



August 20, 2023

Hello Family and Friends,

Jesus Christ said, "For you have the poor with you always, and **whenever you wish you may do them good.**" (Mark 14:7) An amazing reality put down by our risen King!

From Brent - As Laura and I minister and serve others, we find people to empower in ways that bring about a lasting change to better position them into a life lived closer to and in the presence of God. So, when I got caught getting irritated at one of "the least of these", the Holy Spirit immediately brought the above scripture to mind. This is not about our convenience or our money and resources, we are just stewards of these things to bring the attention back to God.

A solid indicator of where things are coming from in life are found in God's Word. Like through the letter James wrote, we learn that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of Lights" (James 1:17) Jesus Himself tells us that "**the thief comes to kill, steal, and destroy, BUT I have come that you may have life abundantly.**" (John 10:10)

In speaking to many people very few know their purpose for being alive or even how to determine a baseline for basic morality - what's right or wrong. Then you get to "what happens when you die?" and there are as many guesses as there are people! It's only through the good news of Jesus Christ's life, sacrificial death, His resurrection, and ascension back to Heaven that we have His peace concerning this life and the life to come.

So regardless of where someone is on their journey through this life, we are here to open the door of people's hearts and minds to the invitation God has given all people everywhere to turn from "self" and "sin" and turn to the perfect substitute in Jesus Christ as our payment for past sins.

When people get that, and know they're in the family of Father God, the new life of the heart comes alive, and we see firsthand what a great God we serve!

Every day there are miracles, heart breaks, great joy, and great sorrow. We truly are right in the middle of the human suffering that comes with getting involved, yet we are also on the front row when God splashes His glory into the human heart.



Brent was Kelly's caregiver for his major dental appt.

From Laura - Volunteering and helping other ministries are one of the things that Brent and I love to do. Bastrop has a wonderful group of different ministries trying to serve the least of these and they can't do it without the hands and feet of Jesus. We are called to be His hands and feet and when there is an opportunity and we have the time, sometimes we must make the time, we move in that direction and the Lord then directs our paths.

Last month I went to Church Under the Bridge, this is where our church - Heirs of Grace, takes one of their ministries called Hands & Feet Ministry, under the IH-35 bridge in downtown Austin and wash and pedicure the feet of the homeless. Nearly four years ago, I attempted to be a part of this ministry, but immediately felt it wasn't something for me. What was different this time? The difference was the maturity of my faith, and the strong confidence of who I am in Christ. I got to pray for many homeless that sat getting their feet some much needed TLC. We can listen to their stories and speak to them with compassion and truth about the only One that knows them better than anyone, and we pray to Him, Jesus Christ, for a relationship between Him and them that would be undeniable.

Another ministry that Heirs of Grace has started this year is taking a Sunday morning, once a month, to show love and compassion to the elderly at Silver Pines in Bastrop, TX. This home for the elderly and



Laura sharing time with Steven in the Silver Pines banquet hall.

disabled allows residents to attend an hour of visitation, artwork, and singing, in their banquet hall. They enjoy hearing the Word of God as Pastor Billy shares the Lord's message of the day. It's amazing how receptive and loving these forgotten souls can be and they cherish the time while we are there, as we do the same. One elderly man named Art spoke to me and said he liked hunting. I told him I would be back next month to share some hunting stories, but when I returned, Art was not in the banquet hall. I asked a resident nurse, and she took me to his personal room and there I spoke to Art about his hunting stories. Before I left, I asked to pray for him, and he was happy to let me and then told me how much he appreciated my visit. That touched my heart more than he'll ever know. I thanked the Lord for letting me have some time

with Art that day. I hope to see him in the banquet hall next time.

How about you? What ministry would you like to be a part of today? Is there one you tried in the past that you thought wasn't for you? Try it again, you won't know until you do. We want to challenge you to take a step of faith and to move in a direction and allow the Lord to direct your path. We know He has some wonderful plans on how your life can impact others for Jesus Christ.

We thank you for supporting us through donations, prayers, and laboring with us during this incredible time to be alive! As always, if you see a need where we might be able to help, please send them our way. We are here to help and even more so, share the gospel and love them with the love of Christ. Please continue to pray for Shepherd Ministries of Central Texas – that while we are thankful for those who donate continually, we are still in need of donations for the coming storms. We love all of you and will pray that you and your family remain safe in His loving arms. God bless you all!

In Faith, Hope & Love,

Brent & Laura Jones



Pictured Left: Brent visiting Wayne after major car accident. Please pray for full recovery for Wayne and his wife Kathleen.



Laura ready to serve at a back-to-school outreach ministry for families in need. 300 free backpacks filled with school supplies were given away.



A few of us came together to share Christ and pray over others at Pride Night on downtown's Main St. in Bastrop, TX

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