



September 2024 MASH Ministries Update

MASH Ministries hosted its annual Golf Classic on August 27th at Woodwind Golf Course in Westfield. While it was the hottest day of the year, the Golf Classic was a successful event despite losing our top sponsor one week before the event. We had this company as our top sponsor since early 2020. Pray with us as we look to secure a new sponsor for our events. The money raised at these events allows the support groups to run at little to no cost, allows MASH Ministries to show appreciation through the snack drive to our First Responders, speaking engagements throughout the year, and other meetings with those struggling with Post-Traumatic Stress.

Support groups continue to grow and for that we are grateful. We have a new support group that has recently started. This support group also provides a meal for those that attend. Our other support groups are doing well. Paul has been working with several that are struggling with suicide. These individuals are now seeking the hope which can only be found in Christ alone.

Well August 19th started a new normal for the next couple of years. August 19th marks the beginning of a new chapter that will keep us busy juggling schedules, projects, support groups and speaking schedules etc. With Paul being a community chaplain and having a limited amount of training, he felt it was best to go back to school to further study chaplaincy. So now he is halfway through this semester of his Chaplaincy certificate (which will be finished by Christmas) that will then transfer in the Doctorate of Chaplaincy program come January. Part of our responsibility as chaplains is to receive further training. This doctorate and certificate will provide the start of this training so we are better equipped as a chaplain. Making this decision to go back for further education was a step of faith. We knew it needed to be done and are asking for your help in this endeavor. Each semester costs us \$3,400 out of our pocket. Would you consider help offset this cost so that Paul can be further equipped to handle the needs and challenges of a chaplain in a world where crisis is so prevalent?

Paul was also asked recently to be a point of contact for a local agency if their officers and first responders are in a time of crisis and needing help. They contacted Paul because we are not connected to any specific agency. This department didn't want to use their own chaplains because they are connected to their department and were concerned they may lose their job.

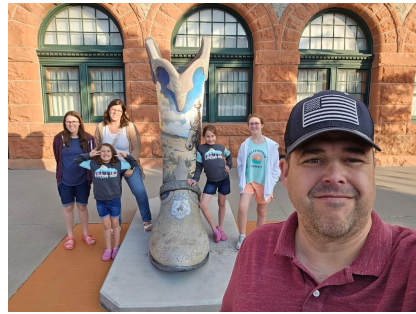
While ministry is keeping us busy, so is family life. The girls continue to keep us on our toes. Alyssa is now a freshman in high school and has a full class load with Geometry, ICP (a chemistry/physics course), Spanish I and Health to name a few. She is on her fourth year of clarinet lessons and is enjoying learning. She still loves photography and is excited to go find places to explore and learn how to capture those moments with her camera. Anna is now in her last year of elementary school and will soon join her sister in the high school wing and youth group. She has also started taking clarinet lessons and enjoys having her sister to help her at home. Anna is also picking up a love for photography. She and Alyssa enjoyed capturing some special moments while in Colorado this summer for Paul's chaplain training. Anna is still struggling with growing pains and we are praying the pain will subside. Alex and Ava are now in the third grade. They are trying to keep up with their older sisters. Both girls are enjoying school and learning new things. Ava has now begun the orthodontic journey. In a couple short weeks, she will have her first round of braces. She is supposed to have some oral surgery sometime before Christmas. Pray that we will make the right choice regarding this matter.



Patriot's Day: Remembering 9/11--the day that changed the path of our country and my future

The attack on the United States 23 years has changed America, our mindset, the way we travel, our military, the world, and our future. September 11th, 2001 was a steppingstone to where we are today. In 2000 (the spring semester of school), Paul had just switched from active duty in the military to the National Guard with the anticipation of completing his undergraduate degree. Little did he know what would lie ahead as far as his military career, his school, and the future. Because of the attacks on American soil on 9-11, Paul was called up within a month to begin training for a Middle East deployment. The events of this long deployment and training have helped shape our ministry focus today. This deployment showed us the need for helping others struggling with Post-Traumatic Stress.







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