



December 31, 2022

Dear friends,

Across the world on New Year's Eve, people gather to celebrate the start of a new year in unique ways. In New York City, it's the dropping of the crystal ball in Times Square at midnight. Here in Central PA, local towns and cities pursue their own traditions and identity. In Lancaster they drop a rose, in Gettysburg a replica of Lincoln's Hat, in Lebanon a bologna, in Dillsburg a pickle, and in Mechanicsburg a wrench. How will you celebrate the start of the new year?

For us, standing on the edge of 2023 brings many thoughts. **First**, we are grateful for all that God has done in 2022. **Second**, we are humbled by the trust you have shown in our partners and us. Your prayers and support have made a difference. **Third**, we express great joy in seeing our global partners and teams thrive in equipping pastors and emerging leaders in Uganda and Peru. **Finally**, we enter 2023 with the hope of the Holy Spirit's presence to face the challenges of a new year.

There are always challenges. Economic and political dynamics provide a sense of instability across the globe. Ebola and COVID suddenly can play havoc with nations, our partners, and travel plans. An overabundance of ministry opportunities always clamors for attention. And then there are personal challenges. In December, Dave dealt with two health issues that will get him off to a slower start for 2023 travel. What is one to do when facing new challenges?

In many ways, Isaiah 40 is a chapter in Scripture that prepares our hearts for 2023. It is full of reminders that keep us focused on God's presence, promises and provision. Questions and a response appear in verse 28 – "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom." Take some time to read Isaiah 40 today because dropping into 2023 requires us to hear once again that our trust is to be placed in the everlasting God each day.

2022 has been an amazing year of ministry growth for Partnerships of Training Pastors. In mid-January, we'll send out our *Partnerships 2022 Report* sharing some of the stories and ways that the Lord has been at work. Thanks for standing with us in creative and encouraging ways. As we prepare to drop into 2023, our prayer is that this new year will find you, our partners, and us faithfully trusting God in whatever comes our way.

With grateful hearts,

Dave and Joyce

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