

Things are moving!

On Sunday, November 7th, we leave for Brittany's WorldVenture interview. While in Denver, we will also be staying for her onboarding orientation. This will be an excellent opportunity for her to learn the organization's ins and outs. After our week in Denver, we will catch a flight straight to Florida for First Baptist Church Cape Coral's annual missions conference!



In this season of waiting, I've been praying. Praying for God to show me how I can minister here in Houston in a way that prepares me for service overseas. Most recently, these opportunities have been through ends of the earth tours and evangelism/discipleship training. This past month, I was able to take over 20 to the local Buddhist Watt, Hind Temple, and Sikh Gurdwara. While there, I gave them a tour of each temple, taught them the beliefs of these religions, and most importantly, explained how we can bridge them to the gospel. Next, I'll be learning the most challenging tour to give. The Mosque. Please be praying for me as I put in several hours preparing to train others to share Jesus with Muslims.



Online Trainings!

Looking to be equipped to share the gospel with others? Inquire about getting trained today! reply back to this email to set up an appointment.

Stolen Catalytic Converter

Thats right! while on their temple tour, this team had their catalytic converter stolen! first for everything. Fortunately they were able to get it replaced on the same day.

WE GOT MARRIED!



Thank you all so much for your support in our marriage by being involved with our big day. Our mission was clear and our guest of honor felt engaged. Thank you for partnering with Brittany and I as we continue to grow as doers of the word. We are looking forward to seeing all of you again throughout the second half of the year as we travel throughout Texas, Iowa, Mississippi, Colorado, and Florida.



Ty

When invited to help with a team coming to Houston, I try to be as involved as possible. Sometimes, this is lecturing or modeling, and other times it's observing and looking for an opportunity to speak life into someone. When the team of college students from Mississippi State University (MSU) - a recent championship school, my wife would have you know - came to town, I played both parts. During lunches, dinners, running errands, and in between the lectures, I got to know Ty.

I usually start by attempting to get to know as many of the team members as possible. I try to sit in the middle of teams and ask as many questions about the members as possible to get to know them. In this case, Ty was the first one I could get any form of conversation with during the first dinner. During lunch the next day, we started talking about things that really mattered to him.

That lunch conversation on the first day (covering things from Ty's past and struggles with living out his faith) continued throughout the week as we kept having meals. I would ask the team lead if I could have him come with me to run errands for the ministry they were doing. I continued to counsel him through his challenges. When I didn't know how best to advise him, I would - with his consent - ask for insight and wisdom from my own mentor, counselor. As the week went on, The Holy Spirit made His way to us known in a single day.



After the team visited the Mosque to understand better what Islam teaches, they went to an Afghan restaurant to experience the culture differently. While there, some of the team members - including Ty - got ahold of a pamphlet aiming to disprove the Trinity. During dinner that night, Ty brought this to my attention, and I asked one of the other boys to fetch the pamphlet for me so we could go through it.

I started by listening to The Holy Spirit to teach Ty. Before I knew it, a handful of students stood around me to listen.



We continued the conversation on the way home from dinner and at the apartment that night. Once there, we got to the portion of the pamphlet attempting to use scripture to disprove the Trinity. The first verse was Luke 22:42

“...Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

Ty exclaimed, “What?! It’s like they don’t even understand what the verse is trying to say,” I replied, “what do you think the verse is trying to say?” Ty said, “the verse is showing that Jesus is going to die.” I replied once more, “Why does Jesus die?” Ty answered, “Jesus died to save people from their sins.” Again I ask, “why does Jesus die to save people from their sins?” Ty pauses.

After talking to his dad and speaking to his pastor, we decided that I would baptize Ty the next day. Ty asked me if inviting unsaved people to the baptism would stir up the opportunity to share the gospel. So, after informing him of the ministry of John the Baptizer, we shared in the neighborhood and invited several neighbors to come to the pool for his baptism. Our Muslim neighbors came, and Ty got to have a one-on-one conversation with the Father of the household about the importance of trusting in Jesus for salvation and how the Trinity is paramount to our faith.

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.

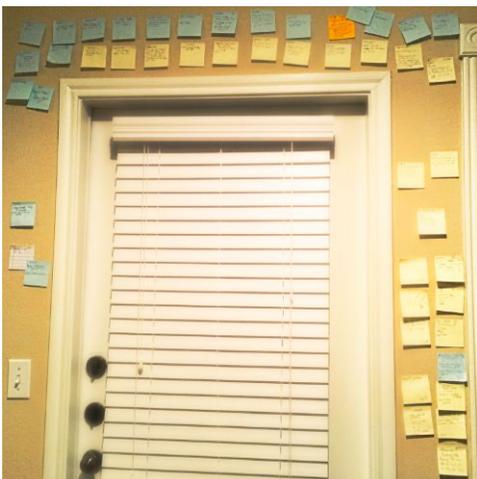
Sunday

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