



November, 2003

Advent season begins, appropriately enough, with the Thanksgiving holiday. We are eager to celebrate this special time of year, and there is much to celebrate.

I have been making steady progress on my writing. I have sent in several drafts of the first chapters to my advisor. She wrote me an email the other day, saying that it looks like I am getting "very close." I am feeling good that the writing is beginning to flow, and I am excited to begin the actual data collection phase as soon as the proposal is approved by the University and the Institutional Review Board. I will let you know as soon as a date is set for my defense, so you can pray.

TEAM's LifeLearner Network development project that I am working on is moving along well, also. We just finished a trial run of the newly-developed software program that will become the platform for our global collaboration. We had twenty individuals from around the world participating in a study to answer the question "How do I know that what I am doing is what God wants me to be doing?"

Participants included a church planter from South Africa, another church planter and Bible school professor in Australia, a youth pastor's wife from Wisconsin who had served in Russia, a nurse in Colorado planning to return to overseas service, a church planter in Japan and a doctor in Nepal, as well as the project development team and the software developer scattered around the U.S. After six weeks of reading, writing, discussing over the internet, and completing personalized study plans, we "met" by telephone in a conference call (think of the time zone challenge!) to discuss the learning experience, and to find ways to make the process work better in the future. There were a lot of things that went well, and a lot of things we need to work to improve. Over the next several months we will be working on implementing some of the things we learned. I will be going to Wheaton again in January for two days of face-to-face meetings of our development team.

Lois is doing well in her Hospice ministry, feeling more comfortable with the responsibility and continuing to learn the complexities of palliative care. One patient she sees regularly speaks only Spanish, so she gets to use that aspect of her preparation as well.

Chris is living in an apartment five minutes away, with three other Christian young men. He still works as an EMT in Brockton, and hopes to enter paramedic school soon. Kevin and Bridget are pleased with the way the Sports Fitness Center is providing them with many contacts and opportunities to talk with people on a deeper level in their creative access ministry. If you would like to receive their updates, please write to me and I will add you to their list.

I hope to have my own website up before Christmas. Look for us at www.LuceLeafNotebook.com. That's enough for now,

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