



# Shoulder 2 Shoulder

*The Cox Family*

## *End Of Year Reflections*

How is it the end of the year already? In some ways, this feels like the longest year ever, and in others, it seems like we should only be heading into February. This has been one of the most challenging years we've ever faced. It was full of sickness, trials, and unexpected difficulties. However, even in the hard moments, we've seen God's goodness through new friendships, times of celebration, and opportunities to share His love in new ways.

About a month ago, we had to have a tough conversation with one of our kids about some choices they made. We found ourselves with two options: give the punishment that was deserved, or try to respond like Jesus and extend grace. After praying about it, we chose grace. Our children are our first ministry and we hope they learn from us what it means to follow Christ and turn to Him in every situation.

Lately, our youngest has been asking a lot about Christmas. When we asked why he was so excited, he quickly answered, "Because I get gifts!" Immediately, the older two jumped in and asked, "But why do we celebrate Christmas?" Mavy thought for a second, but couldn't remember. So, the older two explained, "We celebrate Christmas because Jesus was born. We give and receive presents to remind us of the greatest gift we've ever been given... JESUS!"



That moment reminded us that the lessons we're trying to teach are sinking in. We are raising them to be disciples. We've seen our kids share about Jesus with friends on the playground and at soccer practice. They've told us how they've talked about God at school and sometimes we'll just hear them singing a worship song or quoting a verse they've memorized. They've been asking about helping me plan Bible lessons and worship songs for SEEDS (the Christian bilingual school).

Their faith is growing and it challenges us to grow too. The Bible reminds us to have childlike faith. Watching them live that out daily encourages us to keep trusting God with that same simplicity and joy.

*(Continued. . .)*

# Looking Ahead to the New Year

As we approach the start of the new year, we would love for you to join us in prayer. We've been working hard to set up the new school while navigating construction delays that have set things back quite a bit. These past weeks have been full of planning, such as sorting through curriculum, bringing on new teachers, enrolling students, and preparing our hearts and minds for what's ahead.

Our deepest prayer is that the school will reach those who need it most. That's our ultimate goal; to plant the seed of faith in students who may not otherwise have the opportunity to hear it and to help water that seed and nurture it as it grows.

Caleb's shop is starting to take shape. Thanks to generous donations, he's purchased more equipment and is getting closer to having the shop fully ready. He's been praying over the direction of this ministry and feels led to invite two or three apprentices to join him and then offer mechanic services to missionaries. It's extremely difficult to find a trustworthy mechanic here, so this will be a huge blessing. Through it, Caleb hopes not only to help missionaries continue serving their communities, but also to pour into the lives of those working alongside him as he mentors, disciples, and walks with them.



## Closing Thoughts

As we wrap up this year and look toward the next, we want to thank each of you for your continued prayers and financial support. Your generosity and encouragement make it possible for us to serve, to build, and to keep sharing the love of Jesus here. We truly couldn't do this without you.

As our ministry continues to grow, so do the needs. We are praying for additional financial partners to join us as we step into the new year, people who feel called to come alongside what God is doing here.

We're praying that you and your families have a blessed Christmas and a joyful start to the new year. May this season remind us all of the hope we have because of the greatest gift ever given... JESUS!



Love & Blessings,

*The Cox Fam  
(Caleb, Jess, Naam, Tay, and Mary)*



## Support

Thank you for partnering with **Shoulder 2 Shoulder Ministries** in seeing His Kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven! Thank you for your gifts and prayers.

To stand with us financially, you can give online at [cornerstoneinternational.org/cox/](https://cornerstoneinternational.org/cox/) or make your check out to Cornerstone Int'l, memo **Shoulder 2 Shoulder Ministries**, & mail in enclosed envelope.

  
**cornerstone**  
international

[comissions.org](https://comissions.org)  
1-800-859-4578