



Merry Christmas Friends and Family,

Chad & I hope this letter finds you well and blessed! We pray your home is filled with joy, your heart overflows with gratitude, and you feel the love of Jesus in a fresh, renewed way this Christmas. We love you, we miss you, and we are praying for you!

Do you ever wish you could poof – teleport to see everyone on your Christmas mailing list? I wish we could pause the pace of life, sit together by a crackling fire, sip hot cocoa, and swap stories from 2025. If you haven't done it yet, scroll your camera roll month-by-month – it's surprising how much we forget and how pictures can spark so much joy. We'd love to hear your highlights too – send a letter, call, or let's plan a time to reconnect. Here's a few of ours:

Family Highlights 2025

After a difficult winter of health challenges, God restored my body this spring. At the same time, He opened the door for two incredible faith journeys – returning to Guatemala to visit the school we helped launch, sharing Bibles with a new community, and stepping deeper into ministry with teens here in Fargo. Despite uncertainty, we said "yes" and God took care of the rest. Being empty nesters has been a joy, falling in love all over again. The new schedule gives us more time with family and friends. We are proud of the kind, courageous, confident women our girls are becoming.



- **Katie (19)** is thriving in Raleigh, NC – nannying, working at Michael's, and exploring beaches, trails, and mountains whenever she can. Thank goodness for FaceTime!
- **Heidi (24)** continues her nursing program at NDSCS, works at Bethany in Fargo, and enjoys discovering fun local events with friends. What a blessing to hug her often.
- **Chad** is loving learning and teaching Okinawan karate. He's growing through Bible study with new church friends, and continues his work at NDSU.



Momma Surenity & Lilliannah

Ministry Highlights

God has woven so many meaningful relationships with youth this year – but two teens left a deep imprint on my heart so I thought I'd briefly share their stories with you.

Surenity – Parent Life teen mom:

Two years ago she nervously said "yes" to an invitation to a Moorhead ALC program that changed everything. She found community, courage, hope – and Jesus. At 18, she is now working, finishing high school, raising her sweet daughter Lilliannah, and moving into her first apartment next month. I'm gathering basics for her home – if you have furniture or wish to help, please reach out. Listen to her testimony at redriveryfc.com/stories (click **Surenity**).

Sam* – Dakota HS Cooking Club:

Every fall, our teens cook a full Thanksgiving feast for the entire school – joyful chaos at its finest with 30+ students, timers dinging, flour,

Note: Names of kid's are changed for privacy purposes.

playful sass, and laughter everywhere. Every hallway is filled with the smell of honey ham, turkey & herbs, fresh bread, and apple pie. 2+ years ago, Sam arrived head down, hoodie up, hungry, and unsure how to cook anything but ramen. Over the coming months, he shared with me how home life was a mess, there was hardly any food in the house, and he felt hopeless to break the cycle. Slowly – through chopping, stirring, and lots of encouragement – he learned to cook, got a job, began budgeting, and grew confident. He buys his own groceries. He laughs. He now has hope and a compelling future. This year, Sam carved the turkey with pride.

Month by month, God provides food, volunteers, and transformation – through something as simple as a shared kitchen and a listening ear. Come join us and encourage some kids! These are just two stories – but there are many more. Real kids. Real change. Slow and steady progress. It's very rewarding. Thank you for praying for them – and for us!

Looking Ahead to 2026

We are dreaming God-sized dreams: More encouraging adults. More church partnerships. More Bibles opened around tables. More youth discovering their identity and worth in Jesus. To those who pray, give, encourage, and cheer us on – thank you. Your generosity helps feed the hungry, teach life skills, build relationships, and walk with students like Sam & Surenity as they discover they are deeply loved by God – always and forever, no matter what.

As we wrap up an incredible year and celebrate Christ's birth, I invite you to pause and ponder the "yes" the Virgin Mary said so many years ago. What might God be asking you to say "yes" to this year? If you feel led to help more teens, like young Mary or Surenity, say "yes" to God we would be absolutely honored to partner with you! Your prayers and support shape lives - and souls - for eternity.

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Thank you for believing in the mission God has placed in our hearts and for journeying with us this year. May Christ fill your home with peace, warmth, and joy this Christmas.

With love, hope and gratitude,

Natasha (Tasha) Deplazes

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