

“GOD WITH US” AS PARENTS AND A FAMILY



When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. – Matthew 1:24–25

Over this past year, our lives and ministry have entered a beautiful new season. We stepped into parenthood and became a family of three when our son, Hezekiah “Kai” John, was born on December 23, 2024. Last year we reflected on Mary and Joseph’s journey as they awaited the birth of Jesus; this year, we found ourselves learning the joys and challenges of **raising** a child! In this new stage, we haven’t stepped away from our calling. Instead, we are discovering how to serve God and live out our mission **through** our life as parents—beginning at home and extending out into the communities to which God has called us.

We have truly enjoyed stepping into our new roles and learning to “tango” as a family of three. Although our rhythm now keeps us closer to home, the Lord has still opened doors for ministry throughout Metro Manila, around the Philippines, and even beyond.

We are deeply grateful for the support of **Queenie’s family**, who live nearby and have been an incredible help—especially on our more challenging days. They have blessed us and Kai in countless ways. In September, we were able to thank them by spending a day together at a mountain resort nearby, enjoying the pool and the scenic views. Throughout the year, we also took Queenie’s four nieces out for their birthdays, giving them quality time with Kai and reminding them how much their Aunt and Uncle love and appreciate them.

Paul’s family, though farther away, has also been a steady and faithful presence. His parents were able to visit twice (in February and August), and his brother’s family spent several weeks with us in June. His sister’s family has been just a call away and was excited to finally meet Kai when we arrived in the U.S. in late November for our current visit.

In February, we also celebrated Kai’s life with friends and family through a **Dedication Service**. And throughout the year, we carved out **moments for just the three of us**—usually with a short stay at an Airbnb in the city or a visit to museums we had never explored before.

Needless to say, it has been a joyful year watching Kai grow. (It really is true—they grow so fast!)



Ministry Life: Church Planting and Teaching

Alongside becoming parents, we continued a full year of church planting and teaching ministry with CWTP and International Ministries.

In June, we turned over our year-and-a-half **church-planting efforts in Pulungbulu, Angeles City, Pampanga** to a local church. Sadly, our newly built church structure was demolished at the end of 2024 (on the day Kai was born), which led our church partner to withdraw from the community. Even so, we were still able to pass on our children's, youth, and adult programs and Bible studies to a local congregation who is continuing the work.

Soon after completing the Pampanga church plant, we began searching for the next community God was preparing. By God's grace, we connected with **a group of believers in a community on the border of Montalban in Maly, San Mateo** who had been praying for a church to be planted. After prayer walks and community surveys, we launched the ministry there. (You can read more about this new work in our Church Planting Update.)

During this time, we also had **opportunities to minister through teaching and speaking**. We traveled twice to Iloilo for two graduation ceremonies and a conference where we shared on "How to Discern God-Given Vision as a Family and Ministry." Paul taught a doctoral course in Transformational Leadership at a local seminary in Quezon City, and Queenie spoke at CWTP Youth Camp—the same camp where she gave her life to Jesus and was baptized. We also helped baptize several youth and adults at our home church's Easter Sunrise Service at Mount Pleasant Community Church, celebrated the fourth anniversary of our newest church near a landfill in Upper Pintor, and joined the 20th anniversary celebration of the church in Jovil, where Queenie grew up and first served as a young leader.

In every ministry opportunity, in every challenge, and throughout our first year as parents, **we witnessed God's miracles and His unwavering faithfulness**. Truly, He is our Miracle Maker. Truly, He is "God with us."

Looking Ahead to 2026: How You Can Pray With Us

- **Family Life:** Pray for our family as we continue establishing our rhythms and growing together. Pray for Kai's ongoing emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual development.
- **Church Planting Ministry:** Pray for our active church plant in Maly, San Mateo, Rizal, and for our 13 other CWTP church planting teams serving throughout Metro Manila and Cebu.
- **MIT Recruitment & Leadership Institute:** Pray that the Lord will send 10–15 new missionaries for the January 2026 Missionary-in-Training program. Pray also for the launch of our second class of the CWTP Leadership Institute, which we hope to begin in February.
- **U.S. Trips:** Pray for our current U.S. trip (November 18, 2025–January 20, 2026) and for our shorter visit in July, when we will participate in the International Ministries World Mission Conference.