

THE BLESSING BULLETIN

December 15, 2025

JOIN THE TEAM

I'm so thankful for the incredible team that allows the Blessing to exist. We would love to have you join us in caring for those sharing Jesus with the world. If you would like to be part of the prayer team, simply email me and I will add you to Wendy's Warriors. If you would like to help provide a stay free of charge to our guests, simply visit the Avant website listed below and designate your gift to Wendy Hinzman/The Blessing. Thanks so much!

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The logo for Avant ministries, featuring the word "Avant" in a stylized, red, cursive font.

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THOUGHTS FROM A BLESSING TEAM MEMBER

I've supported Wendy from way back at the beginning when she was still raising support at an Appalachian Bible College Homecoming. Although I was never able to visit, through prayer letters and presentations, I felt somewhat like I was there throughout her years of ministry in France. Now I'm also privileged to be supporting the Blessing! It's been so exciting to see how God has blessed Wendy's dream from the very beginning.

There is, however, a part of this unique ministry that I think might have been lost amidst visions of the bright Florida sunshine and white sandy beaches. The true heart of this ministry, the real purpose of the Blessing, is not just to provide a free, all inclusive vacation spot; but to provide a spiritual retreat for these weary servants.

The biggest part of these retreats is the "Debrief", a time in which Wendy uses her extensive training and years of experience on the mission field to come alongside these servants of God. Debriefing is a very private time that is based on what guests choose to share in a packet that is provided to each guest. This process can take hours, or even multiple days, as Wendy listens and helps her guest deal with issues that the Holy Spirit has brought to light. Even though The Blessing is in Florida, this winter I can't help but picture the guests seeking and hearing wise counsel, acceptance, and understanding in front of her fireplace, such a cozy place for Our Father's weary warriors to rest.

What has been striking to me is the amount of care and preparation that go into each of these visits. Because she doesn't know her guests, Wendy has several virtual visits with them, as well as some online questionnaires, so that she can make each guest's stay as seamless as possible. She uses this information not only in personalizing the meals, but also to create a personalized gift basket for each guest to make them feel welcome and special. Having chosen careers where they are giving of themselves almost daily, I'm sure that her guests are definitely servants in need of some TLC!

Wendy is just entering the second year of her new life and brand-new ministry. As with all new endeavors, I'm sure there will be some changes along the way as her ministry grows. I know that this first year has been a learning curve, as she's getting into a routine of opening her life and home to

a revolving door of divine appointments, who often need intense debriefing sessions. I'm sure this also involves some self-care on her part, after cleaning and preparing for the next guest, so that she can be fresh and focused on what the Lord has in store.

As I have heard about the guests relaxing, walking, and pouring their hearts out to God on the nearby beach, I stand in awe of Our Father Who saw fit to place a desire in Wendy's heart to provide a Gulf shores retreat. As she researched

locations for her ministry, the Lord kept leading her back to the Gulf. What a blessing that the same God Who provided rest by a brook for Elijah has provided The Blessing by the beach for His servants today.

Watching the process from the outside looking in, when Wendy found herself in a long, difficult season of transition; I saw her be obedient to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. He prompted her to prepare herself along the way to be qualified to help others as they would come to her for emotional, spiritual, and physical rest, as well as emotional and spiritual healing. She has been so faithful in coursework and research for what she might need in this new ministry – a ministry that didn't yet exist. I'm loving that there have already been guests from so many countries, cultures, and walks of life seeking rest and healing at the Blessing.