

March 2021 Update



Thank you for your prayers, donations, and volunteer work with us!

Life Update

January included a trip for both James and myself to Mississippi. We were able to speak at 2 different churches as well as meet a new missions pastor at a church in Biloxi. We got to reconnect with a lot of you guys and enjoy some great fellowship for those 2 weeks!

Shortly after returning, February brought Winter Storm Uri. This storm radically impacted James and myself as well as many others in our area. Both of us became displaced due to burst pipes from the storm. My apartment was flooded, and James' mom's house had pipes burst in 4 different places. One of James' dogs also became sick and died shortly after the storm. It was a difficult time for us and our families as we worked through the challenges this brought. Thankfully, we have had a great support system and many people volunteering to help.

James has now moved into a friend's extra bedroom while I have moved into the apartment we've signed on to be our home for the next year. We get to stay in the same apartment complex I've lived in for the last 3 years, but also be able to start fresh together, come June 5th. Luna is also liking her new perch, living the balcony dog life.



Within a week of moving me into the new apartment, covid hit the two of us. We are now just out of our quarantine, and are both feeling well! Thankfully, neither of us had serious symptoms... just a small fever, headaches, slightly burning sinuses, and tiredness. We are both thankful to the Lord that was the extent of it for us.

We are only two and a half months away from our wedding, and are so excited! If you haven't been able to RSVP, [HERE](https://www.theknot.com/weddingbellsaRiggins) is a link to our website, [theknot.com/weddingbellsaRiggins](https://www.theknot.com/weddingbellsaRiggins).

We are praying God uses our wedding for people who don't know our Savior to



Ministry

Even in the middle of all the craziness, God has still been at work around us.

We have gotten to share a meal with an Azerbaijani neighbor and invite our Afghan friend to an engagement party. During the days after the winter storm, I was able to sit with a Turkish neighbor for hours and share life, Scripture, and Jesus. The weather change also has brought out many more neighbors willing to sit and chat.

Please pray for continued opportunity to share with them the Good News!

We have also had 4 volunteer teams so far this year. We get to see people who have never shared the Gospel before learn how and be excited to do it! We have people returning home and using what they've learned here to share in their own apartments, schools, and neighborhoods. There are already more than 10 teams booked for the rest of this year, and we are booking more each week.

It has been absolutely amazing to see how God is moving through our Houston volunteer program, and I'm so thankful to be a part of the coordinating process. With the new apartment, James and I officially have an "office" space, and I've already had 4+ virtual meetings in here with volunteer teams since moving in!



What does a typical volunteer team trip look like?



Friday

A weekend trip begins with a short introduction to Global Gates. We then host a training session on easy to do methods in sharing the Gospel with strangers. After the training, our team takes the volunteers and models what we just taught them, so they can see it in action and try themselves.

Saturday

We use the morning and afternoon to take teams on Temple Tours. TT are where we go to other places of worship (Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, and Jain temples) and spend about an hour at three or four of them. We share about the origin of these religions and then how to transition a conversation to the Gospel. Afterwards, we do more training and modeling for the rest of the evening. Sometimes, we even have a special project like a kids club or community outreach event the volunteer team hosts.

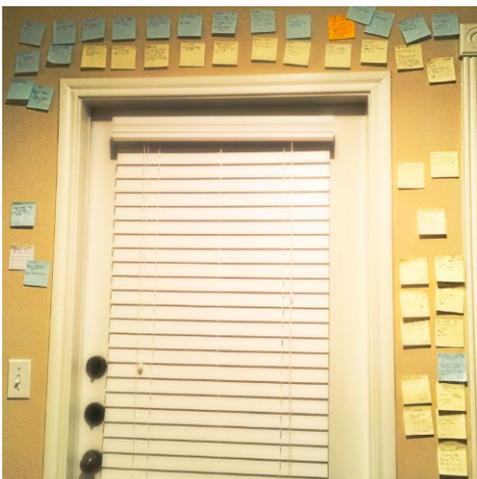
Sunday

After we share HOW to share the Gospel with people of different cultures and religions, we spend Sunday morning teach and modeling the What Now of it. We model a Discovery Bible Study for the teams so they can have a Next Step with any people who come to faith. We go out for one more modeling session after the DBS and enjoy a last meal together at lunchtime. We do follow-ups with these teams and get to watch as God moves in their lives and in the lives of their communities from which they came!

Worker Highlight



Blair is one of our interns sent here through Go Now missions associated with Texas Baptist Student Ministries. She is currently funded through May, but is hoping to stick around for the summer, after the internship. You can view her NEWSLETTERS to learn more about how the Lord is using her to reach Indian Hindus in Houston.



Prayer Requests

- our upcoming wedding
- our Afghan, Turkish, and Azerbaijani friends
- summer volunteer teams coming
- James' mom rebuilding her house from the storm
- new neighbors and opportunities to share with them
- some of our workers are traveling on mission Friday through April- pray for fruit and protection against the enemy

Winter Storm Uri and the Woman at the Well!

February Update

I pray for all of you, and sincerely hope that your homes have done well during this winter. This winter storm has been hard on my family, me, and Brittany. However, the hard experiences we will share with you have taught us well what it looks like for many who seek aid from us, the community, and the Church.



During the Winter Storm, our house lost power so my Mom and I decided to stay with friends. A couple of days later, we found out from a Facebook community post that our house was flooding. Above are some of the areas of damage. Furthermore, Brittany's apartment was flooded the day before our home was hit. Neither one of us knew that those nights would be our last in our respective homes. Since then we have both moved into different living situations. Brittany has gone ahead and moved into the apartment that we will live in once we are married (WHOOOP WHOOOP!) and I have moved in with my new roommate, Ben, in a strategic complex in Alief. What makes this Apartment Complex strategic is that it is host to a lot of muslims from Bangladesh. During the winter storm, these neighbors were without water and I was able to distribute water to them during a time of need. (see photo below)



WE HAVE COVID!



3 Weeks after the water distribution - last Sunday - Brittany and I both were diagnosed with COVID-19. This means that I will not be going to Dubai later this month. Instead I will spend my quarantine researching Discipleship Making Movements and Church Planting Movements. Furthermore, Brittany and I will be planning our wedding and working through the insurance process for our former homes. Thank you all for