May 2024

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

His Faithfulness

By Melissa Bowers
High School Principal

"This is the day the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24

As I reflect over my past 20 years here at Bradshaw Christian, I am overwhelmed by the Lord's faithfulness. My late husband, Joe, and I came to Bradshaw out of obedience to the Lord, answering a call. Our children started here in Kindergarten and First Grade. Justis, our daughter graduated from BCHS in 2016, served time in the United States Army, and is now married and raising my twin grandsons. Our son, J.C., graduated in 2017, attended TorchBearers Bible School in Colorado, and is currently a supervisor in our daycare program at BCS. Through all the time that has passed, the Lord has proven that He is faithful each and every day. Through all of life's ups and downs, He has been faithful.

Joe passed away a little over four years ago. It's hard to believe it has been that long. While he was battling leukemia, he and I went back and forth to UCSF in San Francisco what feels like a million times. We would always pack a bag because we never knew what the doctor would tell us. Is this a bloodwork day? Are we staying all day for an infusion? Are we being admitted to the hospital? For how long? The Lord used those days to teach me to take one day at a time. I do not need to worry about tomorrow. I need only rejoice in THIS day that He has made because He will always meet us right where we are. He faithfully provided His peace, wisdom, and direction during some very serious and overwhelming times. No issue was too big or too scary for King Jesus.

> ***"No issue was too big or too scary for King Jesus."***

Moving forward, the Lord has continued to challenge and stretch me. I started at Bradshaw in College & Career, moved into being the Dean of Students, and now I am finishing up my fourth year as High School Principal. I so enjoy my students. In this alternate universe that is high school, I see more and more how necessary these four years are for young people. This is their time to shine, to figure out their own mind on things, to run into themselves and change. I appreciate and take very seriously the role I play. Students need guidance and direction. They won't just "figure it out." They need to hear the encouragement and the expectation from those who love them. It has been a joy to partner with our parents and guardians as we strive to create the best opportunities for our students to learn, grow, and draw closer to God.

As we wrap up the 2023-24 school year and head into summer, I pray for the safety of our students, families, and staff. I pray the Lord will continue to bless our efforts as we stand like a beacon on a hill. I pray we will continue to seek out the Lord's will and direction as we prepare for the next school year. I want to share with you Romans 12:2, the verse that was chosen by our very own Class of 2024: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." We have a huge mission at Bradshaw Christian. Lord, help us to let our light shine!

Staff Highlight: Janice Beyer, Assistant Superintendent

The Lord directed my pathway towards teaching at a very young age as I often played "School", forcing my brother and sister to be my students. Since those early days, I found that I always enjoyed guiding and working with children. I was able to express this calling on my life in many ways; as camp counselor, ski instructor, coach for a variety of sports, nanny, tutor, working with runaway youth, Sunday school assistant, all before I graduated from college.

I earned my teaching degree from UNR and was married to my husband, Mark, a couple months later. Just a few weeks after the wedding I began my first teaching job in Reno, Nevada. Knowing that we wanted to move to California and having moved 26 times in my life because my dad served in the army, I told my husband to find a place where we could put down roots. A place where we would live, work, and raise our family. We agreed it was Sacramento!

In 1998 the Lord opened the door for me to teach at BCS. I brought my two children; Lauren, who was 4, and Kevin, who was 2, and all of us joined the Bradshaw Christian community. My children basically grew up at BCS and both have since graduated high school here. BCS gave them a great foundation upon which they are building their careers and lives.

I have experienced and seen a lot of growth at BCS over the last 26 years I have served here. As BCS grew, I also stretched my boundaries into areas that I never thought or imagined I could be. I was first hired as an elementary teacher. Five years later I became the BCS daycare director, which included oversight of an on-campus, before and after/off-track program for the public, school children. Not long after that, I was called back into the classroom, but this time as a middle school teacher. In 2007, when we opened the doors of our new high school campus, I transitioned to high school math teacher. I taught for seven years in that position before taking a year off to battle cancer. When I returned the following year, it wasn't to a classroom but as the high school principal! During the years in high school, I was also able to serve as an academic advisor. The Covid pandemic caused us to make many changes to internal and external practices. That was also the time that I was called out to serve as Assistant Superintendent, which is where I am to this day.

I feel incredibly blessed that the Lord directed my path to BCS and has kept me here for the past 26 years. I truly appreciate the wonderful group of mighty men and women of God that I get to work with each day. I am grateful to be able to serve the Lord and the BCS families and students.

Did You Know...BCS has Summer Camp?

Summer Camp 2024 is just around the corner! This year, campers will take on the role of space explorers, where they will adventure "To Eternity & Beyond". Along the way, they will learn about the most important mission in the galaxy: following Jesus! The mission is full of adventure with seismic swimming, cosmic computer, out of this world snacks & crafts and shooting star sports, to name a few. Registration is open now! BCS families will find the Summer Camp Registration form in their "MyBCSFamilyPortal" under "forms to review". Community students outside of BCS may also participate. For more information and registration instructions go to: https://www.bradshawchristian.com/academics/summer-camp/

Live Today with Heaven in Mind! Come join us!

Alumni Feature: Looking Forward Looking Back

Class of 2021
Aiden Bloomstine

Being only three years out of Bradshaw Christian, I can already see the impact it has had and will continue to have on my life. I began at Bradshaw in Kindergarten, worked through middle school, and graduated as a senior – earning the "lifer" title. I am finishing my Junior year at the University of Southern California (USC), majoring in public policy and minoring in risk management. Bradshaw's impact on my life has gone far beyond what I learned there academically. It was the recognition that community is everything, giving me such an advantage as I navigate this journey of my life.

When I arrived at USC, under my parents' advice, I took the adjustment slowly. I didn't engage in many clubs or involve myself too heavily as I thought I needed the time to transition. I quickly became bored and needed extracurriculars to keep me occupied. USC has a world-class athletic department, and I thought it would be an excellent opportunity to fulfill my love of sports while providing me with an on-campus job.

Not knowing anyone in the athletic department, but valuing community and relationships, I sat in front of their

Continued on page 4

Bradshaw Family Reflections: The Viña Family

We were blessed to find Bradshaw Christian in 2017, when our daughters, Hailey, and Holly, began their BCS journey. We instantly fell in love with the welcoming staff, who demonstrated a genuine love for the children in their care. In talking with other BCS families, the consistent theme highlighted was the high level of education and love of the Christian faith. It was apparent to us that this is where our daughters would begin their educational path of learning in academics and Christ.

Over the last seven years at BCS, we have been incredibly grateful for the opportunity to actively play a role in BCS' future. Staff at BCS has regularly sought and welcomed parent feedback on ways to make BCS the best it can be for our community. We have been blessed to share our vision of a safe and diverse campus through our daily interactions and committee opportunities, such as the Campus Safety Team.

Bradshaw offers a unique opportunity, in a family-like environment, to allow our daughters to attend one school through their entire pre-college education. Hailey and Holly regularly remind us how much they love BCS and want to graduate from Bradshaw Christian. We know that God has a plan for us all and we are grateful each day that BCS is in our lives.

Hailey and Holly have already created lifelong friendships and memories at BCS and look forward to playing for the soccer and softball teams in their High School years. Thank you, Bradshaw Christian administration, for the opportunity to be a part of BCS' 30-year history via this Grapevine edition!

From our family to yours, God bless!

The Viña family

Alumni Feature (continued from page 1)

offices and introduced myself to people walking by. I wanted to build a relationship with them, face to face, form a connection, and use that as a springboard for this opportunity. I didn't want to send a random email that no one would ever respond to. Fast-forward three years later, my community has become the Athletic department. I have been the Sports Information Director for the Women's Rowing Team and the Student Assistant to the Office of Football Communications.

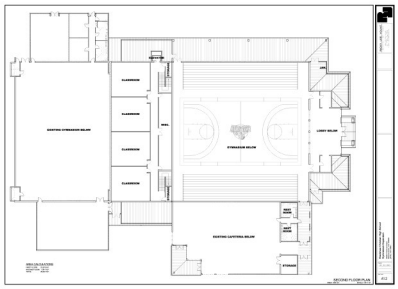
Along with working in the athletic department, I have become heavily involved in the pro-Israel movement on USC's campus. In March of 2023, I traveled to Israel to learn more about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This life-changing experience sparked another connection. I became involved with the Zionist community.

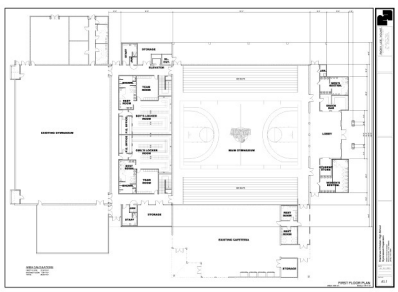
On October 7, 2023, that community was heartbroken by the attack Hamas launched on Israel, killing 1,200 Israeli civilians. On our college campus, antisemitism and anti-Israel rhetoric exploded. I began advocating for Israel through being a "Trojans for Israel" executive board member and made another trip to Israel in January of 2024.

On this trip, I saw the tragedies first hand that occurred in Israel in that October attack. I took those stories and those experiences and have brought them back to the USC campus by engaging in speaking events and organizing and leading a march on campus calling for the immediate release of Israeli hostages; "March to Bring Them Home."

When October 7th occurred, I saw the community which I have become extremely close to, hurting. The attack on Israel sent extreme amounts of pain to the Jewish and Zionist students on USC's campus. I found the courage to stand up and advocate against the dominant narrative because I learned how vital community truly is from Bradshaw Christian School.

In my immediate future, I am looking forward to traveling back to Israel in the middle of May and interning as a risk management intern with Anschutz Entertainment Group this summer. The more distant future is not certain. But, it will certainly be guided by my appreciation for community building, no matter what path I ultimately take.





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

Our campus will be expanding in the not-too-distant future! The growth in enrollment at the middle and high school makes our next building campaign more and more of a necessity. This new construction will be attached to the current high school gymnasium and MPR by adding a larger gym that will serve as the "main gym". Besides all the ancillary rooms that come with a gym, additional classrooms will be available for our academic classes to use. Join us in prayer as we consider the $7.5 million it will take to bring this next dream into reality!

REMINDER! This is our final 30th Anniversary issue of the Grapevine. To re-visit all past issues of this special edition, go to our website History page: https://www.bradshawchristian.com/about-us/history/