



ESTD 2024

RESTORING THE GARDEN

— A PLACE OF REST —

Dear Friend & Family,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. We want to share some updates and reflections from our journey, with transparency about both our challenges and triumphs. Hopefully, by this point, you have been able to visit our website and read the backstory of how we got to High Country. If you missed it, [CLICK HERE!](#)

Fun Fact: The High Country of North Carolina is a nickname for the seven counties in the state's northwestern corner that are located in the middle of the Blue Ridge Mountains, which is itself a part of the Appalachian Mountains. The Appalachian Mountains are one of Earth's oldest mountain ranges, stretching approximately 2,050 miles, sharing a geological history with mountain ranges in Europe and North Africa. This connection adds another layer of contrast and interest to the Appalachian story. The Appalachian Mountains are a complex region where natural beauty coexists with many economic challenges. While the mountains hold a deep allure, many of its residents face poverty and limited opportunities. With the region's rich heritage that comes with this mountain range, we feel there are many opportunities here that the Lord has not even begun to reveal but will!



New Beginnings with Harvest House Church

We have been so blessed to have found a wonderful church family at Harvest House Church. The week we got here we googled “spirit fill churches in Boone, NC” and Harvest House was the first one on the list. Pastor Darrell and Kim Roberts have been incredibly supportive and encouraging, offering their wisdom & covering as we set up our ministry. Their warm welcome has been a beacon of hope and community for us. We are deeply grateful for the spiritual nourishment and fellowship we've experienced there.

Building Relationships and Growing Ministry

Despite the logistical challenges, we are forming meaningful relationships and connections that are vital for our ministry's growth. There is a remarkable discipleship movement happening here, with families from all over coming together to follow God's call to disciple. Each family is spread out in the surrounding areas of High Country, so we gather once a month on a Zoom call and gather in person quarterly to pour into each other, pray and worship. A number of the families who have been in High Country for more than a year, have expressed the warfare that comes with being called here.

Restoring The Garden is Officially a 501(c)(3)

After much diligence and hard work, we are excited to announce that Restoring The Garden is now a 501(c)(3) organization as of July 23rd. This milestone is a testament to the vision God gave us in 2017.

Family Updates

Donald's New Opportunity

Donald has secured a temporary position with Samaritan's Purse until January. The vetting process was rigorous, and we are optimistic that his dedication and work ethic will be recognized, leading to a continued position with them. This opportunity has been a significant blessing for our family as well as for Donald. We believe that any opportunity to work along side others is the perfect atmosphere for discipleship. The relationships he has built and peace he has felt working for this ministry has been invaluable.

Alice's Focus

Since moving to Boone, our days have been a whirlwind of activity.

We have been balancing ministry development, the search for a stable income, and a summer filled with building new relationships and strengthening local family relationships. I've been searching for digital content work to supplement our income while also focusing on wrapping up my schooling and building the ministry. It's been a challenging yet rewarding season as we navigate this new chapter of life and lay the groundwork for our future here!

Our Living Situation

While we are immensely thankful to the family who invited us to Boone, NC, we had to relocate our RV due to county regulations. Currently, we are stationed at beautiful campground called Camp Faith, in Butler, TN. Unfortunately, we have to make a 45-minute drive to Boone for work and church. We are praying for a more permanent solution and trust that God will provide a closer place for us in His time. A praise is that we were able to pay cash for a 2001 Subaru Outback to get Donald to work! This will cut down on cost of diesel and mileage being put on our truck! Praise God!

Homeschooling: We are preparing to start our homeschool journey soon, which is both exciting and a bit daunting. 😊😬 Charlie is excited to start her courses online this year. She will do a couple of classes from the curriculum we used last year called “[The Good and The Beautiful](#).” Now that Liam has developed his daily process doing online school, he will continue his online courses as well.

Charlie's Summer

Charlie had a fantastic time at Harvest House Kid's Camp hosted by the Boone KOA! Donald, Liam and I served as camp counselors that week. There were over 85 kids that showed up each day from all over Boone! It was amazing, they were all hungry to learn more about Jesus! We taught the kids all about God's creation through different types of trees that grow here; the Oak, the Cedar, the Olive and the Maple trees.



The kids were split into teams to build amazing forts in the wilderness, giving the kids the opportunity to learn conflict management and working as a team. This also gave Charlie a great opportunity to step out and develop rich relationships and experiencing the love of Jesus. She ended up recommitting her life to Jesus and getting baptized afterward at the Kid's Conference hosted by Harvest House Church!



Liam's Summer

Liam returned last week from Camp Ignited at Dixie Campground in Fayetteville, NC. This camp had an Olympic theme that kept the kids drawing closer to God and learning how to face adversity. Liam's leadership cultivated an atmosphere of transparency and vulnerability to where Liam saw that he was not alone in some of things he has had to walk out.

It was amazing! He spent his time being radically transformed by the love of Jesus while creating life long memories and friendships. This was perfect timing

being that he is going into the 9th grade...HIS FRESHMEN YEAR!!!

Calvin's Next Steps

Our eldest, Calvin, has been dating sweet Leah for 8 months. She is wonderful and she is a creative! Leah just graduated from Jacksonville State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Music Education. She has just been hired as music teacher for Eden Elementary in Pell City, AL! She has been super busy setting up her beautiful music room for this coming year! She is so excited to get started!



Calvin has prayed for quite some time over his decision to enlist in the Army. This has been his dream since he was a small boy and God gave the green light! He will be heading to Basic Training on August 12th to be part of the 101st Airborne! We are incredibly proud of him and ask for your prayers as he embarks on this new chapter. His graduation should be sometime during the week of October 21-25. We will keep you posted!

[We invite you to join our prayer team](#) and become an integral part of our ministry's foundation. Your prayers are crucial in supporting our mission, uplifting our family, and guiding our efforts to restore hope and healing. By joining our prayer team, you'll be connected with a community of believers committed to interceding for the needs of our ministry and those we serve. We believe in the power of collective prayer and would be honored to have you stand with us in faith. Please consider partnering with us in this vital way.

Prayer Points:

- Calvin is enlisting in the Army. Please pray for endurance, wisdom, opportunity to encourage and disciple those around him, and safety.
- Further provision beyond Donald's contract with Samaritan's Purse being completed in January.
- God's Provision in the area of a home, a place to bring those who need healing and rest, as well as provision for us to travel to provide care to those in need.
- Liam and Charlie's hearts as they are ready for space of their own and to settle down.
- Starting homeschool. That Peace fills our home, we stay on task, and finish with excellence, knowing we did our best!

- God's direction for Restoring The Garden.
- Donald and I as we make difficult decisions in this transitional season of our life.

We appreciate your ongoing support and prayers as we navigate these transitions. Your encouragement means the world to us, and we look forward to sharing more updates with you soon.

With gratitude and hope,
Donald & Alice Brown
Restoring The Garden

”

"I met Donald and Alice through Mountain Gateway, during a difficult season in my life. Donald and Alice not only helped me through that season in many different ways but they became more than friends, they became family! Alice helped me heal by not just discipling me and pushing me closer to Jesus but also helped me with my physical health. As a missionary I can personally testify to the need of a place like this to not only come and rest but a place where we can have resources to better ourselves mind, soul and body so that we as missionaries can continue to do the work the Lord has asked of us and see all nations come to know Jesus!

”



Rebecca
Vinyard

MISSIONARY -
LATIN AMERICA

Restoring The Garden

Your support enables Restoring the Garden to continue its mission of nurturing spiritual and emotional wholeness through Christ-centered counseling and discipleship. Your



generous donations allow us to expand our reach, provide essential services, and develop our vision of a sanctuary for all in need.

 [Give Now](#)



Restoring The Garden

4030 Wake Forest Road STE 349
Raleigh, NC 27609

This email was sent to {{contact.EMAIL}}
You've received it because you've subscribed to our newsletter.

[Unsubscribe](#)

