

November Newsletter

In our first newsletter (October issue), we shared how Brianna's Wings of Passion Foundation, and the ministry of grief God permitted us to experience, started. [For those who missed that first segment, we would encourage you to go and read it, but for convenience, I will recap.] In December 2014, we lost our precious daughter Brianna to a drowsy driver. As a pilot she was preparing for mission service. To keep her legacy going we set up a website, and had many speaking engagements, TV and radio interviews, and news media coverage the first year and half. It was during this time, we set up BWP Foundation. Then we had a benefit concert in 2016, which David Gates spoke at with other influential speakers and musicians. Not long after, BWP focused on the Drowsy Driving Initiative.



How grateful to know that God veils the future from us. It was during this time period when we were making presentations to high schoolers of the dangers of drowsy driving, holding grief seminars, and ministering to individuals in need, that tragedy struck again. But this time it was dealing with death on a community level—the destruction of our town in the historic Paradise Campfire of November 2018. This brought everything we were working on to a halt, but not just for us, but tens of thousands of lives were radically changed from that single day. This was on a whole new level of grief and trauma, mirroring the destruction all around. After months of

displacement, we were thankful for a home to return to. But what a depressing reality driving through Paradise to obtain basic services and medical care in other cities. [Those who have lived through a major disaster, whether—hurricane, major disaster, whether—hurricane, flooding, earthquake, or fire—understand what I'm talking about, especially those who remain in the area affected.] It worked on the psyche of all who remained behind beholding such carnage. The many miracle stories of how God delivered people have been shared, but it will not be until we look through the books in the kingdom that the full truth will be told. God's promises fail not, "...when thou walkest through the fire, thou shall not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee" (Isa 43:2). Many months would elapse before it would be cleaned up. Now six years later, the town is still being rebuilt, but there are or 'remnants' here and there—seared metal fences and charred vehicles—as reminders of the past devastation.



However, with any tragedy, there are long term negative consequences. Early in 2019, my dear wife, Mary, began experiencing ill symptoms which lingered and worsened as the year progressed. Due to the fire, medical professionals, especially doctors, left the area. We thus had to travel for medical care quite a distance. By December, I almost lost her in the ER due to sever loss of blood. It was discovered she had a malignant tumor with five ulcers. After much prayer, we decided the alternative medical option better for her recovery. We soon realized that what was to transpire under the covid pandemic gave light to why she is still alive.



Because of the Campfire, and then under the pandemic, we really could not continue as we had before. Schools were closed, speaking appointments stopped, everything changed. 2019 going forward brought many challenges. BWP had to reassess its mission. But as is so often the case in life, when a door closes, a window opens. Mid-2019 brought this opportunity when a jail inmate reached out to us for a Bible. For more than two years, it was just that, a jail ministry. But in the midst of the pandemic (2021), inmates in the jail were sentenced to various prisons around the State. This was the opening for what has broadened into an ever growing prison ministry which has expanded to 36 prisons in Arizona today, all by word of mouth only.

Word spread that there is a non-profit foundation who sends Bibles to inmates. Yet it's not any Bible—as an inmate family member recently shared with us, the incarcerated receive materials, cheapest in quality and price. But when she received our Bible, she was “overwhelmed and impressed beyond words.” These are good quality study Bibles we send in. BWP strives to treat others the way we would want to be treated.

Due to the Covid lockdowns, chaplains were restricted from entering prisons as before and so the inmates desired study Bibles to study on their own. Thus, our prison ministry is very unique. Though the pandemic is over, inmates still desire good quality study Bibles (typically \$50 each) along with other spiritual books and Bible lessons to every inmate requesting them. But this is not all. Besides placing orders for Bibles, packaging them when they come in, and mailing them out, there are many other hats we wear—letter writing, counselling (not just with inmates, but their family members), providing hygiene food boxes, acting as liaison with legal services, assisting inmates in school enrollment, supporting financially several inmates (men and women) on a monthly basis, assisting in their relocation to placement homes on exit, and other sundry duties.

In our next newsletter, we will share more about the prison ministry and what God has been doing, especially this year. We also have a surprise, we will share--a treat to our readers, so stay tuned. For those who would like to learn more about our ministry, and support it, you can visit <https://www.briannacassidy.com/prison-evangelism>. Until next time, may the Lord be a blessing to you in your ministry, as we look for and hasten the day of God.

Brother Rod