

MAY 2023

# Darland's Digest

MISSIONARIES TRAINING FUTURE MISSIONARIES AT



## RUNNING WITH PERSEVERANCE

**FROM CHRIS:** Has it been a stressful season for you? It has for me! This last year especially: I did a LOT of writing for my final project! I've been running at a fever pitch for quite a few years now! I know that God offers rest even in the midst of stress and circumstances, and I want that. I don't think I can necessarily "pause" my life and take a year off, nor do I really want to. I want to serve God and have my life count for something, but goodness is it exhausting sometimes! The good thing is that God offers rest: "Come unto me, all that are tired and heavy-burdened" (Mt. 11.28), and "there remains a rest for the people of God" (Heb. 4.9). Rest is available to me and you, even in the midst of struggle, and it is found in our fellowship with God. As we run the race set before us, we set our eyes on Jesus, and exchange our weakness for HIS presence, strength, and joy!

### ...RESTING IN HIM



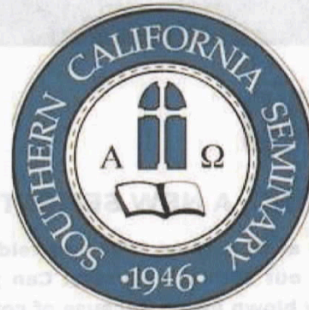
## BUSSES & BREAKFAST

Our house has (hilariously) become a bus stop during the week! It started with Karis stopping off between her bus routes to visit and have breakfast, then Akash for a time, and then an EBI intern and friend, Gabe, joined the party, too! I'm sure our neighbors must find it funny, but we have enjoyed this early morning opportunity for fellowship!

## ETHNOS360 BIBLE INSTITUTE A LOOK BACK

THIS SEMESTER HAS BEEN PACKED. HERE ARE A FEW HIGHLIGHTS:

1. We praise God that He carried Chris (and us!) through the most intense weeks of classes for his master's, teaching, ministry responsibilities and challenges, and some unexpected family trials. Honestly, all praise to God!
2. We've enjoyed some wonderful times with our kids.
3. ...and our soon-to-be "kid"! (see below!) We're so excited!
4. We've been able to enjoy many evenings (and mornings!) of fellowship in our home with students, visiting missionaries, and family.
5. God's Word has continued to change lives here at EBI. Check out the back for some testimonies! We GET to be a part! What an incredible privilege. It never grows old!
6. We've been able to help our parents as they walk through some difficult trials these last months.



## A GRADUATE

All glory to God, who carried Chris through the past seven years: we joyfully announce that he is finished with his Master's of Divinity!

"I think my favorite classes has been one on counseling: seeing that God has the answers for our struggles in His Word, and we need to let HIM define us and let HIM speak into our needs!"

## ENGAGED

On February 12, Akash Soltysik asked our beloved Karis to marry him! We have been blessed to get to know Akash over the past several years, first as a student at EBI and then as Karis' beau. We're so grateful that he loves the Lord, the Word, and our daughter! They truly make a great team and we look forward to seeing what God has in store for them as they look to Him to direct their steps.

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"STUDYING GOD'S WORD AT EBI HAS GROWN ME AND HAS BEGUN TO TEACH ME PRACTICAL THINGS LIKE HOW TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT, FIND MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST, AND DECIPHER THE TRUTH HE HAS GIVEN US. I'VE FOUND THAT HIS SUFFICIENCY FAR OUTWEIGHS MY INSUFFICIENCY. -SAM M

## REFLECTIONS FROM EBI SENIORS



"My biggest take away from these two years at Bible school has been the paramount importance of having a personal relationship with God. I lived so much of my life running from Him. I was afraid of being vulnerable and having an intimate relationship with him, but through almost 2000 hours in the word of God I've seen that his love is unconditional. It doesn't matter what I've done, or how far I've run, he still loves me, and wants a relationship with me because of the sacrifice of His son on the cross. That is the incredible love of Christ. Being fully known to your core and yet fully loved despite what is found there. It's the most beautiful thing I've ever known."

-RACHEL G

## LOOKING AHEAD

### A \*SPECIAL\* TRIP, A WEDDING, A NEW SEMESTER

Our amazing children sat us down at Christmas 2021 and told us they were sending us to ITALY for our 25th anniversary! Can you even believe it? We are STILL totally blown away! Because of covid, we waited, thought, and prayed about this incredible gift, and finally decided to ask the kids if they could bring themselves along as well, so we could enjoy this special time as a family. They were QUITE eager to oblige! We are planning to take that trip this summer before the wedding.

The rest of the summer will be working at EBI & preparing for the wedding, and then we'll quickly gear up for the fall semester! We are looking forward to all that God will do in these next months: for the preciousness of family and transitions, for the joy of walking with God and watching HIM work out details, and for the opportunity to trust Him for each step! We cherish your prayers as we continue to run the race set before us, looking unto Jesus!

### WHAT IS ONE THING YOU HAVE BEEN LEARNING OVER THE LAST 2 YEARS AT ETHNOS360 BIBLE INSTITUTE?

"Knowledge of the Word of God is just the beginning of a lifelong walk and relationship with Him."

-MILAN M

"One thing I've learned is that His glory and our good are never at odds."

-MEGAN B

*How can we pray for you? Drop us a line and let us know!  
We thank God for your friendship and care. Have a wonderful summer!*