

The Glance

1 Corinthians 9:23, "I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings."

winter 2023

Jesus Christ and the gospel permeated every area in the life of Robin Awe. Most of you reading this article in this edition of *The Glance* are already aware of at least some of what Robin did over 40 years of serving Christ with God's Helping Hands; but in reality, what she did here was merely a vocational extension of what she did in every aspect of her life. In all of life, Robin shared the gospel — the good news of the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the payment for sin and the ultimate defeat of death. From the time of her birth in 1958, Robin, the oldest of four children born to Bob and Shirley Friedl, was surrounded by the gospel as it was taught and exemplified to her. At the tender age of 4, with her mother at hand, Robin accepted the salvation Jesus supplied for herself. No longer just head knowledge, Robin's relationship with Christ was personal. Knowing first-hand that a child could understand salvation and accept it influenced the way Robin thought of and interacted with children for the rest of her life.



When Robin was still a girl, her family moved from their life in Chicago to rural southwest Michigan, following the Lord's call to share the gospel with boys and girls.

Robin had a heart for people and cared about their needs in a way that drove her to prayer. She took the Lord at His Word when it says, "And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him." (1 John 5:14-15) Reflecting the heart of Jesus, Robin knew there was no request that was deemed "too small" for her to take before the throne of grace. She understood that, for both children and adults, even the needs that seem small are big when they are YOUR needs and God cares about them all. In all her praying however, the prayers that loomed largest in her heart were



the ones for the salvation of souls. Her loving concern for people's relationship with Christ compelled her even outside of her own comfort zone to have conversations in which the question could be asked. She was, as 1 Peter 3:15 admonishes, "prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope" that was in her, and she did it in the way prescribed — with gentleness and respect.

Being a witness for Christ blanketed the whole of Robin's life and relationships. Of course, through her work at GHH she shared Christ's love with thousands of children, but did you know that it was through her witness that her husband Jeff came to a saving knowledge of Jesus? What a gift God gave Jeff and Robin at the beginning of their relationship! After they married in 1976 the Lord began to bless them with children — 7 here on earth and 4 more with whom she is now perfectly reunited. Raising a family was more than a responsibility for Robin or even a privilege; it was her passion! She and Jeff educated their children in their home (whether that home was a house, a bus or even a pop-up camper!) for most of each of their school years, producing hard-working, successful adults that each reflect a different facet of their mother's personality. Proverbs 31 was the biblical standard of a woman that Robin strove for and verse 28 can certainly be applied to her; "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."





Here at God's Helping Hands, God's timing for Robin's home going remains a mystery. We are in a season of growth and Robin was a big part of the ministry. We feel akin, perhaps, to the way Gideon felt when preparing to battle Midean. "And the LORD said to Gideon, 'The people are still too many.'" (Judges 7:4) Too many? We would have said the opposite. But as we face the future without Robin in our midst; without Robin doing countless tasks in the office; without Robin corresponding with children in our discipleship program; without Robin's wisdom, advice and encouragement, we claim the words of 1 Samuel 14:6, "It may be that the LORD will work for us, for nothing can hinder the LORD from saving by many or by few."

Robin's life was a life framed by the gospel. She was saved by grace, through faith not of her own — it was God's gift to her — and she took the life God gave her and gave it back to Him as a continual act of gratitude and worship. God took that gift, feeble in her own strength, and used it mightily to reach more with His gospel of salvation. Thank you, Lord, for exhibiting so much of your beauty through your servant, Robin.

Join Hands With Us

Since our last *Glance* newsletter, the Lord has made tremendous strides toward the completion of the building project! In fact, EVERYTHING He prompted us to list in Phase 2, which we shared with you, has been funded and accomplished! Besides the Phase 2 goals, we were able to purchase a scissor lift and fix a roof drainage issue with a concrete pad. Now, it is time to introduce Phase 3! "How many phases will there be?", you may wonder. Good question! Although it depends somewhat on how many "pieces of the puzzle" we squeeze into each phase, our guess is that there will ultimately be 4 or 5 phases before the absolute completion of the Reach More building project. "So when will it be able to be used for it's intended purpose?" Another great question! Although part of the building is already being put to good use by housing our travel vehicles, we anticipate production use of the studio to happen within two years. Although it may seem like a long time, the period of waiting is being filled with a lot of creative planning and preparation. Ultimately, the Lord knows the timeline and we are leaving it in His hands. Here are the goals of Phase 3:

The Reach More Project



- Dividing wall between studio & vehicle area: **\$1,100**
- Insulation for dividing wall: **\$1,900**
- Spray insulation on outside wall in studio: **\$16,000**
- Lumber for studio, office & equipment room: **\$1,500**
- Mezzanine flooring: **\$2,300**
- Mezzanine stairs: **\$200**
- The total of Phase 3 project will cost \$23,000.**

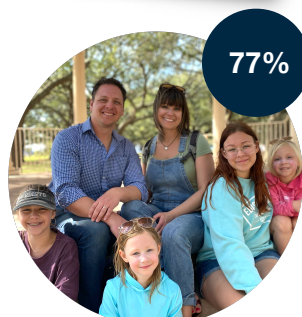
The homegoing of our beloved Robin, as well as some other dear friends of the ministry this last year, served as a reminder of the brevity of life. In the ebb and flow of life, we gain and lose supporters of this ministry, but God is always in control. But if the Lord should lead you in this way, we can help you set up Legacy Giving so that, when you are enjoying the joys of Heaven, your earthly possessions can continue to be used of the Lord through the ministry of God's Helping Hands. **If you would like to set up Legacy Giving or simply have questions on the subject, please call Juli at our office (269-628-5185) or send an email to office@ghhinc.org**

Ministry Staff Support Percentages



Jeff Awe

Still Needs:
\$515/per month



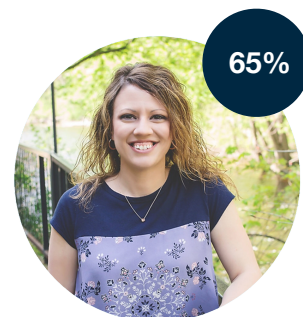
Chris & Amber Knobloch

Still Need:
\$1,185/per month



Juli Carlson

Still Needs:
\$1,039/per month



Nicole Bielawski

Still Needs:
\$1,130/per month