



2024 Year in Review

Felipe and Janelle deWaard-Silva

A glimpse at what your support made possible:

As we reflect on the past year and consider the impact we've had as the hands of Christ in our community, we often think of hands holding a cup, sharing a meal, or breaking bread. This year, we came together around the table in many ways—celebrating, remembering, and grieving. Each Sunday, we gathered for worship, sipping approximately 2,800 cups of coffee and tea. On Communion Sundays, we shared in 12 potluck meals, strengthening our bond as a community.

Our education program provided hot lunches every Friday, serving 2,040 meals to 60 children throughout the year. We also baked hundreds of pieces of cake for two weddings, three baby dedications, and one baptism. We served food through tears at two funerals and during a farewell gathering for a long-term missionary. Our staff also shared meals with the kids from the climbing team—away from home at a competition, joining hands, praying, and eating together.



Midweek small group meetings brought anticipation—wondering if we would have cabbage rolls with polenta or hot soup. And then there were the unforgettable moments of cooking on a makeshift stove in a national park, eating together on foldable benches with 110 kids and leaders, for the Fara Limite Summer Climbing Camp. Food is a powerful connector; it brings us together and nourishes us.

Jesus tells us that he is the Bread of Life and the Living Water. Throughout the many meals shared in 2024, in the climbing gym, at the church, or in the education program, we experienced some of our most meaningful moments of discipleship. These meals fostered fellowship, encouraged spiritual conversations, modeled Christ’s love, and exemplified service, generosity, and hospitality. They also opened doors to hear more about others’ lives and for evangelism. Not only were our bodies nourished, but our souls were as well. As a community, we gave thanks to God, the giver of all things, and glorified him in our eating and drinking—whether with those who know him or with those who have yet to know him. One thing we know for certain is that they were touched by him—through simple acts like offering a drink, sharing a meal, giving a hug, offering a smile, or speaking a kind word—acts that naturally happen around the table.

He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate— bringing forth food from the earth: wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread that sustains their hearts. Psalm 104:14-15

Because of your generous support and faithful prayers, we were able to purchase the plot of land beneath and around the climbing gym. This significant step allows us to expand our ministry and build for the future. Instead of continuing to invest in a rented space, we now have the opportunity to invest in something that belongs to the association. After four years of hard work and dedication toward making this vision a reality, we are thrilled to see this dream come to fruition in 2024.



Challenges of 2024

One of the biggest challenges we faced this year occurred when water leaked into the church, causing significant damage to our sanctuary. What initially seemed like a setback ended up being a blessing in disguise. With the help of many dedicated men from our congregation, we were able to completely renovate the space. They came together to spray foam the ceiling, pour concrete, and paint the walls. We also installed in-floor heating, and the combination of this upgrade with improved insulation has dramatically reduced our heating costs by half this winter, it also stopped the quick growth of mold. What started as a problem became an unexpected opportunity for improvement and for this we thank God!

Another challenge this year was dedicating the time and resources needed for leadership development and training. This is a crucial area of growth, and we hope to prioritize it fully in 2025.

Please Pray

1. Please pray for wisdom and guidance as we seek to be more visible and involved in the community of Dallas. We're praying for insight on how to be more permanently in the community and how to combine this with addressing those in our church facing unemployment.
2. Pray for the vision and direction of our new climbing gym project, and for discernment as we explore potential partnerships that align with our mission.
3. We rejoice in the growth of our church and are grateful for the expanding leadership team, which enables us to serve more effectively and bear greater fruit for God's kingdom. We continue to thank God for our dedicated and capable Romanian staff.

From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU! May you be nourished by God's love and filled with his peace,

Felipe, Janelle, Luca (8), Sofia (7), and Mila (5) Silva.