



August, 2018

Dear Friends:

What a difference a year makes! Benjamin moved to Pittsburgh for the summer, Christopher has moved to Taiwan, and Stephen is about to move back on base. Victoria is growing rapidly, Peter's ministry is surging, Ruth is planning a major change, and I resumed normal summer activity after stroke recovery last year. Here are the reports from around the world:

**Daniel** recently received a promotion at work, and **Ginny** is looking forward to her third year as a leader in MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers). But the show-stealer is **Victoria**, of course. She was baptized in April and all the grandparents were present to celebrate. She is starting to say many more words, her favorites being "a bug" and "gog (dog) woof woof."



Ginny, Victoria, Daniel at Victoria's baptism

RUF at West Virginia University is off to a vigorous start. **Peter** took 30 students to church last week! Now he is deciding how to set up Bible studies that can serve them in different parts of campus. Peter reports:

"The summer has been full of travel for me, including trips to Alaska, Chicago, and Bethlehem. **Megan's** parents drove down from Alaska and have been with us for the summer, but are going to be traveling back to Alaska in a few days. The kids have enjoyed being outside in the yard and we have been eating fresh vegetables from our garden. Our chickens just started laying their first eggs a few days ago. We have done a lot of house projects with the help of family."

After two years of **Christopher's** work in Baku managing the Human Relations and Finance departments, they decided to split his position in two -- he isn't sure if that is a testament to how much he accomplished, or how much he messed up! After handing the reigns over to his successors, he is now back in Taiwan for almost a year of advanced Mandarin training, where he has already joined several local board game and river tracing groups, all in the name of improving his Mandarin, of course. →





Stephen giving his graduation speech

**Stephen** reports from Korea: “Times have been good, but all good things must come to an end. I have completed my one year of language school at Yonsei University and am preparing to go back to doing Army work. The Yonsei course got tougher as I soared through the curriculum from level three (where it all began) to level six (where it all ended). My grades put up a valiant fight, but there were a few casualties along the way. Regardless, I was asked by the teaching staff to give the valedictorian speech at graduation. I’m sure it had everything to do with my amazing Korean presentation and speech skills and nothing to do with the fact that they alternate male/female and nationality with every graduation (and last time it was a female Japanese student). Even though it will be sad to

give up the good experience of attending school with students from all over the world and learning Korean together, I will not miss the homework, assignments, presentations, and tests. I have a one year commitment to the Army to work in Korea following this program, so it looks like the end is in site for my thus far much-extended Korean tour.”



**Benjamin** sends this from Pittsburgh: “I spent this summer living in the Pitt RUF guys’ house while working as a Software Engineering Intern at Gecko Robotics. In a nutshell, Gecko provides a service. That service is industrial inspections, using robots. Gecko builds and takes robots to places like power plants and measures the wear on things like tube or tank walls. I worked on the software that the operators use to interact with the robot during these inspections. It was enjoyable work.

“By living with Pitt RUF guys, I was able to sneak into the community more than I otherwise would have. I had plenty of good opportunities to make more friends, and I got to enjoy weekly Bible studies and weekly volleyball nights. All in all, it was a beneficial and enjoyable summer, and one that I doubt I will ever forget.”

**Ruth** says, “June was a special month for David and me, as we got to see all of our children, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren! With family spread far and wide, our time together is precious. I thought it would be our last summer with a son under our roof, but Ben’s internship in Pittsburgh meant we got a jump start on the empty nest. We alternated weeks at home doing repair projects and gardening with RUF travel. Serving on our church’s Pastoral Search Committee for this past year culminated in bringing a candidate this past weekend – a process not unlike pregnancy and childbirth! In other news, I’m taking a sabbatical from teaching this year, hoping to give some time and energy to other areas of life.” →

After taking last summer to recover from the stroke, I have enjoyed plunging into the project of repairing our crumbling basement walls. Like all such projects, it has threatened to consume all of our energy, and has expanded into replacing our oil furnace with gas. The end is in sight!



*David Green*