

ministry update

While we begin to enjoy the celebrations of Christmas, the ongoing season of Advent reminds us of the anticipation, even the expectation, of the people of Israel for the Messiah. While they waited for God to fulfill his promise of deliverance, some Jews lost hope, and others remained faithful. As so often happens, God did the unexpected, eliciting a response of amazement and, in many cases, unbelief. The eternal creator of the universe became a finite creature dependent upon the nurture of his mother. The transcendent became immanent. God with us, Emmanuel, Jesus lying in a manger. Remembering the story provides hope and strength while we wait. More than that, remembering motivates the church's mission both to the amazed and the unbelievers. We yearn for Christ to make all things new and for the full realization of God's presence among us.

Thanks for praying for the development of our new *Designing for Online Learning* course. We designed the course to teach theological educators

how to create effective online or blended courses for ministry training. Several of my colleagues worked hard to get the course ready for a beta test this fall. There were some bumps along the way, but we continued to learn about course design and development through the process. The small group of students included linguists who train Bible translators. We were grateful to help them extend their ministry through online education, even as they helped us with feedback on the new course.

Please pray for our upcoming and ongoing sessions of *Effective Online Teaching*. We have two sessions of this training scheduled for the New Year. My colleague Rob and I will teach the course in January with theological educators participating from Asia, North Africa, Europe, South and North America. Starting in February, my colleague Brian will teach the Portuguese version to partners working primarily in Brazil. Presently, a partner has just started this training in Russian with one of our Horizon staff co-facilitating. We have another partner who is currently

facilitating this training themselves for their faculty. We aim for multiplication and contextualization—local trainers equipped to train other local trainers.

Once again, thank you so much for partnering with us in ministry this year. We greatly appreciate your involvement in training church leaders across the globe.

family update

Thanks for your continued prayers for our family. The last few months have been full of activity. The college faculty strike interrupted A's semester; now he is playing catch up. E led the scenic paint crew for a recent production. K passed her driving test and continued in her entrepreneurial ways. A&G joined the swim team and playing in the band. L is exploring Narnia and the world is wowing him. We're looking forward to having E home to celebrate Christmas with family and friends.

Praise & Prayer

- Praise God for the coming of Messiah. Pray for our family as we celebrate Christmas together.
- Praise God for a successful beta test of the *Designing for Online Learning* course. Pray for our team as we revise the course for teaching next year.
- Praise God for partners working around the world. Pray for Ukrainian faculty studying in the *Effective Online Teaching* course.
- Praise God for opportunities. Pray for 200 faculty from 80 seminaries who will gather for training in 2018 and 2019.
- Praise God for his provision of new financial support. Pray for additional monthly donors.

