

Dear Shamgar Family, January 9, 2021

Well, it’s been almost a year since our last newsletter and what a year it has been! In these unprecedented times with everyone being affected by this pandemic and changing lives so rapidly it really brings the Psalms to life for all of us. It reminds us where our strength, hope, refuge, protection, comfort, direction, future and healing truly lies. I honestly don’t see how those who don’t know our faithful God get through these times.

Despite Denise and I both having Covid last fall and hardly any volunteers this year because of Covid God still brought the Caretaker house for Stillwater to fruition and we were able to complete it at the end of October. We moved in last November and have just about got everything livable and workable.

On an exciting note, the ministry at Stillwater is going strong. We are seeing God’s perfect timing for the opening of Stillwater. While we knew the need was there to minister to ministers we could never had imagined how this pandemic would affect the church and especially the leadership. It’s been so hard for all leaders to know how to lead through this and unfortunately it’s no different in the church. Instead of binding together and praying for wisdom for the pastors and leaders and trusting them to seek God, everyone wants to blast them with their opinion of how they are doing it wrong and how they are going to jump ship. God help us when our church doesn’t look any different than the world.

While there were many struggling with whether to stay in ministry before Covid, that number has now doubled. We have had the privilege of being a part of Stillwater ministering to over 250 people since it opened in 2019. We truly covet your prayers for this ministry and more importantly the state of the church.

We were also able to help with a couple of the flood victims in the spring of last year in our area and will be looking at other possible Shamgar projects for widows over the next year as God opens the door and leads through this Covid issue. Our next project at Stillwater will be to build a chapel, walking trails, and some maintenance projects. We are very socially distanced here and still welcome volunteers. Just email us or give us a call if you would like to help out or just come see it and let us share more with you about this ministry you’re helping to build.

We now have 4 guest cabins open at Stillwater and YOU have been and continue to be a big part of that happening. The position we currently serve in maintaining the property, constructing, and developing the ministry of Stillwater is not a monetarily paid position. God is using you to provide for us and also helping with some of the furnishings and supplies used at Stillwater. You have been an overwhelming source of our encouragement! (Ministering to us as we minister) Not only your faithful, most appreciated financial support but your encouraging words believing in what we are doing and knowing you pray for us means more than you can know. We would love to hear from you and to know how to pray with you as well as we all journey through this pandemic and the ever changing culture in our country.

Much love and gratitude,

Rusty and Denise

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Check out Stillwater at stillwaterpastorretreat.com