

Bonnie in Bible Fellowship

Chuck and I met Jay and Bonnie in Bible Fellowship. We were excited to get to know them because our son Ben's dear friend Rusty was marrying their lovely daughter Anne! I was so excited for Rusty to marry into such a great family and get a wonderful new mom who obviously adored him.



Jay and Bonnie were so welcoming toward us and soon became our Care Group leaders. They loved on us like crazy! Chuck and I got quite a few chuckles as we answered the zany questionnaires they emailed to our small group in an attempt to get us all familiar with each other. They were always in for a good time and we loved that. Jay and Chuck are serious and Bonnie and I are, well, edgy and fun loving. Her refreshing outlook on life made me feel good and accepted.

Bonnie is always looking for something to pray for and kept your requests for prayers in her journal and you knew you can count on her to earnestly pray. See you soon sweet lady! Save us a place right by our Jesus since we know you are holding Him close.

Lovingly, ~ Chuck & Debbie Bradley

Bonnie at the Bible Fellowship Christmas Party

The Bible Fellowship Christmas party was an especially good time! Jay and Bonnie brought these crazy fun games and when many complained they got us all playing anyway and we all had a hoot!



Lovingly, ~ Chuck & Debbie Bradley



Bonnie Says Welcome Home!!!

From 1989 to 1992 I was assigned in Tampa Florida to United States Central Command. During this time, because the command had interests in the Mideast, I had to take a number of trips in that direction.

Bonnie would drop me off at Tampa International Airport and pick me up from each of these trips.

During that time our family had a large gray Dodge custom van. When Bonnie came to pick me up, she would have someone stay with the kids if they were not in school and leave the car in the parking garage and go inside the terminal to meet me when I came through customs.



Afterwards we would go to the van. And there, in the parking garage, we would have our welcome home party. Unfortunately I cannot say more about this except that, *"Bonnie sure knew how to keep it interesting."*

~ Jay

Bonnie's and the Bell Shoals Shower Ministry

When it was not being used for natural disasters or other emergency conditions, there is a mobile shower unit that is parked near the First Baptist Church of Mango, about 20 minutes from where we live.

Homeless people use the facility. They are loaned towels and wash clothes, and are given soap, shampoo, and other personal hygiene items.

Bonnie volunteered to serve with this ministry two days a month. And, as you might expect, there are some "regulars" who are present each day. Sure enough, Bonnie loved on these people, learned their names, and tried to establish a personal relationship with him. She took contemporary Christian music with her and played it while the shower is in operation. She loved greatly on these people who had come upon hard times.



Bonnie Helps the Benedicts Unpack

Rex and I were stationed at Fort Bragg, NC, in the summer of 1986. We were waiting for government quarters to be available, and we ended up renting a house since there is a delay in the housing list. Bonnie called me as I was in the middle of boxes everywhere and quite overwhelmed, since I was still fairly new to this packing and unpacking lifestyle. Somehow before I knew it, she showed up at my door alone, full steam ahead, began unpacking boxes, hanging Pictures, and doing whatever needed to be done!



It was Rex's and my anniversary, so we rewarded her efforts with a lobster dinner for three. What a friend she is!!

A side note to moving story: After all our unpacking, I told Bonnie I wanted to frost my hair and had the kit. She assured me she can do that, how hard can it be? So we pulled my hair through all holes available and followed the time suggested. We washed it off to note the color is bright orange and not the blonde we were intending to acquire! I went to my hairdresser in the morning and had it fixed! Whew!

~ Rex and Michelle Benedict

Bonnie and the Deaf Learning Ministry

For many years, Bonnie worked with Christa Smith and Joyce Gerardi at the First Baptist Brandon Deaf Learning Center.

The DLC had an after-school program and Bonnie went there about two days a week to love on the kids and help them anyway she could. She worked on her American Sign Language skills to better communicate with the children, but the love she communicated did not need any special language.



Bonnie and Steppin' Stone Farm

Steppin' Stone Farm is a residential Christian counseling program for at-risk teenage girls. It is located in very rural country to the south of Plant City.

About six years ago, volunteers from churches in and around the area gathered at Steppin' Stone Farm to provide the labor for building two 60' x 60' duplexes to house members of the staff. Up until then the staff was in trailers and other not-so-good living accommodations. In general, we met every two weeks on a Saturday. The project began with 80 volunteers, but at the end sometimes only a four people showed up, and Bonnie is one of them.



When the project was complete, Bonnie decided she wanted to continue her relationship with the Steppin' Stone girls. So for the next four years or so Bonnie and Jay would go out to the Farm 15 to 20 Saturdays a year and conduct fun volleyball clinics. The girls looked forward to us being there and took joy in how Bonnie loved on them.

A Note About Bonnie from Steppin' Stone Farm

We are saddened to hear of Bonnie's illness and passing. Even though we all know that she is in the presence of Jesus, it makes us sad to know that her family and friends are without her smile and encouraging spirit.

Bonnie came to volunteer at Steppin' Stone Farm for a number of years. First helping with construction and later teaching the girls volleyball.

Her real gifts shined through while playing volleyball with the girls. It was not really about teaching an athletic skill as much as it was showing an interest in each girl. Bonnie always wanted to know about how the girls were feeling and how they were doing with their family relationships. She was a great encourager. She modeled how to be a team player and how to lift up others and not make it all about yourself. She helped make everyone smile and was a wonderful example of Christ's love. We are glad to have been a part of her life.

~Cindy Churchill, Executive Director, Steppin' Stone Farm



Steppin' Stone Farm

"In-depth change in the lives of at-risk teenage girls"