



Brianna's
Wings of Passion
FOUNDATION

October Newsletter

WHO WE ARE

We were known as Brianna's parents, but now we've become parents and friends to many. Brianna's Wings of Passion Foundation was birthed out of tragedy. Brianna was a mission pilot preparing for mission service, a scuba diver, a violinist, and photographer all at 19 years old, our only child. Her life and life plans all abruptly ended December 19, 2014, when she was hit head-on by a drowsy driver who fell asleep at the wheel. [At a young age, Brianna fell in love with aviation after reading Mission Pilot and David Gates adventures. It became her passion in her teen years—preparing, studying and training to become a pilot. Just six months earlier, she met with 'Uncle David' in a private interview to discuss possibilities of coming on with GMI in mission service.] How do parents quantify such a loss? With such potential, getting ready to 'sprout her wings' in mission aviation. We were devastated! Then began the horrendous journey of suffering and grief. Through the encouragement of friends, we set up a website and eventually a foundation to continue her legacy—Brianna was too precious to be forgotten.

Parents do not plan to bury their children. So in the early weeks and months, all we could do was tell our story. This was the way we thought to deal with this searing pain ~grief. After a number of news media segments, TV and radio interviews, (LLBN, 3ABN Dare to Dream), and church/community speaking engagements, we planned for a benefit concert, a year and half into this grueling process, in two neighboring cities, one weekend around Brianna's birthday. Why? It was with the desire to bring hope to hurting hearts--a community event geared to give support tools to parents and individuals who had experienced loss. Loss, not just prematurely from 'accidents,' but for families who had been broken apart by divorce, even suicide, or loss of loved ones by terminal illness. Through it all, we came to realize that our recovery was dependent on ministering to others. Much more detail, including videos, pictures, a page dedicated to others' losses, and many blogs expressing our struggles, can be found at our website: <https://www.briannacassidy.com/foundation>.

Brianna's Wings of Passion (BWP) Foundation has an international, regional, and community focus, originally set up to be consistent with our daughter's aim and mission. Internationally, we have supported the training of two pilots successfully, (one of which is actively flying for PAMAS), and dispatched a donated C182 airplane to Bolivia for GMI. [It has been grounded shortly after its maiden flight. The engine has been rebuilt, but still needs a propeller, and to be installed and inspected. Thus, we are waiting on funding for this to be completed.] Regionally, BWP has furthered the 'Drowsy Driving' initiative (in California) by meeting with state and local elected officials, by working with state agencies to bring public awareness through electronic signage on interstates, and through verbiage in the motor vehicle drivers handbook. On a local level, BWP has prepared materials for drowsy driving presentations in high schools, which impacts our communities.

In our next newsletter, we will share about the next saga in our grief journey and how tragedy struck again, but on a whole new level. We will also share about how God opened doors to be involved in prison ministry. For those who would like to learn more about our ministry, and support it, you can visit www.briannacassidy.com. Until next time, may our God continue to lead His people onward and upward until that perfect day.

Rod and Mary Cassidy
BWP Foundation