September 2023

The Grapevine

I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.
John 15:5

It All Began with the Preschool

By Debi Corbella, Administrator

It is a joy to celebrate with you our 30th year! I have been blessed to be part of the BCS ministry for the past 30 years. It was in 1991 when our "office" was in the sewing room of Carl and Maureen Eastvold's home -the school's founders- where I was preparing 501(C)-3 non-profit business papers to file with the IRS. We did not have a school name or even an address at that time, but God had a plan.

The three of us visited dozens of prospective school properties and tried to give each one the best consideration. We often drove past the 12 acre cattle ranch where our current elementary/ preschool is located. It was for sale and we would lament how perfect that site would be! For over a year, the seller's price made it unreachable. In the meantime, we had gone into Escrow with the First Baptist Church in old Elk Grove proper. The yearlong process culminated in permit conditions that did not allow for more than 100 students, required an 8-foot wall around the campus, and the finding of asbestos, which made this property unreasonable to pursue.

In God's plan, the purchase of the greatly desired "perfect" property at 8324 Bradshaw Road, was initiated with a handshake deal at the kitchen table in the ranch house. This gave us the ability to open our preschool using the existing ranch house as our classroom. This same ranch house is the current preschool office building which includes the newly developed Law Enforcement Center.

There were a few start-up quirks along the way. Being a new business, banks were not convinced we could handle a small business loan. The first few years were entirely funded through the Eastvold's personal credit card stash. There was no guarantee where we would end up, but God had a plan and the adventure began!

> ***"God had a plan and the adventure began!"***

The preschool opened on July 17, 1993 with an enrollment of three students. Our teaching staff consisted of Maureen Eastvold and me for the growing number of 3 and 4-year-olds. Included in our teaching and lesson planning were answering phones, touring inquiring families, collecting tuition, creating marketing materials, and hiring new staff. Janitorial services were provided by the Eastvold children in the evenings and one of those helpful "janitors" is now the elementary principal, Kristen Hage. In those early days, parents had very little evidence of why they should entrust their children to our little country school. How many times have I heard inquiring parents say they can just feel something here? I know they have been caught by the Spirit of God in this place. Perhaps you are connected to the BCS ministry through being caught by His Spirit.

During our startup phase, Carl Eastvold was managing construction for the future. He became rather skilled at operating a tractor. We all helped lay the 8" PVC pipe 3 feet in the ground that would become our fire water source from a 40,000-gallon pool. This same pool is now enjoyed every day during the summer daycare program. A handful of us will remember walking on wooden planks laid over mud puddles to get from place to place in the rain before cement and asphalt were poured. It was rather a rugged environment with cows for neighbors and a few other ranch homes dotted nearby. You can see from the extensive development still going on in this area that ***God had a plan.***

His plan continues to unfold. The property has grown to 72 acres and enrollment to more than 1200 students. The joy of our 30th anniversary is not merely commemorating the past but is also embracing the promise of the future. We look forward to the chapters yet to be written, the lives yet to be touched, and the continued growth that lies ahead. Thank you for being an integral part of this extraordinary journey.

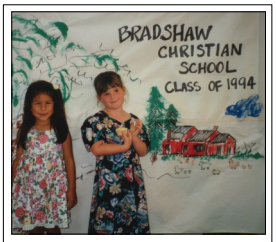
Greatly blessed,
Debi Corbella

School Founder Highlight: Debi Corbella

- Debi had no intention of working with children but God had other plans.
- Debi states: "God rescued me from myself in my early twenties."
- Daycare Director at Gloria Dei Lutheran- 1980's
- Joined the BCS founding group-1991
- BCS Preschool Director for first 7 years
- BCS Development Department Director for the next 7 years
- School Board member since 1992
- Health and Safety Team Coordinator

Debi Corbella & Maureen Eastvold
1994:The original preschool teachers

Did You Know...there was a volunteer student?



Two students of 1994!

Our school's opening day consisted of three preschool students. One stayed half of the day. The second stayed the full day. And the third was actually a volunteer student loaned by our fellowship family friends to come and be with that only child who stayed all day. Thank you to the Miller family, Brad (school board president) and Liz (staff travel program coordinator), for loaning their child, Joel. ☺

Bradshaw Family Reflections: The Sipes

Our family joined the Bradshaw Christian family in 2012 because the Christ-centered education aligned with our family values. Our children have enjoyed a diverse range of experiences including sports, academic fairs, mission trips, musicals, and more. God has been faithful to our family here at BCS. We're grateful for the strong foundation in both academics and faith that the school has provided. As our oldest becomes a senior and his siblings age out of elementary, we continue to look ahead with excitement for the opportunities and growth that Bradshaw Christian School will continue to offer our family. By Amy Sipes

Alumni Feature: Looking Forward Looking Back

Class of 2009
Alex Williams

I came to Bradshaw in 5th grade and graduated from the high school in 2009 as a part of the 3rd graduating class. Growing up here, I loved the close Christian community, the amazing teachers and coaches, and the life-long friends that I made. Some of my most memorable experiences here at Bradshaw were playing sports. I was blessed to be a part of many of the first athletic programs offered at Bradshaw Christian High School and to play under great coaches and mentors. I made many memories during my time at BCS including winning two section championships during my senior year (football and basketball). After graduation, I went to Cal Poly and received my engineering degree. After a few years of working in the engineering field, my wife and I agreed that I should follow my desire to work with young people and their athletic pursuits. This school and community have meant so much to me. I came back to work here and have been the Athletic Director and Men's Varsity Basketball Head Coach for 5 years now. Sports have always been a huge part of my life and now I am excited to be able to lead our Athletic Program. With both of my children enrolled in BCS preschool, I look forward to many years ahead as being part of the parent community. As A.D., I look forward to leading our youth in their athletic endeavors.

We're still growing! A look to the future.

Our initial property included a full-size, classic red, ranch barn, that was used by our preschool and the Eastvold family to house chickens, sheep, horses and even a few barn owls. We all loved the old barn but had to say goodbye to it due to growing classroom needs. It is a delight to see our "new" barn which is home to our FFA program that was established last year. The barn that is on the high school property was part of the land purchase several years ago. So, our new (old) barn has been refurbished to include new animal pens, a cement floor, water, and electricity enabling it to better serve our 4-H and FFA student projects.

REMINDER! The Homecoming Football game is October 13th and we invite all of our families and alumni to attend !