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### Just one of many messages that I receive

#### do you think erin went to heaven?

Thursday 1:41 PM

Yes. Erin believed that Jesus died for her sins- she believed that he was her lord and savior and confessed that when she was baptized. Erin struggled with depression which is a mental illness. Just like someone who struggles with diabetes or has cancer or heart disease. The problem is that we didn't know she struggled with depression. She never told us so we couldn't get her help that she needed. People die from heart attacks and diabetes everyday because they didn't get the help they needed. Sometimes even getting help, they still die. And I believe that erins mental illness is what caused her suicidal thoughts and eventually her dying. So yes, I believe (Iknow) that she is in heaven and we will see her again. And that's what gets me through everyday.

## February/March

- 4 counseling referrals (referrals are made to programs outside of Erin's purpose – this is for needed licensed counseling)
- 1 life coaching referral outside of Erin's Purpose possible licensed counseling referral needed.
- 1 life coaching/counseling within Erin's Purpose but working in conjunction with the licensed counselor. Also connected with EMT for training and education to prepare for EMT test (this would come under life skills)
- Relationship building with elementary age child who feels like she just wants God to take her. Child is in counseling.

When I get text messages like this, I see this as a sign of healing but also an opportunity for deeper conversations. This is an opportunity to share Jesus; to share hope and to share truth – to give a young person the opportunity to ask any questions that they need answered. The result of this text offered the opportunity to let this young person know that no, not everyone goes to heaven. And not everyone that is saved is LIVING on earth. We talked about sin and convictions and what it means to truly live a whole, happy, God-centered life on earth and that living a God-centered life is not always easy and sometimes it is so very hard. The world throws so many obstacles at us and sometimes we fail, but the important thing is to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and keep moving forward with our eyes on Jesus.



## Answered Prayers

In the pictures below, you are going to see something amazing. You are going to see answered prayers. You see, at the end of January, I was headed to go visit our preacher. He texted and said that he would be a few minutes late, so I used the extra time as an opportunity to go by the EP House and pray. I walked through the house and was talking to God and then I said to myself "we really need a deck for our ramp". We had already been gifted a ramp, however, in order to install it we needed a deck on the back side of our house. I felt God tell me "You've not even prayed for a deck". I was like, He's right. So, in true Terri fashion, I stood in the dining room of the house and said "God, please provide us a deck for our ramp. And – provide it before March 1<sup>st</sup>...Amen" And I shook my head as I walked out the door and thought to myself, there is no way that is going to happen. But I really wanted it to. We already have counseling in the house even though it is under major construction on the inside. I was afraid that what if someone who needed accessibility needed counseling and we couldn't provide it? So, after I met with our preacher, I got home and was cleaning, and my phone rang. It was a friend of mine that I met over a year ago at his small group where I was invited to go and talk about Erin's Purpose. He called and said "Hey – so I had a group reach out to me. They usually go oversees to do mission work every year, but with Covid they are sticking close to home. They asked if there is any mission work here that could be done. I gave them your information and told them about Erin's Purpose. They asked what you needed, and I told them that we are providing a ramp, but you could use a deck so that the ramp could be installed." He said his friend called him back and told him "You call Terri and tell her that we will be happy to provide the deck, we will purchase the material and even come and install it AND we will help with the ramp. The only problem is that we have to do it the last 3 days of February."

Y'all – I lost it. I cried like a baby for 2 hours. I called Josh, I called my EP board, and I cried. God is so good. And I do believe He has a sense of humor. I'd like to think that he was thinking "watch this" as I walked out of the house, doubting that God would provide a ramp/deck before March 1<sup>st</sup>.



That evening, I called my friend Jennifer and told her the story. I said, "I just do not know how people can't believe that there isn't a God". I heard her husband in the background say, "Not everyone gets their prayers answered so quickly and it's hard for them to believe". Right then, I felt it. I immediately felt myself go back to the day that my prayer did not get answered. I felt the rocks push against my body as I lay next to my daughter, begging God to save her, pleading that she would live. I had read the stories of where people were brought back from the dead, people were healed – so why didn't He do it this time? After I hung up the phone, I contemplated all of this. In the picture below, where I am with all the volunteers with our new sign - in this picture, I had the realization that perhaps my prayer had been answered after all. Just not in the way I saw it that day. The way I wanted it was for her body to have breath in it – for her to walk and talk and grow into an adult and do all the things that I see her friends doing. THAT was the prayer I wanted answered. But God. My two favorite words in the Bible. 2 weeks ago, I received a phone call. It was the voice of a young adult, whose voice was shaking. "Terri... someone gave me your number..." The young lady had attempted suicide. In our conversations, she said "God saved me, now what do I do with it?" I told her that I remember asking that same thing – But God already has that figured out. And He has it figured out for her too and we will help her with that. I told her – had I not gone through what I went through with Erin, she and I would not be talking right now. God has a plan. And while it may not seem like my prayers were answered on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – I believe that God is answering them with every message and phone call that we receive. I see God working that miracle.

But God.









# Spreading Some Cheer!



Bloomfield Elementary School 2d · ③ Thank you to Erin's Purpose and fellow community members for our new recess supplies!





Thank you all for your monetary donations in sponsoring the house, your donations to help cover the cost of our outreach programs, thank you for your prayers, your volunteer time at the house and everything else you do that helps keep these programs going. This is just the beginning, and I believe that God has so much more in store!

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