

Jarett & Dani THOREN

Hey team!

Happy New Year from the Thoren clan! It was an eventful holiday season for us here in Okinawa. Throughout the Advent season, we reflected on what an immense blessing it is to represent Christ by doing ministry in His name here on Okinawa. In addition, we were constantly reminded of what a privilege and honor it is to represent you all as the “boots on the ground” here in our ministry to the military. This ministry is just as much yours as it is ours (and above all, it is Christ’s). Ministry could not happen without you all, and we consistently thank the Lord for the opportunity to partner with you in sharing the gospel with military families here in Japan.

Our usual weekly ministries are still plugging away, and we continue to see a steady stream of new faces popping in to learn more about how to study God’s Word. Our weekly youth study just wrapped up a walk-through of 1 John, and now we are beginning a gospel deep-dive through Ephesians as a handful of newcomers have joined us in the new year.

Speaking of new faces, Dani’s Friday morning women’s study has kept on growing. She has savored the opportunity to lead 20-25 ladies through God’s Word each week. She hosted an end-of-year Christmas celebration at the Refuge Café, and over 40 ladies showed up, a testament to how many lives have been impacted in that ministry throughout the course of the year.

Through our local church, Jarett started a men’s ministry that meets every Thursday morning at 5:30 a.m. (good thing we run a coffee shop!), and it has turned into one of the sweetest times of the week for him as the group wrestles through 1 Peter. He started the group after our church’s men’s retreat, where a handful of men expressed an interest



in learning more about how to study God’s Word and lead their families spiritually. The group has blossomed into about a dozen or so regular attendees (including a couple of guys who are new to the faith/unsure of the faith), and the conversations have been so deep and rich.

BASEBALL MINISTRY CAMP RECAP

In addition to our weekly ministries, we hosted a baseball ministry camp in the first week of January, where over 30 middle and high school ballplayers got to learn more about baseball and the gospel from our dear friends Jackson and Kasey Smith. Not only that, but our friends Josh and Annie Warner from Baseball Northwest allowed us to provide free BAR testing and recruiting profiles through their

organization, an immensely generous gift for these high school ballplayers who have a hard time being “seen” out here on Okinawa. Most importantly, the Smiths walked through the gospel—and what it looks like to derive our strength in humility—with the guys and their families. On the final day, over 75 young men and their families heard the good news of Christ. It was a special weekend in so many ways, and the Lord was clearly at work. The work to connect and continue discipleship with these young men now begins!

WE HAVE THE BEST TEAM EVER!

As a follow-up to our previous newsletter, we wanted to update you guys on our end-of-year giving campaign. We presented you all with our financial needs of recouping our ministry work account (which we use to fund our weekly ministries), and you all showed up in a huge way! Thanks to your generosity in prayer and finances, we met our goal of raising \$5,000 in one-time gifts for our work account, and then some! This is just another reminder of how incredible you all are and what a blessing it is to be teammates in ministry with you. We cannot thank you enough for your willingness to participate in what the Lord is doing here on Okinawa.

FAMILY UPDATE

This past season hasn't been without its fair share of challenges, however, and we'd appreciate your prayers as we head into the new year feeling satisfied but also a little exhausted. Our family got riddled with some hefty consecutive sicknesses for a stretch of about a month and a half, and little Boe was no exception. Alongside this, our Cadence team here on the island got hit with some heavy circumstances, leading to a fair share of discouragement for us as we carried the physical, emotional, and mental burdens of sickness and sadness during the holiday season. Through it all, the Lord was faithful to provide for our needs, and we are grateful to be on the mend.

As always, we appreciate your prayers as we aim to bring glory to God in the lives of our military community here on Okinawa. We are so grateful for you all.

In Christ,
Jarett, Dani, and Boe Thoren



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