



## **MAY 2025 MASH Ministries Update and Family News**

Dear Ministry Supporters,

We apologize for the delay in sending out a ministry update until now. It has been a busy several months with ministry, schoolwork, and family needs. We are grateful for your prayers and messages we receive.

Paul continues to hold support groups once a week at a local coffee shop. We are grateful for the consistency in those who attend and the attendees inviting others to join.

Paul continues to excel at his coursework in the doctoral of ministry program focusing on chaplaincy. He has three more classes and is then compiling his final paper together for his portfolio. He is set to graduate with his Doctorate in May 2026. This program has challenged Paul and given him ideas on how to expand our ministry to our community of first responders. He is, however, taking the summer off from his studies due to his scholarship not covering summer classes. We are very grateful to have found a scholarship that covers a doctoral program.

At the beginning of April, Paul was contacted to quickly put together MASH Ministries' third first responder appreciation snack drive. We are grateful for a corporate office donating all the funds necessary to purchase the food and the baskets to be distributed by their employees across the State of Indiana. Pray with us as high-ups within the corporate office were in attendance and asked us to put this snack drive together for the Madison, Wisconsin area. We were able to distribute 150 baskets throughout the state. Each basket received MASH Ministries' contact information and a brochure explaining more about MASH Ministries.

We are sad to miss our annual chaplain training this year in Wisconsin. Ministry will look different this summer. Paul is preparing to have round one of total knee replacement on June 9th. This is a military injury he sustained from 20 years in the military and during the 18 months he was in Iraq, running on no ACL. We wanted to wait longer for this procedure, but after a doctor's appointment in November 2024, we were strongly encouraged to proceed with this surgery as there is no cartilage left. Pray for a smooth procedure, minimal amount of

pain, a smooth recovery, for Sarah as she takes on caregiving, and for the girls as their summer break will look different this year. Round two of the knee replacement will take place around Christmas time.

This year has been challenging health-wise. Anna has been consistently dealing with continued growing pains (some days she has relief, and others the pain is elevated). She has also been dealing with headaches, ear pain, jaw pain, and recently, a new diagnosis of allergies to some environmental factors. The ear pain is finally under control after several months of no relief and visits to many doctors' offices, and has now shifted to her jaw. Her orthodontist made a special splint for her to alleviate some of the pressure she has been experiencing. So far, the splint has been helping, so we are thankful for that. Pray that she will adjust to these new medications for her environmental allergies (specifically grass, ragweed, and pollen). Her grass allergy is bad enough that if she even walks in the grass, she starts having reactions.

Alyssa and Ava both had to have some dental procedures done this spring. All their procedures went well, and so far they haven't had any complications from them. We are grateful for healing. Alyssa developed some tendonitis in her foot in April and ended up in a boot for about a month. Pray as it continues to heal.

Alyssa went out of her comfort zone and joined the cast for her school play in January. She and her classmates had all their lines memorized, and the Academy of Arts team came in and worked with them for a week on the set and costumes. On that Friday night, the cast performed Kingdom's Dawn and did a phenomenal job.

Alyssa continued clarinet lessons this year, and Anna joined her this year. They both learned a lot and improved in their abilities to play the clarinet. Alyssa and Anna had their recital a few weeks ago and did very well. They will pick up lessons again closer to the end of summer break in preparation for the school year.

Alex and Ava had to pick an influential person in American history, read a biography on that person, write a report, dress up like their character, and give a speech in front of their classmates, parents, and grandparents. Alex chose Amelia Earhart, and Ava chose Betty Greene. Both girls did a fabulous job and were stretched in this project.

Alyssa and Anna both competed in FABA for their school. Alyssa and her band made it to nationals. Anna and Alyssa both entered photography in the school runoffs. One of Anna's photography pieces made it to the middle school state competition and placed 1st place Superior.

During all this busyness, Sarah continued to train for her first half-marathon. Her race was in downtown Indianapolis on May 3rd, and she finished this hard but rewarding task. She was one of over 30,000 running either a 5k or a half-marathon for the Indy 500 Festival. She is currently deciding if she wants to run another half-marathon, but she will continue to run smaller distances and maybe some 5ks or a 10k.

All four girls continue to be active and involved in Kids 4 Truth and the youth group for Alyssa and now Anna. Anna, Alex, and Ava all earned gold medals for completing their books for Kids

4 Truth. Alex received 1st place and Ava 3rd place in overall points for the 3rd and 4th graders. Anna won 1st place overall in the 5th and 6th grade girls for Kids 4 Truth. Alyssa and Anna are scheduled to go to camp at the end of June. Praying both girls have a refreshing week of growth and making new friends. Alyssa is going on her first mission trip with a group from church to Michigan later this summer. Praying for a stretching week for her and her group.

Paul and Sarah Phelps





