

THE BLESSING BULLETIN

July 27, 2026

DID YOU KNOW?

The Blessing is just 8 miles away from VPS (Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport). This airport is now the largest airport in the Panhandle. VPS serves more passengers than Pensacola and Panama City with more than 50 direct flights nationwide.

Guests often fly into this airport located just 15 minutes away. Some rent cars for use during their stay. Others take up my offer for transportation during their time at The Blessing.

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

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33 AND COUNTING

A long road trip in a warm, sometimes hot, Ford Escort through the flooded Midwest ended at the headquarters of Gospel Missionary Union in Kansas City, MO. It was July 1993. My coworker and friend, Cathy Schwab, and I spent two weeks at Candidate Orientation Program.

On July 16, 2026, I celebrated THIRTY-THREE YEARS with Avant Ministries (formerly GMU). Multiple presidents and field leaders later, I remain committed to "Care Deeply. Go Boldly." The Blessing exists to care deeply for those going boldly.

REAL TALK

Have you ever struggled with an extremely difficult decision? Over the past year, I have welcomed multiple guests who have already decided that they are leaving their current ministry situations. Many are already in transition and need a safe space to land. They are looking to see what God has next for them in life and ministry.

Then, there are those who haven't made the decision yet. They are exhausted, often burned out. They feel like they are a failure for even considering doing something different. Often, there is guilt and concern that if they leave there won't be anyone to pick up the mantle of ministry to a needy group of people.

While my desire is for people to remain on the field, there have been a few times where I have had to encourage people to leave their current situation. Unnecessary physical danger, toxic team situations, or completely different philosophies of ministry are some of the many reasons that I have made that suggestion. Some have struggled with my suggestion. Others were relieved to have an "outsider" confirm the need.

One of their biggest fears is that ministry partners will not understand or support their decision. In some cases, this fear is compounded by their concern about their sending agency as well. I can relate! This was my concern when God called me to The Blessing. In my case, I am so grateful that my sending agency and most of my ministry partners supported me. Thank you to each member of The Blessing team! You allow me to point weary and burdened people to the One who gives true rest and peace.