

Happy Epiphany!

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

“For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.
And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of
your rising.” Isaiah 60:2-3

“We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”
Matthew 2:2



Dear Friends:

It's been a harrowing year, with a pandemic, riots, a hostile election, and more. People are tired, stressed, angry, and in no mood to be optimistic. We know that knowing God is sovereign over all should comfort us, but honestly it often doesn't. We want God to get busy and fix our problems! Yet here are these magi who asked nothing of God. In a world far more sick, violent, and unpredictable than ours they made a strenuous journey across the Middle East simply to worship the newborn divine king. It was happening! The ancient prophecies were coming true! These magi were the first of many nations and kings that would find their hope in this baby. Maybe optimism is too hard to come by this year, but hope and joy are always in season. May you rejoice in the light of the newborn king and hope in Christ in this Epiphany Season.

Daniel, Ginny, Victoria, and Adeline are currently in the middle of UK Lockdown #3, though they did get in a family trip to Cornwall between lockdowns. Luckily schools are still open for younger kids, and since Victoria started in September she's been loving it. She was going three days a week and had so much fun we increased it to four days a week. Adeline just reached six months and has two bottom teeth. She really wants to crawl, but hasn't quite figured it out yet.



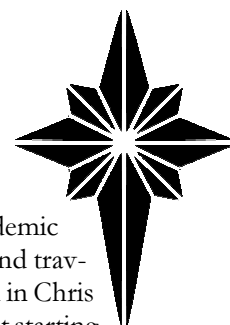
Eli, Amelia, and Isaac



Victoria and Adeline

Peter reports, “The kids continued homeschooling this fall and Eli and Amelia continued dance class. Isaac turned four and has started school with the older kids. Work on the basement bathroom continues. The kids have been enjoying a snowier winter with sledding on our West Virginia hillside. Lydia continues to grow in her ability to get into trouble, but is doted on by her older siblings.”

Christopher continues to work remotely from the Embassy in Beijing while the Consulate in Wuhan is still on suspended opera-



Christopher visiting the 1,500 year old Hanging Temple in Shanxi province

tions. China's zero-tolerance epidemic controls made it safe to go skiing and traveling inside China, but also resulted in Chris getting quarantined in his apartment starting Christmas morning for 14 days when they found a single positive case had been in his building. He is used to governments declaring him a threat to society by now, but is looking forward to getting the consulate back up and running one day.

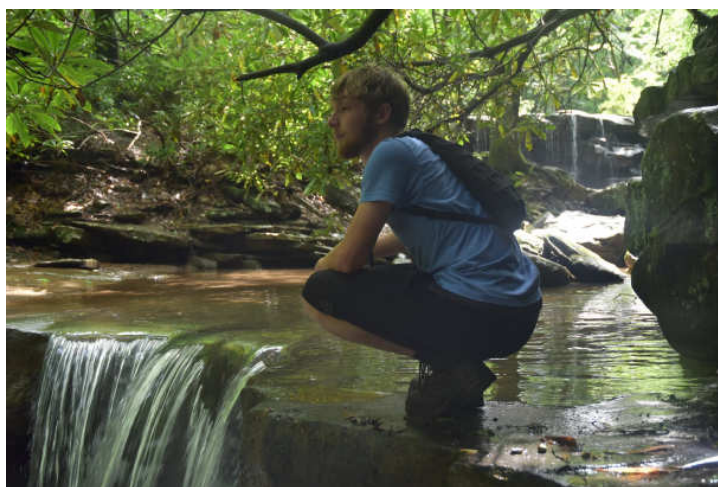
Here are some excerpts from **Stephen's** contribution: "In September I embarked on an adventure: Cyberquest 2020! I went to Augusta, Georgia (Fort Gordon) with several compatriots from my unit and spent roughly three weeks experimenting with various cutting-edge



Stephen recuperating from army life during the Christmas holiday

cyber, electronic warfare, and signals intelligence equipment. It was a fulfilling experience being on the forefront of technological innovation. In November my unit went to Camp Bullis in Texas for several weeks to conduct more training exercises. And then, in a (un)fortunate twist of fate I came down with COVID! It started with my roommate and the next day most of the other people in my unit got tested. So many people tested positive for COVID that the military intelligence portion of our January exercise was essentially canceled. I am not thrilled about being sick, but I do feel some relief at being spared freezing out in the wild for over two weeks. I've been spending most of my time sleeping and resting, trying to recover as quickly as possible-- but also teleworking. I have my annual Korean language training and test scheduled for February and March, respectively. Afterwards, assuming nothing changes, my unit will have its culminating field exercise in April. I hope I can find a way to keep my sourdough starter alive for a whole month while I'm gone!"

Benjamin's update: "The only interesting change in my life is the replacement of my (not so) trusty old Buick. It finally needed repairs that were too expensive to justify, so I upgraded to a fancy (not so) new 2004 Honda Civic! Here's hoping it lasts me long enough to save up for a Lamborghini or something! Besides that, life has been mostly uninteresting. There's been the occasional holiday visit with family, the working from home, and the ever-increasing hibernation as the winter trudges on. I was going to my church's young adult Bible study and volunteering at Urban Impact before COVID cases picked up right around Thanksgiving, and I'm now waiting for those to start back up again soon, Lord willing."



Benjamin on a hike with some friends at Ohiopyle State Park

A major change for **Ruth** occurred in October, when her mother fell in her home, precipitating a permanent move to a skilled nursing unit. Since then her mother has weathered several infections, including COVID-19, as well as memory loss. Because of restrictions from the outbreak Ruth has only been able to see her a few times, though we are all greatly comforted by the fact that she is content there and speaks so positively of the care she is receiving. Ruth was able to travel with David on some of his campus visits this fall – especially the ones that take him anywhere near Morgantown, where four grandchildren reside! Living with Parkinson's gives her ample opportunity to learn more about grace and trust, and she is deeply grateful for the experience of God's providence in daily life.

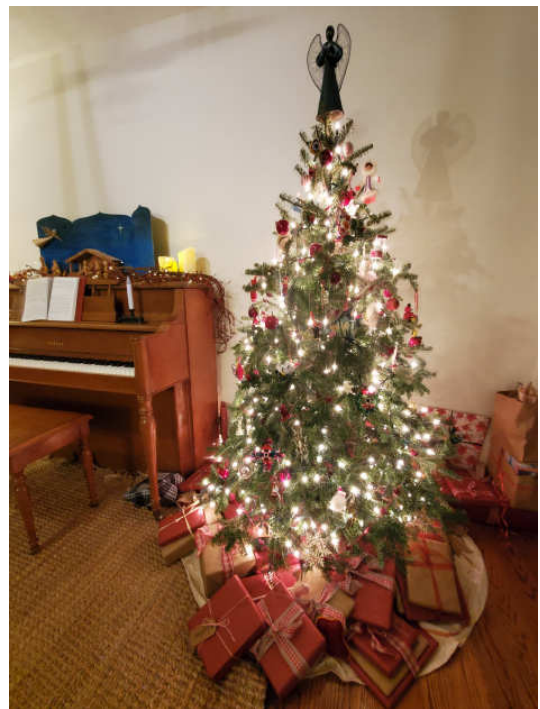


I resumed my travels in the fall and visited all the campuses in the Mid-Atlantic. The pandemic led RUF to cancel December staff training, so I produced a staff retreat for the Mid-Atlantic ministers. We had a wonderful Christmas holiday with Peter's family in Morgantown. We were delighted that Stephen and Benjamin were able to join us. After Christmas, with no encouragement from my children, I made a delicious mincemeat pie. I also resumed work on the never-ending basement renovations. On January 19 I was abruptly informed that RUF no longer had need of my services, so now I am looking for the next ministry God has for us.

David Green



Peter, David, Eli, Amelia at Cooper Rock WV



Christmas at Peter's house

The Greens

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

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