



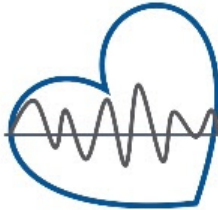
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## An update from the Longs

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The Long Family

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# The Long Lifeline

*A Heartbeat for the Kingdom*

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*"The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy." (Isaiah 35:1-2a, NIV)*

## The Hope of Easter

I love all the slowly emerging green shoots that begin to appear in the early days of spring. Like a tiny rebellion against the dark and cold of winter, spring flowers, like the tiny crocus, remind us of the promises of new life and renewal that resonate throughout Scripture. Tiny shoots, the first visible signs of hope, emerge where we least expect: sometimes from

under icy snow, while the world is still cold, or other times in a bleak desert, often when we are feeling the most tapped out, worn out, or discouraged.

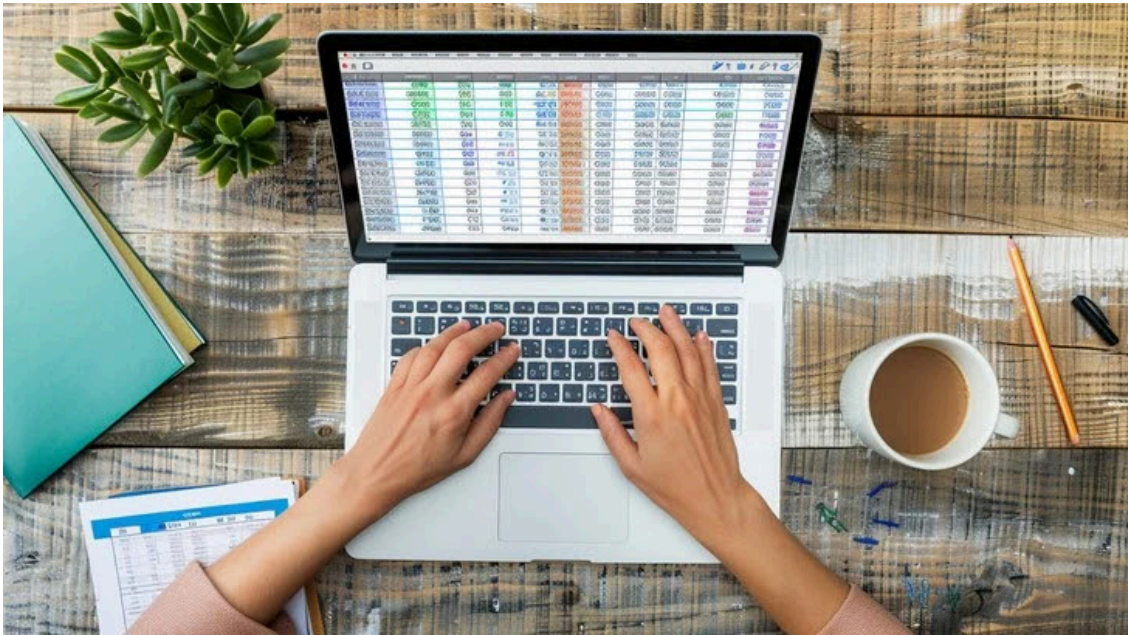
This Lenten season, I have been reflecting on the state of the world. The winter has felt long and harsh. Though it seems not much different than the world at the time of Jesus... political unrest, violence, economic disparity, moral darkness...a place that is (and was) dry and full of death. Generations before the crucifixion, Isaiah spoke into prophesy the verses above. Like a crocus bursting into bloom in the wilderness, Jesus' resurrection reminds us that the desert lands can become a place of abundant life. We can escape the clutches of winter and death with the hope of Easter, the promise of salvation, and we can once again rejoice greatly and shout for joy!

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### Some ministry updates...



One of our major accomplishments in finance this winter and spring has been the transition of accounting software for our field treasurers. Carter took the lead on developing an online platform to replace an outdated desktop software, and I spent several weeks doing live training sessions via Zoom with our treasurers and field directors around the world of OMS. Jonathan and I are very proud of Carter's work on this project and it has been a joy to collaborate and "beta test" the program during the development process.



March and April are busy months for my work in finance as we transition fiscal years. For the last several months, I have been helping to prepare budgets and grant agreements for our many ministry partners and fields. As we come to the close of March, we will be reviewing accounts and reports for ministry over the past year. In April, the new annual budgets and funding will begin to go out around the world. I am thankful for the many people that collaborate on this process both in finance at OMS headquarters and within the Global Ministry team. It is a big task! But I know that my work helps to provide stewardship and alleviate administrative burden for our missionaries and teams.

### **Please continue praying with us...**

- Pray this Easter would be a time of Spiritual renewal for our entire family. We are looking forward to some time away from work and school during Spring break. Pray that it would be a blessing and a special time together.
- Pray for Corinne and the many tasks in the month of April related to the close/start of the fiscal year. Pray for wisdom and clarity in decision making.
- Remember Grant and Noemi in their last quarter of the school year. Continue praying for the development of friendships that will last into the next school year.

**Wishing your family a blessed and hopeful Easter! ~ The Long Family**



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