

Dearest Friends and Family,

Oh, what a year it has been! The four of us are so thankful to have you and yours walking alongside us in our shared joys and grievances of this past year. As we enter into this season of Advent, our hearts continue to feel all the more longing for our Lord Jesus to return and finish making all things new. We wait expectantly for the promise of His return, but till then, we



rejoice in the fellowship we have with Him *today!* Our weary souls find rest in the comfort that He is Emmanuel, and has stayed true to being “God with us” in every significant moment that 2025 held. We could not have made it through any of the seasons on the mission field without His steadfastness, His faithfulness, His love, His peace and His provision carrying us through. Having *you* in our corner is a testament to each of these attributes/truths about God showing up in our lives. Throughout the last year, we have witnessed His steadfastness and faithfulness when we began the new year at our previous home– the ministry’s house. We practiced hospitality in full January-May in that home, and were blessed to have so many friends, family and supporters walk through those doors, eat at our table, fellowship in the family room, and find rest in the bed(s) we offered at night. We recognize His great love, peace and provision for us amidst the latter half of this year, as well.

After losing our home, due the house-fire, He more firmly established a strong community of support from you, our immediate church family and our friends.

Our prayer for you and yours, is that you experience God’s closeness as you enter into this Christmas season alongside us! Oh, what hope there is, that our personal seasons of winter don’t get to write our stories! Each of us has God as the author! And truly, I pray that truth gives your own heavy laden Spirit rest too. May this Christmas season gift you with moments of joy, hope, peace and love as we get closer to the day of celebrating Christ’s birth! He doesn’t leave us in the cold, wet muck of winter. He entered into it with us, when He came into our world as a helpless babe. Oh, what a gift, Emmanuel is to you and to me! May you experience His presence being ever-nigh to you!

As we close out this new year, we are so thankful for the ways that God has been faithful to us! Here are some tangible experiences we are praising God for: • The beginning of 2025, started with us hosting a well-known family from the Yakama Reservation in our ministry home. They lived in the space below us, from November-Late January. During those few months, they came over to eat dinner with us a few times. Their friendship with our Church family has always been a blessing, and having them be a part of our home for a few months was sweet!

- The Native young adults have grown so much over the last year! They’ve begun taking more initiative in growing closer to the Lord and learning more about God. One

significant way they've done this is by starting their own Bible Study group.

- Kealen was able to take some members of our youth group on more outdoor adventures. Seeing them work together as they rock climb, walk on hikes or go on rafting adventures has been a highlight of his year, too.
- We moved into a new home on September 1st! We enjoyed 2 weeks here, assembling furniture and setting it up, before traveling to Colorado to get some rest and counsel with the folks who host Mission Lyfe. What a restful and encouraging time that was for our family! We stayed in a log cabin for a little over 3 weeks and got wise counsel—debriefing the last several years of being on the mission field.
- We are currently renting a home in Yakima. Though it's a farther drive from the church, the home God placed us in, is in a safer part of Yakima. We live on a dead-end street, so we know the majority of people who enter into our neighborhood, making it a safer place to raise our kids for a while. Living here, we get a break from worrying about some of the "normal" things we've become accustomed to worrying about on the reservation (i.e. stray dogs, random folks walking/working near our home, etc.). We're able to catch a breath in that regard, and enjoy partaking in some old and new household rhythms with more ease (daily walks outside, trips to the library, etc.).



Amidst the praises, we also have several prayer

requests, and ways that you can tangibly bless our little family too! ● Each new season we've entered into after the fire comes with a weight of grief, missing the things that held memories of family members, close friends and fellowship, etc. This season, I'm missing my old Advent study (we're trying out a new one, this year), and our home-made Christmas decorations, to name a few. We'll be feeling the weight of our losses with each new season for the next few years—from new holidays, to special events, or future seasons of growing the family—each one will be experienced with such joy, but also sadness and the weight of slowly rebuilding and recreating.

- Since May, Kealen has been in 3 car accidents. None of them have been his fault. The first one happened about 2 weeks before losing our home, the second happened in early July, and the third just happened in the second week of November. The last one was caused by a drunk driver. A pick-up spun, and hit the drivers door and back passenger

door of our minivan. Thankfully, he was driving our larger car—our minivan, so he walked away mostly un-injured— it just stirred up some back-pain Kealen had from years ago. The downside is that our minivan was totaled, so we're in the market for a new (used) family vehicle.

- As we've been re-creating a sense of "home" in our new place, we have been working on a few registries, too. Some things are practical, and some things are for fun. Most things resemble what we had before, and fit within the theme of enjoying community, and inviting people into our home. If you'd like to contribute to our time of re-creating, here are the registries:

- We have a registry on **Amazon**. You can find it, by searching for either of our names (Emily Ann Farris, or Kealen Farris). The registry is titled "HouseWarming". Look for **Emily Ann and Kealen Farris in Yakima**.

- We have another registry with **Target**.

Similarly, you can type in either one of our names, and it comes up with **Emily Ann and Kealen Farris in Yakima**.



One of the most impactful prayers for Emily Ann this year has been found in Daniel 2:19-23. Reading Daniel's prayer aloud over the last few months has been an encouragement to me, and I hope it may bring you encouragement, too.

John 1:4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome[a] it.

May the Lord meet you, too in this season you're in, and remind you that whatever darkness you're facing, His light shines through brighter still!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You and Yours,

-Kealen, Emily Ann, Jack and Mable Farris