



Dear Friends,

### **Christmas greetings from Providence!**

On our monthly calendars, Christmas comes at the end of the year, and in the church calendar it is at the beginning. In academics, Christmas comes in the middle, dividing two semesters. If one thinks about the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, there Christmas also comes in the middle. The Old Testament is the story of God making a covenant with one nation by which all nations will be blessed and how that one nation failed to keep the covenant. The Old Testament promised a redeemer for the nations of the world. In the fullness of time, God sent the perfect covenant keeper who also, as the Son of God, became a sacrifice to atone for sins. The birth of the Son on that first Christmas was absolutely crucial, but it was not the end of the story, it was the middle. We are now living in the light of Christmas and Easter. Under the power of the Holy Spirit, God has commissioned us to take the Evangel, the Good News of Christmas, to the nations to invite people to worship the Creator God.

Providence sees clearly where we stand on the timeline of God's actions. Our mission is to equip people with knowledge and character for leadership and service. Every graduation we send our graduates into the church and the world to lead and to serve for Christ. In most of our correspondence with you, we highlight one or two students or alumni who are accomplishing great things. In this letter, I want to highlight all the people we do not put in our letters. There are thousands of Providence alumni out there who are the salt of the earth and lights shining in dark places. These are the moms and dads who have committed themselves to raising their kids for Christ. These are the missionaries in far off lands and right here in Canada, learning

*Warm*  
**CHRISTMAS**  
*Greetings*  
TO YOU

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second languages, spending time binding physical, spiritual, and psychological wounds, and teaching the gospel in word and deed. These are business people, teachers, doctors, nurses, painters, carpenters, and university professors who take the gospel with them to work every day. Most of these will never be named in our publications, yet they fulfill our mission.

As in the Biblical story, Christmas stands as the pivot point in the academic year at Providence. Christmas reminds us that there is more to come. We understand that a student's time on campus is important, but just as important is what they do when they go into the church and the world as servant leaders. The mission of God has compelled me for thirty-seven years to serve Christ, first in the church and then in Christian higher education. This mission compels me to serve our students every day.

Join me this Christmas in giving thanks to God for the indescribable gift of the Son. And join me in praising God for the great work He is doing on our campus. Enrollment is up, 89% of the **Impact 2020 Campaign** is completed, the chapel is full, and students are active in small and large groups. We have a lot to be thankful for this Christmas.

We cannot do this work without your help. I want to thank you for making a financial investment in the lives of future servant leaders who will take the good news of Christmas with them wherever they go and in whatever they do.

*Dave*

**David H. Johnson, Ph.D.**  
President



**PROVIDENCE**

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