



Update from Jeremy and Susan Beebout October 2021

Dear Friends,

By the time you receive this, the fall season will likely be losing its grip to winter. We have really enjoyed being home through several seasons and all that they bring. It has been wonderful to visit many of you and your churches and hear your stories as we share ours.

I want to begin this letter by sharing some highlights from a Bible study that we are doing together as a family. We are going through a study written by John Snyder called, "Behold Your God: Rethinking God Biblically." I highly recommend this study to anyone. I want to share a few elements I have gleaned from this study that have challenged as well as encouraged me.

As the title indicates, the author's objective for the reader is thinking anew about who our God is. The opening quote in the book comes from A.W. Tozer, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." The author lays out the premise that our fundamental need in Western Christianity is to repent of our low and unworthy views of God and return to the biblical descriptions of the true God and to risk it all to live upon Who HE IS. The author points out how much investment in reading and studying the Bible is focused on ourselves. His statement, which is obvious and yet a pertinent and necessary reminder is, "If we wish to do real and lasting good to our own soul and that of our family, friends, and church, it is essential that we begin with Who God is . . . One of the evidences that we are growing in the knowledge of God is that we are more aware of how little we know Him. It is the believer's joy that there can be no end to knowing the infinite Being."

The author builds on this idea as he dives into Paul's description of the Christian life in Colossians 1. He suggests from this text that Paul's description of the Christian life can be reduced to three statements that must remain in this order: 1. Christ is....; 2. Christ has....; 3. I must.... To explain this, he says, "Who He is must be understood if we are going to grasp what He has done to save us. Who He is and what He has done form an irresistible argument for obedience in the heart of the Christian."

The gifts that we read about in the Bible that are promised to us, including love, joy, and peace among many others, can be received only by truly knowing the source of those gifts, the Creator and our Father! I invite you to join me in beholding our great and awesome God and thinking anew about who HE is!

Home assignment is more than half over! Our summer started with fun and restful vacations with Susan's family in northern Minnesota and then with my family in Colorado. We were able to catch up with several friends during this time, including some of the physical therapists from Minnesota who have visited us over the years. Our family is pictured to the right with Dr. Jim Carey. We then settled into the parsonage



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across from the northeast Iowa church where we were married 21 years ago. During that time, we got Lydia set up at the University of Northern Iowa where she is now a freshman in Elementary Education. The first few weeks were difficult due to culture shock and homesickness. We are thankful that she has found friends and a good church and is getting involved in Navigators campus ministry. Her studies are going well. She is pictured to the right with our dear friend Lori Adams who invited her to a LIFT event for Christian teachers and future teachers in the Cedar Valley. Check out www.ceai.org/zyz-1111/ for more information.



In July and August, we spoke at churches in Minnesota and Iowa and caught up with friends and family. We also got started homeschooling the other three children. Eliza is now a junior in high school, Abby is in seventh grade, and Ben is a first grader! We are using Sahel Academy's curriculum so that they will have a smooth transition back to Niger next semester. In September, we moved down to the Knoxville area to be near Jeremy's family and to continue to speak at churches in Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Illinois. Jeremy and Ben have been enjoying helping with harvest on the Beebout farm. These months have also been full of checkups with lots of trips to doctors and dentists. We are thankful to have access to first-world care! By Halloween, we will be in Michigan, Lord willing, to speak at two churches there before continuing to the east coast to speak to churches in New York and New Jersey.

The news from Niger is encouraging overall. Clinique Olivia is averaging about 100 patients per day while Douthi remains stable at about 20 patients per day. We need to hire additional laboratory technicians, doctors, and nurses for Douthi. Pray for God to call Nigerien Christians to serve with us. In addition, our colleagues are praying and planning about ways to grow the agricultural development aspect of the work. The nursing school is getting ready to start its third year, which means we will have our first graduating class. Pray for more Christian high school graduates to enroll in the first-year classes.

We remain in prayer for this country. We are saddened as we hear of the divisions caused by politics and COVID-19. We pray also for the Reformed Church as the decisions made at the recent General Synod will have an impact on the church and on the way the church does missions. I will conclude with this prayer from Ephesians 3. "I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power...to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ...Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,...to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, Amen."

In gratitude,

Jeremy (for all of the Beebout's)