



Happy New Year



## A FRIEND CALLED COURAGE

**As a kid, our family had a rotation of shared responsibilities in the home.** The chore I detested most was taking out the trash. While part of this was due to my deep-rooted belief that such tasks should fall to my brothers, the bigger part was a pervasive fear I had of dragging the trash down the hill to the disposal bin. This usually happened at the end of the day, after dark had already descended on our wooded acreage. My most terrifying fear was that I would be consumed by wild creatures, all in the name of fulfilling my responsibility. Despite this fear, my parents were not

convinced I should be exempt, and I carried the trash out every few days. I'm so glad they didn't let me off the hook. Over time, I learned strategies to distract myself and developed a solid uphill running endurance as I raced to the back door, heart pounding, convinced my worst monsters were right behind me. In the process, I also learned about courage. I had to learn how to hold fear and commitment together, to take the step forward, even when I didn't feel ready.

**Reflecting on 2025, courage was the friend I didn't want to need, but in truth, the one I needed most.** God showed me a new way of living this past year. It was humbling, sometimes painful, but ultimately beautiful. I also learned that courage grows in both the quiet of faithful, daily decisions and in the raw, vulnerability of community. Courage pushes us to move forward into spaces and places we might not feel ready for. It requires us to be grounded in the promises of God, holding a heart-level trust in His goodness—even when we don't yet see the full picture. Courage asks us why we started in the first place and whether we're ready to pivot and put in the hard work. It calls us to replace perfection with obedience, entrusting the outcome to the One who called us. Courage is faith in action.

**That's what makes 2026 such an exciting year ahead.** Embracing courage means there's so much possibility on the horizon. *God has used your prayers and partnership to build courage in us for what He is calling us to faithfully steward.*

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## **Recap 2025: Travel, Transition and new Team**

**2025 was partly home assignment and also spent regrouping and making the transition from overseas ministry to serving Stateside with the Converge US Engagement Team.**

**Here's a recap of where your prayers and support took us this year!**

**January:** Brooke attended the Converge All Asia Gathering in the Philippines, connecting with teammates and global workers from across the region.

**February:** Cory traveled to Minnesota for a pastoral prayer retreat at Trout Lake Camps—a meaningful time of rest, prayer, and renewal.

**March:** Cory and Brooke spent time together in Arizona focused on prayer, debriefing, and discerning next steps.

**May:** Cory traveled to Indiana for team training alongside our broader ministry team.

**Fall 2024 – Summer 2025:** We traveled to share about our life and ministry in Thailand with supporting churches across South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa. It was a joy to see many of you face to face.

**July:** We observed a Missionary Discovery and Assessment at Converge headquarters in Orlando, gaining insight into how missionaries are equipped and supported from the beginning of the process. Brooke also returned to Thailand to sell our remaining belongings and prepare items to be shipped back to the U.S.

**August:** We packed up our Iowa home and transitioned our life and ministry to Minnesota.

**September:** Cory joined our team at the Converge Heartland regional gathering in South Dakota for learning and connection with pastors and leaders.

**October:** Brooke traveled to Orlando for partnership development training as we work toward restoring our support to 100%.

**November:** We facilitated the Forge United Discovery Day in northern Minnesota with ten churches discerning how God is calling them to reach the unreached. Brooke also attended the S2 Conference in Phoenix, encouraged and equipped alongside teammates from across Converge.

**December:** We enjoyed a season of connection with some of you through email, newsletter and photo updates and face to face conversations. We spent time with family over the Christmas season as well.

## Cory's Health



Many prayers have been lifted over the last year and half for Cory's health. It's a joy to be able to share ongoing stability, healing and clear scans. **Thank you** for bringing him before the throne on our behalf.

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## Prayerful Goals 2026

As part of the Converge US Engagement Team, we get to take our love for Jesus and His church and our passion for reaching the unreached and combine them. ***Here are some of our prayerful goals for the new year as you partner and pray with us for all God has ahead.***

***Build our partnership team back to 100% by June 2026. Our ministry Stateside is still supported by the generosity of our partnering partners. The goal here is to reach full***

***Helping our local church connect with Arrive Ministries to engage with refugees and help them acclimate to life in the United States. The goal is to learn about tools and ministries (like***



*funding, so we can continue our work of mobilizing and equipping churches with an undivided focus. If you want to hear more about what our ministry looks like now, please send an email or text. We'd love to update you in person or over a zoom call.*

**Connecting with local church leaders.** *The goal here is to build relationships and hear their story to see how our team can coach or offer tools or ideas of how to better engage in missions. We want to help encourage and equip.*

**Observe as our team coaches churches and practice using the tools available to churches.** *The goal here is to learn the coaching process well, so we can serve in this capacity as soon as there is opportunity to do so.*

**Building relationships with Thais and other diaspora.** *Although our main focus is building skills for our work with the US Engagement team, Cory has continued to study Thai with a local Thai pastor friend and we enjoyed hosting a Chinese university student over Thanksgiving. The goal here is to build relationships and prayerfully discern how God leads and how we can serve.*

*Arrive) that already exist so we can direct churches with a desire to serve people from other cultures in their own backyard.*

**Connecting with our global workers, initiative leaders and being part of monthly prayer calls.** *The goal here is to build on our existing connections and get to know Converge's various global teams well, while also prioritizing prayer. We want to be excellent at representing and advocating for missionaries and initiatives as we connect with churches in the discernment process of partnership.*

**Return Visit to Thailand for our kids.** *When we left Thailand in July 2024, we didn't know our family wouldn't be returning. The goal here would be to allow our kids some reconnection with beloved friends and experiences as well as some good goodbyes...or see ya later.*



*Photo with the facilitator team and lunch with Pastor Ohm and P'Jin*

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## Things we're thankful for

**Our kids:** We are so proud of how our girls have grown and stayed strong through the ups and downs of 2024–2025. Your prayers for them are evident in the beautiful ways God is shaping their lives—praise Him!

**You:** Whether through prayer, encouragement, or financial support, you've inspired a deeper trust in God in our family. We are so grateful for you.

**Increased support:** We've been praying for God to provide the remaining support we need, and in 2025 He answered through a



church partner and several individuals. We are getting closer to our goal now at 90%!

**Our Thai friends:** Over Christmas break, we spent a special time with a local Thai pastor, Ohm, and his wife, Jin. Sharing favorite Thai foods and memories of Thailand reminded us of the love God has grown in our hearts for the Thai people and culture.

**Our church:** We've begun plugging into Catalyst Church in Roseville. With an amazing small group and new friendships, we are already seeing ways God could increase our capacity to serve in this community.

**Our teams:** Both our own ministry team and the Converge Mobilization Team have been welcoming, patient with questions, and ready to help us connect. We feel blessed to serve alongside such a generous and supportive group of people.