

December 9, 2019

Dear family and friends,

Here we are again at the end of another year, and if you're like us, time feels like it picks up speed as you get older and much of the year passes by in a blur of events. Nonetheless, this is an opportune time to think back and sift through the blur, to glory in our Savior and recollect all the ways in which His sovereign hand has led us.

This year was an unusual year at the seminary in India because our admissions which typically open after graduation in February had to be closed even before the academic year came to an end since every open seat for the next year, including the surplus seats which we accommodate for was filled. Due to budget constraints, we have for many years stopped sending out advertisements. The applicants come to us by word of mouth, usually recommended by graduates and others associated with the seminary in South Asia. Admissions have become highly selective as we are limited by space, but this has also ensured a caliber of students that we are thankful for. We are amazed as we look back at the pieces God put in place as preparation for the excessive students we have this year. One of those pieces is in the supply of enough water. Our campus depends on underground wells to provide water. Every year at the end of January, our campus runs out of water having exhausted the stored water collected from the monsoons. Tankers are then brought in from the nearby city to supply the needs of the campus. This is less than ideal as it is inconvenient, expensive and the quality of the water is unhealthy. About three years ago, we made the decision to search again for a second borewell on our property. This is an expensive process, and there was little hope to find any as the entire village that our campus sits against was struggling with the same issue as we were. But, we had little choice as the well that had supplied our campus continued to yield less each year. For several days, the hydrologists were able to find nothing. In the meantime, we prayed relentlessly both in India and in the U.S. After scouring the campus in the areas that would be the most likely locations, Jason suggested a location be tested, not because he was confident it would produce water, but because it would be a convenient location to pipe water from. As a last effort, they drilled that location. Before reaching the anticipated depth, the drill yielded a fountain of such fury that it gushed to a height of 20 feet in the air. The water was clear, cold, of a purity and flavor than any we could've hoped for. Because of its unexplainable yield, our well has become legendary in the area. Our prayer is that it will be a testimony of the one true God's great power and faithfulness. So far, the well continues to supply with energy our water needs for the entire year. God supplied ahead of time that most basic of needs, water, in preparation for this year when we would see our largest student body yet. Over the years, we have seen the Lord provide again and again, acts that we have only understood better in hindsight. In fact, I could fill up pages that traces out the finger of God who supplies and prepares when we may not know the depth or extent of our needs in the years ahead.

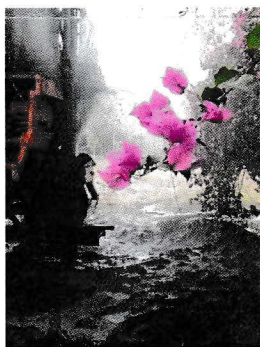
In Texas, Providence Church has had a good year of drawing near to Christ. Our church does not have an impressive worship band, nor is it housed in the grandest of facilities, but God is worshipped among us in earnestness and truth. Though we are in Marshall, about half the people that come to Providence come from about an hour radius in all directions. Jason feels especially blessed to serve a people that are hungry and receptive to God's Word. As the church adds to its numbers, the believers that He has gathered are sincere. They love and cling to the Truths that are the distinctives of Providence. It has fostered a loving closeness and a warm unity that we are grateful for. Our prayer is that Providence would be a refreshing fountain of Truth in this spiritually parched desert that is east Texas - west Louisiana.

Over the summer, Jason's brother, brother's wife and parents visited us. Our days with them were filled with laughter, plenty of food and a visit to Waco of the HGTV "Fixer-Upper" fame. Then late in summer, my brother brought his sons to visit for a time that I especially cherished as they live in Aberdeen, Scotland, and I do not get to see them often. His two boys were delightful, interested in all things American, especially the strategies and rules of American football. We tried to give them a good sense of what the South was like by spending the week visiting places like the bayou and the alligator park. In between family visits, Jason and I were able to make a trip to India for the start of the academic year at the seminary and then briefly to Mauritius to visit the church there. While in India, I was able to spend time with my mother who now lives with one of my brothers and his family. On our way back, we stopped for 3 days in London to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. In London, we had a chance to meet old friends of ours, the Juliens who moved back from Mauritius to London several years ago. It was in the Julien living room in Floreal, Mauritius that our Mauritian church, the

International Bible Fellowship (IBF), the first and only reformed and baptistic church of the country, was planted about 17 years ago. As you can imagine, the Juliens are near and dear to our hearts for many reasons.

This year brought some changes in Darshini's life. She shifted from her job of working in an autism center to being privately hired to work one on one with a severely autistic child. It has been a year of learning as the triumphs are often far fewer than the challenges. We trust in the Lord to give her the endurance she needs and pray that these are days of preparation for a future that He will unfold in His time. Andrew has been winding up his last year at ETBU. If the Lord wills, he will graduate with a business management degree. He is currently in the process of exploring where God might have him next. In December, a young lady who grew up in our church in India and is like a daughter to us will come with her new husband and spend Christmas with us. They now live in Toronto, and we are looking forward to spending time with them.

As this year ends, may Christ always be preeminent in our thoughts and priorities. As often as the Lord brings us to your minds, would you pray for us and the work that is a big part of our lives? Be assured that we will do the same for you.



Our borewell on the seminary campus. The initial spray and water being piped out.

With much love,  
Jemima Deutsch  
(for Jason, Darshini and Andrew)



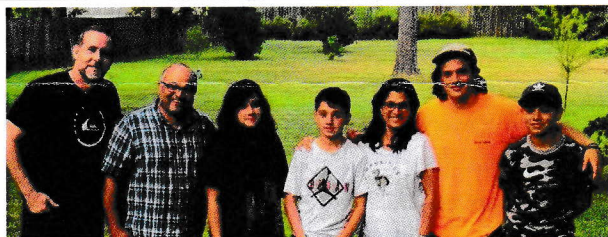
Jason's brother, David, his brother's wife, Teresa and parents, John and Sharon with our family



Visiting the Juliens in their home in London.



Darshini with her Scottish cousins, Yavi and Micah.



With my brother, Vijay and his boys



Family picture – December 2019

Andrew with his cousins. Don't they look like brothers in this picture?

