

PRAISING GOD FOR HIS BLESSINGS IN 2025

MERRY Christmas



Dearest Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, our hearts are filled with gratitude for God's many gifts! Here are a few highlights:

Spring: zipped by as we continued to in our roles at EBI (Ethnos360 Bible Institute). What a privilege to serve here in various ways: **Chris** with teaching the Bible, encouraging the teachers and students in his role as Dean of Education and on the Leadership Team and Academic Management Team; through many, meetings, mentoring opportunities, hanging out with students, etc. **Denise** with serving behind the scenes in Admissions (processing applications, communicating with applicants, building relationships with incoming students) and meeting one-on-one with current students and staff. As a couple we enjoyed leading a "chapel small group" every couple of weeks during the school year and having students and staff over for meals. We started attending a small group at church and began teaching a 4th/5th grade Sunday school as well. Over spring break, we were able to visit Chris' family in CA and OR. We brought Chris' dad, and it was a meaningful time! In May we watched 83 EBI students graduate. This is always a bittersweet time, but exciting also as our students spread out over the globe. 45% said they want to pursue full-time missions!

Summer: Over Memorial Weekend all our kids joined us for a few days of fun and connection. We soaked up time as a family! We also **co-led an AMAZING short-term trip to Brazil** for 2 weeks. More about that on the back! Another highlight for Denise was connecting with incoming students throughout the summer and then getting to meet them in person when they arrived. We currently have 195 students on campus! At the end of summer, Chris became an elder at our church: another opportunity to deepen relationships and serve.

Our home: We thank God for the opportunity to open our home in many and varied ways this year: visits over coffee or a meal with students, staff, family & neighbors, bonfires, lodging for friends/EBI folks passing through, and the continued opportunity to care for Chris' dad and deepen relationships with our neighbors.

Fall: has found us immersed in the same activities as spring here at EBI and at church, with the addition of being "dorm parents" to 3 dorms of students, and have enjoyed a bonfire, movie night, and trip to a pumpkin patch with them. We have also thoroughly enjoyed special visits with the kids at various times this fall: two visits from Karis and Theo, a few visits from Nathaniel, and one great meet-up in Indiana with Mer and Timothy! We look forward to celebrating Christmas with ALL the kids

We thank God for all the ways He has worked in and through our lives and pray that He alone gets the glory as we continue to run the race marked out for us (Heb 12:1-2), fixing our eyes on the Author and Finisher of our faith!

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BLESSINGS Continued...

In July we had the privilege to co-lead a short-term trip to Brazil called "Encounter". We got to visit a huge, mountainous coffee plantation; one of the biggest malls in South America; a Brazilian steak house (oh my!)...but **the BIGGEST blessing by far** was helping with the Brazilian Wayumi program.

Brazil is a first-world nation yet still has **99 isolated and unengaged people groups** who have **yet to hear** of Christ's sacrifice for their sins. "Wayumi" is a weekend camp that seeks to challenge more Brazilians to get involved with reaching their countrymen for Christ.



We brought down the **MOST amazing group of college-age young people**. Most of them didn't speak Portuguese, but they jumped into learning and serving with gusto! We helped with beautifying the campus; cleaning before and after the camps; washing dishes (so many dishes!); and doing whatever else was needed. It was pure joy to watch our team serve and build relationships.

The Brazilian missionaries were incredible: they welcomed us with open arms, loved us well, challenged us, and shared their lives with us.

Wayumi campers came from as far as a many-hour flight away, and all got challenged to pray, give, and go to the unreached.

They weren't the only ones. Our entire team, including ourselves, were greatly challenged to invest our lives in bringing the gospel to the ends of the earth.

If YOU, or someone you know, is interested in experiencing cross-cultural missions, we HIGHLY recommend any of the Ethnos360 Encounter Short-Term trips!
ethnos360.org/short-term-trips

Keeping up with the Kids

Timothy and Meredith are still living in Muskegon, MI and God has blessed them with great jobs. Timothy has continued to advance in his company and recently received the highest performance review they've ever given! Meredith is enjoying her job at the bank and started baking AMAZING sourdough goodies this year. They are enjoying married life and looking to the Lord for their future!

Karis, Akash, and Theo are doing great in MA. Akash works as a mechanic, is finishing his bachelor's online, and teaches and preaches often. Karis is a drama teacher at a Christian school. Together they host a small group at their house and are quite involved in their church. Theo is now 1.5 and an active toddler and a ton of fun! They are expecting baby #2 and are praying for their next steps.

Nathaniel is in his Junior year as a Biblical Archaeology major at Wheaton College in IL, where he gets to study under some amazing profs, is learning a ton, and has made some good friends. He will most likely go to Israel next summer to an archaeological dig site there. This fall he bought a car, which has been a great blessing.



Thanking God for you and praying God encourages you as you enter a new year. May God be ever glorified as we trust Him and walk with Him!

Much Love, Chris & Denise