



## October 2023 Update



### Family Update

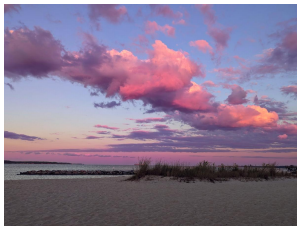
It has been a busy several months since our last update and I apologize on this delay. It feels like yesterday that the school year just started yet the first quarter just came to a close this past week. The girls are growing fast and we are enjoying this stage we are in!!



Alyssa is in the 8th grade and is taking charge in her studies. She enjoyed playing softball this summer and has improved her game over the last several years. She enjoys going out looking for places to take pictures to enter into the FABA contest each year. Alyssa is still enjoying taking clarinet lessons and playing her clarinet. She is now showing Anna things she has learned from lessons and class on her clarinet. Alyssa enjoys time with her friends and family.

Anna is in the 5th grade and has been growing leaps and bounds over the last couple of years. This year Anna began band and is following in her sister's footsteps playing the clarinet. Anna enjoys all things girly and spending time together as a family. Anna also enjoyed playing softball this summer and can't wait to play again next year.

Alex and Ava are in 2nd grade which is hard to believe and keeping us on our toes. They are enjoying school and are learning lots. They too loved playing softball and can't wait to play again next season. They love being with their friends and spending time as a family playing games.



We just returned home from being away at a missions' conference in Virginia for 12 days (including travel time/conference). On the way to the conference, we were able to show the kids some amazing sites in Waashington DC in the short time (5 hours) we had there before heading south. We are grateful for the time we got to spend there especially since there has been lots of protests since we were there. We are grateful for safety while walking the streets of such a busy city with the girls. We were able to show the girls Arlington National Cemetary and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Jefferson Monument, Washington Monument, the White House, World War II Memorial, Capital Hill and the Lincoln Monument. I'm so glad we took the time to show the girls the history of our country and how it was founded despite how the country seems to be currently. While at the Mission's Conference we were able to spend more time together as a family in between scheduled events and hanging with other missionary families. We enjoyed the time of refreshment as a family and making new friends and reconnecting with "old" friends that we met several years ago when we were last there. On Saturday, we didn't have any scheduled events so we took the girls to see Yorktown and the American Revolution Museum. This was fascinating to see and show the girls as they are studying this topic in school currently (well two of the girls anyways).



## MASH Ministries Update

Ministry has been busy and steady from support groups to the golf outing to planning future events to putting together silent auction baskets. MASH recently hosted our 3rd annual golf classic. We had one more group that played than we had last year. The weather was perfect for the event and we enjoyed sharing what MASH Ministries is doing and our mission with the golfers. We are thankful for new golfers that joined us this year as well as all the sponsors that help make this event possible.

The support groups have been growing and we are grateful for the



increase in attendees. Paul has been training those in attendance to lead the group even if he is unable to make it. This way there is consistency for the attendees and not a stop and go feeling. The groups have been studying through the curriculum that Paul has written and or writing. Paul has seen growth in the individuals that have been attending and breakthroughs of struggles that they may be going through.



While we were at a missions' conference in VA, several people approached Paul for starting another support group in their area. We are not sure if this will be just one group or if multiple groups will be started. Pray as Paul will begin working with these individuals and training them to lead these groups and how to reach out to others to join their group.



We were privileged to participate in a one-of-a-kind mission's conference for 8 days at the beginning of the month. We were able to connect with other missionaries and learn about the different fields that they are headed towards or are currently there. The fellowship was great for the adults as well as the other missionary kids. There was a special bond that was formed with the kids each day. We also had the opportunity to lead children's church one night, open the service in prayer, share our ministry and give an update of what has been happening in the ministry as well as preach and present our ministry to other local churches at a pastor's fellowship. While we were at the conference, we were fed well each day by different families within the church, loved on by the church family each day, able to stay with a family in the church and get to know them, participate in an international dinner, participate in a forum, and a day at the zoo together. One day, the ladies got to go shopping together and have lunch together. The two Sundays we were there, we either went out to eat with a family or went to someone's home. It was such a neat week, making new friends, and reconnecting with friends we met years ago. One special moment was seeing a retired police officer talking with Paul and sharing challenges that he had faced. Before we even left, he had purchased Paul's book, read it cover to cover, and decided that he wants to help others as well who are facing or have faced similar struggles. With the ministry that we have, we have never been to a church with that many men/women in the military or have served in the military as well as first responders.



We are preparing for our 4th gala on November 17th at our corporate sponsors office. We are looking forward to a fun filled night sharing with our guests and sponsors all about MASH and our mission. There will also be a silent auction that will have some fun themed baskets and experiences to purchase.



Another event that we started last year was making snack baskets





to take to the local police and fire departments within our county. We will be putting this together again this year right after the first of the year to show them that they are loved and that we appreciate all that they do to protect our cities. This gives people within our communities an opportunity to back our first responders.



Because of the type of work that we do, it can be a challenge for our kids to be able to get involved. We have found a way for them to get involved. In the military, challenge coins are handed out. We have had a challenge coin made with our logo on it that we can hand out to veterans, first responders, and current military officials. Anytime we are out and about, our kids ask us for a coin to hand out and thank these veterans and first responders for their service. By handing out these coins, the doors are opened to be able minister to veterans and first responders who may be more apt to be closed off to others. Pray that this opportunity opens more doors to talk with our first responders and veterans.



Paul had the opportunity to sit and record a podcast with one of our sponsors about our ministry, support groups, Paul's time in Iraq, and Post Traumatic Stress. Here is a link to listen/watch the podcast.



[https://fb.watch/nNk\\_3IWABj/?mibextid=ZbWKwL](https://fb.watch/nNk_3IWABj/?mibextid=ZbWKwL)



For the full version, please visit this link:

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=shared&fbclid=IwAR05R5n3an\\_tRmzPMT1yUcN801CGSu0dsiLOWtPNNjKPI1CRyV79LbiVJw&v=TWa\\_Ih7L4do](https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=shared&fbclid=IwAR05R5n3an_tRmzPMT1yUcN801CGSu0dsiLOWtPNNjKPI1CRyV79LbiVJw&v=TWa_Ih7L4do)

Thank you again for your continued support both by prayers and financially. We appreciate all you do for our ministry.

Paul, Sarah, Alyssa, Anna, Alex and Ava Phelps

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