



May 31, 2024

Hello Family & Friends,

I Corinthians 9:19 – “For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more.”

There comes a moment when we must align our purpose with our ability to carry it through. In our case, that load is so large that it is impossible outside of the guiding hand of our Father God in the power of the Holy Spirit. As time unfolds for us, we see miracles in abundance because we watch for them.

This is Brent writing this time as I glorify Jesus Christ for the privilege of being a part of such a loving incredible community of beautiful souls that simply desire others to drink from the fountain of eternity that we have found. To taste and see that the Lord is good then to spit out this world’s system and the sin that it markets without regard for the destruction of lives it facilitates. (We are resistant to this flood of darkness.) Our motto is “Faithfully Present.”

This happens when we show up and keep showing up. This long haul in ministry is quite a challenge but giving up, or “going back” is not an option. The bridge to the life before Christ has been burned, and to us, our bodies die, and our true “self” goes to our precious Savior and King with anticipation of His return.

Shepherd Ministries has been showing up intentionally to meet new neighbors and build relationships/friendships with their RV community and beyond. I have asked thirty strong men of God that the Lord put on my heart to be a part of what we call a Band of Brothers Response team. As a disaster relief team, we meet weekly to train and equip to meet the needs of “the least of these” in our community and prepare to serve in times of disaster.

A recent disaster was right here in our RV neighborhood. Bastrop RV Park experienced tornado force winds on Thursday, May 16th - early evening. Praise God nobody was injured.



Brent with Dennis who found his storage shed was wrapped by a metal carport that went airborne from 3 lots over.

Laura & I experienced the mighty wind while in our RV, it lifted one of our slide-outs and shook the RV as debris was hitting the RV from every side. We stayed in our bedroom which is at the cone of our RV and waited, there was nowhere to go. It happened so fast.

Once the storm passed (around 15 minutes) we stepped outside to see trees and branches on the ground, as well as carports uprooted. We decided to get in the truck and drive around the RV park to see if there were any neighbors in need. Later that evening we took food to a few of the neighbors we encountered that had damage to their property. We have plans to return and visit with our neighbors and perform CISM (critical incident stress management) to help with the healing process.

On a lighter note, on Saturday, May 11th, Laura orchestrated an event, a Baccalaureate for the graduating Class of 2024 High School Seniors hosted by the Bastrop Christian Ministerial Alliance (BCMA). Laura met with the High School Coach Miss Trejo (FCA Sponsor) of Cedar Creek High School, and the Assistant Principal of Bastrop High School Ms. Chapin, to get students involved to perform at the event since the baccalaureate ceremony is a student run event.



From right to left - Elsa, Cindy, Tina, Leslie, Laura, Lorena, & Yasmin all worked hard and created a festive atmosphere for the Seniors.

Laura also had help from her friends to decorate the Performing Arts Center and then to serve refreshments after the event which was provided by Bastrop's First National Bank. Many sponsors came together to provide a gift for each student that attended. We were happy to see the turn out and grateful for Pastor Jeremy Story who presented the message and Pastor Ty McDonald for the closing prayer.

Other faithfully present news – Laura and I will soon be baptizing down at the Colorado river, a woman named Sharon and her two grandchildren. Sharon is someone we have been ministering to since October 2019. She lived alone in an RV at the Cedar Valley RV Park and has health issues. We always checked up on her to make sure she was doing okay and to this day we still have a connection.

A few months ago, Sharon called to tell us her son (age 37) had passed away unexpectedly. We consoled her over the phone and later we stopped by and brought her a dinner plate to remind her she was not alone. A few weeks later we got a call from Sharon, after a long wait, her name came up for government assistant housing. Living in an RV, she had no furniture, so Shepherd Ministries purchased furniture from Redeemed Treasures (a thrift store that funds the ministry Bastrop Hope House, a recovery for women from addiction). My friend Jarrett and I were able to transport and move all the furniture into Sharon's new home. We gave all the glory to Jesus and Sharon sees His hand on her now. Please pray with us for healing for Sharon and growth in her relationship with her Savior, Jesus.

One person we have been trying to meet is Mike. He is our neighbor across the street from our RV. One day, Mike came out of his RV to move his truck so the tree trimmers could do work near his RV. I was excited to finally meet Mike. What a God send that connection was! Mike is disabled with back and hip issues – he moves slow. He had only been out to the grocery store and sometimes out fishing, since covid. He opened to me quickly, and we discussed his concerns about his family and the lack of relationship he has with them. He had been alone for a long time.

He had been church hurt in the past, but when I invited him to attend the Heirs of Grace men's group, he was eager to go. Mike was able to speak to some of the men there, it was good to see him open-up to others and since then, he is receiving the love of Christ from his newfound family at Heirs of Grace church.

The Lord has been showing Mike the love He has for him through the hands and feet of others. I was able to power wash the mold off the roof and exterior of his RV, set up wide stairs for entry into his RV, and the men's group bought Mike a set of running boards for his pickup to help him into his truck. God is amazing! Please pray with us for healing for Mike and that his relationship with Christ will grow stronger as well.

We love YOU, our family, and friends, and want to thank you for your love and support. Please let us know if you have specific prayer needs or know of someone that can use our help. We love what Christ can do for those in need, through those that love Him.

In Faith, Hope and Love,

Chaplains Brent & Laura Jones



Me with Mike, creating him a safer entry with wider steps into his RV.

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