

hello from the land of 10,000 lakes



Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

cultivating connections

I don't really care if my kids climb slides at the playground. The caveat of course, is that if other families are there, they have to use the slide "the correct way". So as we watched our kids throw off their shoes and run for the slide at a local park last night, I called out a reminder to our girls. With a chuckle and a comment about the fun police, one of the dads nearby told me they didn't care if we didn't. Fifteen minutes later, as the four of us watched our kids rolling down the grassy hill

together, we connected over the best parks in the area and the dad's work connections only 20 minutes away from Forest City. It's amazing how shared experiences (or playground rules) can draw people together.

Have you ever had a conversation with someone that surprised you with its spontaneous authenticity? I feel blessed to have experienced this in my own life, and as I reflect on some of those conversations, I realized that more than once, it was with someone who didn't stand to gain much from the interaction. These people showed relational generosity. I think this is one of the ways humans reflect God's image: pursuit of connection.

Our frequent moves could become an excuse to stay closed off to relationships. Thankfully, God has been reminding me through my extroverted husband, that sometimes the small conversations at the park or out on the sidewalk while the kids are playing can be the beginning of a beautiful new connection. **Through the power of the Holy Spirit, I can be the ambassador of God's love that says, *You are made in the image of God. I see you, I hear you, I want to know you and your story. You matter.***

This month, as we begin new routines in a new place, I am reminding myself to take a deep breath and open my eyes, ears and heart to the Lord and the people around me. **As a family in ministry, we need you as our support team to pray for God's heart to be reflected in our lives and ministry. Please pray for us to lean into Him and to continue to find great JOY in all He is up to.**

We want to pray for YOU in the places where God is using you to be His ambassador. If there is a way we can pray specifically for you, please let us know by emailing Cory or myself.

Our emails: brookej@converge.org and coryj@converge.org

closing one chapter

Mid July, I traveled to Udon Thani to sell the remaining large furniture, household items and our cars, with the help of Dustin and Melissa Leland, and several others from our community there. **We praise the Lord and are thankful for the sacrifice of time that the Lelands made to finish everything and clear out the rental space.**

We ask for your prayers that we are able to sell our newer car. While in Thailand, I completed the necessary paperwork for a buyer and left it with the Lelands, however several interested families decided it wasn't a good fit. **Please pray that we can sell that vehicle.**

There is so much that we could say about leaving one place of ministry to engage in another. As the person who got to travel back and see everyone one last time before entering a new season, it was like taking a good long look at a chapter where God was faithful and good in our lives. What better salve to put on the grief of leaving our dear friends and teammates? The same One who called us there and has guided our transition to the States is with us as He does something new in our lives.



new home base

On August 20th, our family moved into a three bedroom Air BnB in the St Louis Park area. It is a cute and snug little place and we are grateful for the place to land. We discovered within the first few days that there is a lovely park with a playground and expansive green space with towering oak trees, just a couple blocks from our house. We are soaking it in! The girls have started school and preschool, and while there are definitely adjustments, the girls have the beginnings of some new friend connections. Please pray for our children as they are once again adjusting to new culture and way of life. Their school is in the heart of Minneapolis, so they are definitely experiencing lots of firsts. **Pray specifically for their relationships with each other to grow in peace and problem solving.**



opportunities unfolding

Our focus over the next weeks and months is to prayerfully pursue relationships with our US Engagement teammates while learning the different tools we will be using to coach and support churches, to attend and participate in Converge events, and to continue to visit our supporting churches as we wrap up sharing about our time in Thailand and re-establish a strong financial support base. We are excited about all there is to learn.



ways to pray

- pray for Cory and I to prioritize the right “yes” to ministry opportunities and to cultivate emotional, spiritual and physical health
- pray for our monthly financial support to increase
- pray for the Heartland district gathering September 25-26 where Cory will hear several team members speak and have opportunities to connect with pastors in that area
- pray for our visit to Opstead Baptist Church the beginning of October
- pray for friendships and community for us and our children that will draw us close to the Lord

what we're thankful for

- the community at our sending church in Forest City who helped us move, clean and cared for our kids so we could get everything done last month
- our families who watched our kids, helped us organize, pack and traveled to help us get settled
- Pastor Barry Durkee from Hayfield who helped us load/unload and drove many miles to haul our stuff to the cities and then bought us pizza.
- our teammates and friends in Thailand, **especially** the Leland family, who helped us wrap up the final details of our belongings overseas in July
- God's provision through YOU as you faithfully pray, encourage us, and give financially to our ministry
- we have housing this month and many beautiful parks close to us
- we are in a season of NEW things and growth

get involved

There are several ways for you to be involved in our ministry. We need our ministry and family life covered in prayer. **Would you consider praying for us?** As we update our prayer cards, drop us an email (brookej@converge.org) and we will mail you a new one (or several) if you want to pray for us. Just let us know your address and how many!

Our support level at about 87% of our needed support. If you haven't already, would you prayerfully consider joining our team as a financial partner, or increasing your support? Calvary Church in Roseville is allowing us to rent their missionary house from the beginning of October until May which is a huge blessing as they give a discounted rate of rent. We are focused on using this buffer to increase our financial support level and find additional ministry partners to join our team! We trust that God will provide in ways we never expected, just as he did before our launch to Thailand. If you want to meet with us to hear more about what our ministry will look like moving forward, please reach out and we schedule a time to meet.

Two ways to give:

1. Send your check or money order with a note indicating your designation. Include the donation ID number (gifts without a designation will be allocated to the important Converge "Where Most Needed" fund).

Make check or money order payable to Converge and send to:

Converge
Dept 9930
P.O. Box 850001
Orlando, FL 32885

(Include the project ID in the memo field) **The Jackson Project Number is 207555**

2. To give online, go to converge.org/give, search for 'Jackson,' and navigate to our page to see giving options.