



EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

THE JEREMIAH JOURNAL

December 2017

On behalf of the staff of the EPC General Assembly Office, I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We send you these greetings mindful that this year, many we know and love in the EPC family have little to celebrate in this Christmas season. For them, this is a time of continued difficulty and suffering.

We think immediately of Andrew Brunson.

Unless the Lord of glory intervenes, Andrew will spend his second Christmas behind bars in Izmir, Turkey. In October, his sister visited him in prison, and he told her this:

“I plead with the Lord to release me by Christmas so I can be with Blaise in his last year of high school and be at Jacqi’s graduation before she moves to Germany. But if I’m still here at Christmas, I’ll thank God for sending Jesus to be born. If I’m still here at the New Year, I’ll thank God for helping me make it through the year.”

I have to confess I cannot get my head around what our dear brother in Christ goes through every day in Turkey. Thank you for your continuing prayers for Andrew, Norine, and their family.

There are also those still suffering in the aftermath of the devastating impact of hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria—especially Maria.

I was able to visit our three churches in Puerto Rico this weekend. They are so grateful for your care for them, and amazingly, they are joyful in this Christmas season for God’s goodness to them. That joy in the Lord is fueled in part by your continued concern, prayers, and support.

I told them, “Puerto Rico may not be geographically near the other churches of the EPC, but be assured that you are near to our hearts.”

In this season of giving, I want you to know how much I appreciate the wonderful way that you have generously given to our disaster relief funds. As of December 15, more than \$950,000 has been collected to help hurting brothers and sisters in Christ in our churches. You are making a difference for Christ, His people, and His kingdom in this work.



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I encourage you to celebrate family and friends in this season. I encourage you to celebrate your church family too. But most importantly, be encouraged to celebrate the awesome and amazing gift our Heavenly Father gave us: His only Son—Immanuel—this Christmas season.

Thank you, and God bless us, one and all!