m looking forward to everything opening up fully, especially for the church choir to start again!

club and art recreation photo contest. In China he has continued to manage the consulate in Wuhan, assisted additional charter flights to the consulate in Guangzhou, helped with the closure of our consulate in Chengdu, and taken on projects for the entire U.S. Mission in China. His 2020 byline is “the next few weeks will be interesting!”

**Stephen** reports, “It’s been a busy eight months! I finished my annual language training in early February and reluctantly left Fayetteville to go back to Fort Polk. It wasn’t long before the pandemic swept the world and we were ordered to shelter in place. We spent the next few months alternating between teleworking and only “mission-essential personnel” going to work. It was a refreshing change of pace, and I managed to get into baking sourdough bread which has been a massive hit with my friends and coworkers.



Stephen at the Alamo



Benjamin with friends at the Outer Banks





Ruth in her boxing class

**Ruth** reports, “Like just about everyone else we know, David and I used the stay-at-home months to clear out some drawers and closets and work on a few house projects. It was a real treat to have so much time together with David not traveling. We tried to encourage one another to keep up our exercise routine, even though I missed my group classes. One blessing of this time has been a lot more socializing from the front porch with our neighbors. In May and July I was able to participate in two RUF candidate assessments through Zoom video conference. A few visits to grandchildren, including a nostalgic trip to Doubling Retreat Center, brought great joy.”

I found the oddest problem during this pandemic was in knowing what to do each day. There was plenty to do, but with my normal rhythm disrupted I was confused about what to do when. In March and April Ruth and I stayed in and survived four weeks without grocery shopping! I carried on our ministry by phone and internet. I found a little time to work on cleaning and organizing the basement as well as planting our garden. Pandemic conditions are changing weekly. I have prepared a fall travel schedule, but expect I will need to make significant changes as the fall unfolds. It’s comforting to know that God has everything under control!



David preparing soil for planting

*David Green*