Happy New Year! I hope all is well with your families and friends, and that it was a safe and sound time of reflection and hope.

After the first half of December being filled with Christmas programs at church, outreach and staff parties at the workshop, and a Christmas Eve celebration with a sweet family.. I spent a couple of days with my parents in Florida, and a little over a week with my roommate's family in Kentucky. It was great being in the cold! I crave a good winter chill like I crave Cracker Barrel...often and with much intensity. In spite of those cravings, I'm so glad to be back home in the DR!

Mercy started back to work the 8th of this month. Many times, Christmas vacation is a worrisome few weeks for those of us on staff. This has often been a time of relapse for some of our women, and even dangerous as some are more vulnerable to their abusers. But this last Sunday I looked around the church, and couldn't help but smile as I saw every one of our full time women in their seats. They were safe.

Now it's time to make this the year that they, that we, truly surrender all, and watch as God works in and through us. Allowing spiritual, mental, and emotional growth that we never thought possible.

Thank you to all who partner with me in prayer and/or through finances. Your support is allowing me to continue walking alongside women that come from the hardest and darkest of places, and show them the light, healing, and hope that comes through a personal and intimate walk with Jesus.

JANUARY 2024 PRAYER LETTER

## **ELISABETH PERDUE**

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