



## SHEPHERD MINISTRIES OF CENTRAL TEXAS

November 26, 2022

Dear Friends and Family,

Here is our last newsletter for 2022. It's a bit long, but we hope you are blessed by the stories.

We posted on our website a thank you video of Edie Foster, a widow woman in Elgin, Texas, who needed help with her roof. Here is the beautiful story to that. We received a call from Edie's friend Charlie who was trying to help her find someone to look at her roof. Brent agreed to look at Edie's roof, but when he arrived – he found more than a roof that needed repair. Edie needed a listening ear, so Brent sat and talked with her. She spoke about herself and the state of her house. She was certain that her roof was in bad shape and that it was more than anything she could afford to have repaired. Brent could see there was little hope in her spirit when he told her it did not look good.

Brent decided to call on his dad James McKinney, to get a better idea as to what can be done. James works with Ja-Mar Roofing, a business he sold to David Phillips many years ago. When James drove from Buda, Texas to look at Edie's roof, he brought along Ja-Mar Roofing's contractor, Julian Suniga, owner of Double SS Construction. They confirmed that a total roof replacement would be needed for Edie and the estimation was close to \$10,000.00

Edie was appreciative for everyone's help. Brent mentioned to Edie that the Bastrop Prayer and Healing Room was meeting that Saturday morning and that prayer could not hurt. So, Edie attended and had prayer over her circumstances. In the meantime, the Lord was at work in the hearts of men, that only He could move. About a week later, Brent got a call from James that David Phillips wanted to help Edie.

Ja-Mar Roofing reached out and donated all the materials needed to replace Edie's 2,100 sq. ft. roof. Double SS Construction offered to provide the labor for the roof replacement at a very nominal fee, so Edie could have peace among literal storms. No more leaking inside the house.... Thank you, Jesus!

Shepherd Ministries of Central Texas through your support, and others such as Heirs of Grace church, helped pay for the labor needed for Edie's new roof. Today we continue to stay in contact with Edie, and we are praying that her health be restored back to whole. The Word of God says, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27) Thank you so much for your giving and your prayers. And as always, to God be the glory! Hallelujah!

At the Cedar Valley RV Park, we came together with the owners Lucy & Bill Hargis and helped bring the RV community together for a Thanksgiving dinner on Friday, Nov. 18. We got to meet unfamiliar faces and visit with many that we still have a relationship with after living at the RV park for over 2 years. One of the attendees was our elderly friend Brian who had been fighting liver cancer but just recently diagnosed with spine cancer as well. The day before Thanksgiving he was admitted into the hospital.

I went to visit him and despite his pain he is in good spirits. While I was with Brian, Brent was at Brian's home taking care of Buster, Brian's small rat terrier dog. We love Brian, please pray with us for God to relieve his pain, heal his body, and for Brian's relationship with Jesus to grow stronger. We believe in God's miracle working power!

We have another RV park friend, "RV Bill," who is important to us. This was someone it took a long time to build a relationship with and to gain his trust. Just as Shepherd Ministries got a new roof replaced on his RV, Bill got sick and had to go to the hospital. He was diagnosed with both covid and pneumonia. At one visit to the hospital, Brent prayed with Bill for his healing, and Bill prayed his own specific request to the Lord, which surprised Brent. We believe it was his own prayer that the Lord answered that day, because the next morning we got a call from Bill, and he sounded like a new man with a clear voice. No signs of respiratory issues at all. We visited Bill last Monday, as he is now in rehab and expected to return home next week. God is good! And we know He is still in the Healing business! Amen!

Last week Brent and others from church helped cut down wood for the annual turkey cooking event that happens on Thanksgiving eve at the Travis County Expo Center in Austin, TX. Teams of people come together with their BBQ pits and cook as many turkeys as they can to help support feeding families in need for the Travis County and surrounding areas. Pastor Billy and a team of men, including Brent, cooked ninety-seven turkeys throughout the day. Then Pastor Billy cooked another fifty more turkeys the morning of Thanksgiving to serve the families in Bastrop County that signed up with Heirs of Grace church with a need for help with their holiday meal. Volunteers came together Thanksgiving morning to deliver the freshly cooked turkeys and boxes of goods to help families in need create a nice Thanksgiving feast.

Brent still goes into the Travis County State Jail weekly to minister to the prisoners through God of Hope Ministries. On Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, these men will be graduating from their dorm and will move into regular dorms where they will be tested, no doubt. Please keep these men in prayer, that they would follow Jesus no matter what circumstances tries to cause them to stumble. Brent has such hope for these men and wants the best for each one of them. Also, please pray about the new group of men that will be coming into the dorm for the God of Hope program's next season.

Brent and I are now certified Chaplains ordained through Soldiers of Christ ministries. Brent is head of the Ordination Committee which consists of four other Chaplains, who are responsible for screening prospects who desire to be chaplains. This is a huge honor for Brent and a serious responsibility for each of the members on the Ordination Committee. We are proud to be a part of an amazing team of beautiful, loving, God-fearing men and women. Check out the website at [socministries.com](http://socministries.com).

Thanks for hanging in there! There is still so much more we could write about but know that we are boots on the ground and feel blessed to help the least of these. Please keep all those mentioned above in your prayers. We love you all and are praying for you and your family too.

Also, please keep us in your prayers as we prepare for a weeklong mission trip in Honduras in mid-January, that we may remain healthy through the winter months, and that the Lord be glorified in all that we say and do. Thank you for your prayers and love. We need them.

We want to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and may the Lord bless you and your family through the Holiday Season. Merry Christmas to you all!

In Faith, Hope & Love,

*Brent & Laura Jones*



Pastor Billy using his gifts to serve others. How many turkeys can you count?



Brent & Laura loaded up and ready to deliver Thanksgiving dinners to families in need.



Laura passing out Thanksgiving meals she and Brent prepared for the RV park residents who stayed home alone.



Laura visiting Brian at the hospital bringing him a little joy with words of life!



Thanksgiving dinner gathering at the Cedar Valley RV Park. Thanks Cindy W. (waving) for being there to help.



Soldier of Christ Ministries first annual luncheon with Head Director Chaplain Breaux, Senior Chaplain Huck, and Senior Chaplain Jones.



After tearing off the old roof, it was evident Edie's roof was in desperate need of a makeover.



Picture-Perfect is the only way to describe this beautiful work of art that Double SS Construction constructed with roofing materials donated by Ja-Mar Roofing of Buda, Texas.

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