

*Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing;  
It finds an echo in my soul—  
How can I keep from singing?*

— *“How Can I Keep From Singing” (Hymn)*

As the year draws to a close, I’ve found myself reflecting on just how much has shifted—both personally and in my work with Sacred Road Ministries. It’s been a year marked by transition, stretching, and meaningful growth. While much of it has unfolded quietly, it has shaped the way I approach my work, my faith, and my sense of hope for what’s ahead. I’m deeply grateful for the ways this community and this work have continued to shape and steady me. This year has deepened my sense of calling in unexpected ways, and I remain thankful for the opportunity to serve as Communications Coordinator and Worship Director. Even in this season of change, I’ve seen how God’s faithfulness continues to refine and anchor us.

One meaningful transition in my work with Sacred Road this year has been my involvement with our Discipleship Group Program, also known as “D-Groups.” From the beginning, the heart of Sacred Road has been clear: share the Gospel, make disciples, and equip the saints for ministry. D-Groups are one of the central ways we live out that mission, intentionally engaging all three of these steps.

We currently have about 25 youth participating in D-Groups, led by full-time staff—male staff with the boys and female staff with the girls. Beginning in September, I was invited to step into a leadership role in one of these groups. I’ve been partnering with Tionna, our Children’s Ministry Director, to help lead the 6th grade girls D-Group, and it has been such a joy.

One of my primary responsibilities as a leader is planning and teaching our weekly lessons. I chose to use a children’s book I already had at home for my son, Judah—a simple counting primer that introduces foundational biblical truths. Each week, we work through one of these “Bible basics,” moving from “1 God” to “10 Commandments,” grounding each concept in Scripture through verses, stories, and discussion. It has been a meaningful way to help lay a strong foundation for these girls as they grow in their understanding of who God is.

I feel honored and humbled to be part of this group and to witness these girls growing in their faith. Adding D-Group to my weekly rhythm has been a true gift. Please pray for our D-Group as we continue to build relationships and disciple these girls. Pray for wisdom, diligence, and patience for Tionna and me as leaders, and for the Lord to be at work in each of the girls’ hearts and lives.

As the year came to a close, I was reminded again of God’s steady faithfulness in the life of our church. On the final Sunday of the year, I stood at the front leading worship and looked out to see tears on many faces—some stories I know well, others I can only sense. This has been a year marked by grief for many in our community: unwanted diagnoses, deep losses, and funerals that

came far too often. Singing together in that space has been a profound gift. Leading our church in song has upheld me personally, reminding me again and again of God's promises. Later that same morning, I watched with our church family as my dad baptized Brianne Tsavatewa. We were both in tears as he spoke of God's covenant and His faithfulness to keep His word, standing in the quiet assurance that God is who He says He is. I am deeply grateful—to God, to this church family, and to everyone who has partnered with Sacred Road Ministries this year. We enter 2026 held by a faithful, covenant-keeping God.

With gratitude,  
Ann Marie