

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 6

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# Harvester

Dan & Heather Litchfield serving with Thrive Maine so all may know and live for Jesus Christ

## New Year

Happy 2026! I hope your year is off to a good start. In our Thrive meetings we are in the process of evaluating how last year's new ministry endeavors went and how to shift to be more effective. We are also praying and brainstorming new ideas for reaching the lost and meeting spiritual needs in Maine. This year, as a new event, we are offering sunset kayaking dinner dates for couples to work on issues like communication and commitment. We are hoping more non-believers will attend these day trips as well.



## Moms and Gals

“I look forward to making a time to study the Bible with my mom,” commented one teen. Another said of her walk with God, “I need to go all in.” These girls and their moms spent the weekend learning how to be true followers of Christ/how to disciple their daughters. Cozily snowed in, we played broomball, sledded, and created life timelines in the woods. In response to Dt 6:7 we practiced talking about the Word at home, out in the world, at night, and in the morning. Daughters and moms shared testimonies, made prayer boards, and turned current struggles over to the Lord together. “I have not been intentional about building into my daughter spiritually,” wept one mom; “That needs to change... We are definitely doing this again.”

## “Pray Without Ceasing” (1 Thess 5:17)

For God’s guidance in our future involvement in Patagonia as we seek to build God’s Kingdom globally

For our final family expeditions and mom’s events to bear fruit and for wisdom to know how to improve

That God will overflow through us on sabbatical, and that He will empower our team in our absence





## Patagonia: “And you will be my witnesses... to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8)

This month Dan has been in Patagonia, serving in ministry and scouting out opportunities for future Thrive missions. Dan and Adam, our Thrive director in New Mexico, partnered with a hospitality ministry in Argentina that houses, feeds, and shares the gospel with Israeli travelers. Most of these young vacationers stay for a week and are open to spiritual conversations and looking for outdoor adventures. Dan and Adam worked at the house and also took them hiking and rock climbing where they engaged in deep discussions about Jesus. They also traveled, sampling the outdoor pursuits and talking to local pastors, business owners, realtors, etc to see where, and if, Thrive might establish a similar ministry. Since Thrive began we have wanted to serve internationally, and

have been blessed to take over 100 people on mission trips over the last seven years. But more and more we see the value of committing to a location long term. Patagonia is an outdoor playground with accessible rivers, mountains, volcanoes, hot springs, perfect for outdoor ministry. Tourists visit from all over the world, particularly Israelis—an unreached people group that speaks English—that we would specifically reach out to. Chile in particular has a stable economy, and Americans can rent or own property there, which might enable us to practice hospitality and build relationships for weeks at a time with travelers, while partnering with local churches to reach neighbors. Please pray with us for faith and clarity as we seek God’s will.

### Sabbatical

**Dan and I are about to enter into a three month sabbatical from Feb 9—May 4, after 28 years of investing in others, teaching, hosting groups in our home, and leading teams. Personally, and I am afraid to admit this, I feel like I have lost some of my zeal for ministry, just at the empty nest stage when I want to invest more. Although God always sustains me, and continues to work in people’s lives in amazing ways, I am tired and feel like I am slogging uphill rather than running victoriously to battle. Am I too comfortable or self-reliant? I want to be full of faith to go anywhere God leads for the rest of my life. My understanding of sabbatical was always that one took time out for research or writing or personal development, but I have learned that a ministry sabbatical is a time of extended Sabbath, specifically for spiritual renewal, and I think that is just what we need. We intend to camp our way cross-country. If you would like updates of our spiritual and physical journey, please follow along on this blog: [fiftytoforever.com](http://fiftytoforever.com). Use the password: Forever**