



## January 2026

*"Brethren, I count myself not to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*

*~Phil. 3:13-14*

[Disclaimer: this letter was written from the perspective of Saturday, January 31st. I was trying to send out the letter that evening but ran into some problems with the size. I apologize for the delay. I hope you enjoy and are encouraged!]

Dear Prayer Warriors and Ministry Partners,

Happy New Year! I hope that you have had a great start to the year. If you haven't been so fortunate, I pray that you would not let that define the rest of your year. No matter what your past week, month, or year has looked like, keep pressing onto the greatest prize! I have been asking people to pray toward the goal that I have of getting to the field this year by late summer or early fall. This week, another opportunity came up to go to the Netherlands this summer. However, that would change the timeline of long-term arrival. Stay tuned for more details about this opportunity.

Last year from September to December, I was able to meet with twelve churches for official meetings as well as several individuals. I am so thankful for these opportunities and the relationships that have started to grow from them. I am also thankful for those supporting me especially at the beginning; that takes a step of faith for them too. Thank you if you are one of them; I'm grateful to serve the Lord together with you. As William Carey said, "I will go down into the pit if you hold the rope."

Early in the month, the pastor's wife of a church I visited in November asked if I could come to her 5th and 6th grade classroom. It was a great opportunity to go to a Christian school and teach a little ASL to these kids alongside sharing about the need for Deaf ministry specifically in the Netherlands. We never know how God can use such times years down the road in the life of one of these young people.

I had one church meeting on January 18th with a small congregation in Michigan. They were wonderfully welcoming and decided to join me as a supporting church! Both the pastor and the people have had several connections with Deaf people, so they have a heart for that ministry. Praise the Lord!

The rest of the Sundays in January were spent at my sending church. On the 4th I sang and signed a special song, and on the 11th and 25th I interpreted the songs and announcements. Normally, the hearing and

Deaf groups have separate services, but because of the pastor to the Deaf taking on the interim pastor role, we have needed to combine more often this month. I am always thankful for the opportunity to use my ASL and make sure that my skills don't become (too) rusty!

As I mentioned in my last letter, my sending church has been looking for a new pastor. Well, praise the Lord that a shepherd has been provided so quickly. He came to preach on January 11th and 18th, and on the 25th the church voted to call him. I do not know how much time it will take to transition over to the Lansing area, but I know that the church is blessed in not having to wait hardly at all. I'm thankful that the pastor to the Deaf can resume his normal ministry load very soon. Please pray for an unspoken request concerning this change as well.

This week has been a crazy week, filling both my schedule and my spirit. On Monday, I drove down to Illinois from where I write this letter. Thank you, dear Steuers, for providing a place to stay and wonderful company this week. Since I grew up in this area, I knew several family friends, homeschool people, and former church family who would be interested to hear about the ministry. I have been privileged to have seven meetings with them this week and still have two tomorrow (Sunday) on my way back to Michigan. I am excited for the opportunity for them to partner in God's work as well. It was also wonderful just to catch up with them, many of whom I had not seen in years. On Wednesday night the 28th, I visited a nearby church that has a Deaf ministry. They were going through a study of the book of Ruth. In addition, since Jeff and Sherry Newman of the BMM Safe Haven ministry are nearby in Geneva, I stopped by and spent an evening with them! I even got to try their player piano - the kind that you see in all the classic cartoons, but in real life. It was wild.

Next month, we have a very exciting event coming up in my family - my sister Sophia and her fiancé Dustin are getting married in just a couple weeks! We will be driving out to upstate New York next week. Please pray for safe travels because we are traveling overnight so that my niece can sleep in the car. On the way back, I am blessed to be able to stop at my former pastor's new church for a meeting. The week after that, I will be traveling down to southern Illinois for a month-long trip. I will be visiting (at least) four churches for two missions conferences and two Sunday morning meetings. **(If you know of any good churches or people to whom you could connect me while I am there, I would love to talk with you! I am still working to fill a couple of Sunday evenings and midweek services, and I am willing to meet with individuals throughout the week as well. It would be an honor to give everyone I can an opportunity to serve God through investing in this much-needed ministry.)**

In preparation for my sister's wedding, I needed to get my dress altered. My mom reached out to the homeschool community with whom she is still connected. Through that, I got in touch with a wonderful Christian lady who altered my dress in less than a week for a very reasonable rate. She also knew about BMM and decided to give a gift toward the ministry. Praise God!

During this past week, I had the chance to video call with the Boyds. We caught up about what was happening on either side of the pond. They also approached me with the opportunity to help with camp over the summer. Since the Boyds (Daniel and Heather) will be back on furlough, the person in charge of camp could use some extra help. Would you join me in praying about this decision? If I go, I would not be able to attend Launch Seminar this summer because the dates coincide. This training is required before moving to any long-term assignment. On the other hand, I would be sad if I chose to forgo a ministry opportunity in the Netherlands and then was not able to reach the goal needed to attend Launch. Please pray for wisdom and insight into this decision.

No matter what the outcome, God knows the reason and has a plan. His plan, not mine, is perfect. I am reminded of 1 Corinthians 13:12 - "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." We cannot know how all the pieces of the puzzle fit together from our earthly point of view. It looks fuzzy, messy, cloudy. It seems confusing, long, tiresome. But God has a purpose in every part. Whether I go this summer to help or launch long-term this fall, I pray that God will get the glory in it. I know that He will use whichever option He has already picked out to accomplish His will. Thank you for your continued prayers, and I am praying for you all as well! God bless you!

#### *Praises*

- New supporting church!
- Continuing to grow new familial relationships
- Wonderful week in Illinois sharing the ministry with friends; new supporting individuals!

#### *Prayer Requests*

- Pastor Perkins to adapt to new ministry well
- Pastor Treadway to have a smooth transition to sending church
- Unspoken request regarding sending church
- Safe travels to New York, southern Illinois
- Wisdom for camp decision
- Meetings scheduled for this spring **(if you know of any churches looking for missionary guests, I would be happy to have you pass along their information!)**

In Christ,

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