

Luce Leaf Notebook

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The snow is drifting down in flaky whispers, bringing the frantic flurry of cars and cares to a muted hush. I look out my office window as the landscape is renewed before my eyes. Deep green pines alternate with darkly skeletal maples, all etched with a powdery outline of white velvet. Jasper, our equally white cat, searches for a flat spot on the desk close enough for me to scratch his ears, and for him to reach the keyboard. Finding none, he settles for the shelf over the computer monitor where it is warm enough to sleep.



Lois is at work, caring for patients with Old Colony Hospice. She works part-time, sharing a case load with another nurse. Two of her patients have had close connections with our church families, and Lois has been able to be an encouragement to them in facing the intense issues of life and death.

I continue to forge ahead with my research and writing. Les Hirst, my supervisor at TEAM, has agreed to help critique my drafts of the dissertation as I go. His expertise as an educator and college professor will be very helpful, and he is not bashful about holding me accountable for producing pages! Les is also the leader of our LifeLerner Project team.

Lois and I have just returned from a week in Wheaton, where we participated in the inauguration of TEAM's new appointee orientation. The week was designed and implemented by the LifeLerner team, and I had the privilege of participating in and contributing to the week's activities. In addition to the "standard" orientation themes introducing the inner workings of the mission, the various people who make things work in the home office, and the details of how the new appointees fit into the big picture of

TEAM's purpose to "**help churches send missionaries to establish reproducing churches among the nations to the Glory of God,**" we were able to introduce the LifeLerner Program for the first time.

I shared in the Friday morning devotional, and various people from the team presented the philosophy of Lifelong Learning, and how that could help them increase their effectiveness as missionaries. It was an exciting week, and we all learned a lot. Since we arrived home, I have participated in two 90-minute conference calls with the project development team as we debriefed our experience and began planning for the next orientation sessions to be held in March. Five appointees are now on their way toward Asia and Africa.

Snow reminds me of God's power to renew the landscape of our lives, making it a sparkling wonderland. The psalmist prayed "Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow." Please pray with us that our lives would be a sparkling reminder of God's grace, and that our service to Him would be refreshing to those around us.

Our prayer needs include

- Discipline in completing the proposal and dissertation.
- God's help for Lois as she works in a stressful job
- Direction as we transition into our next ministry assignment

Thank you once again for your interest in our ministry, and the ongoing encouragement it is for us to keep in contact with you. You are an important part of our team, and we appreciate you.

Roger and Lois