

# Wit & Folly

## NEWSLETTER

January 2014



## THE JOURNEY BEGINS...

It's hard to put into words where are our hearts are now. It's this mix of exhilaration, like we've been shot out of a giant canon! We're flying through the air, the world before us, how exciting! Until of course we realize - we've just been shot out of a giant canon!!

Some of you may know much of this story already. For others, this may be the first you've heard of our great adventure. Either way, thanks so much for reading :) This road is one that we hope to travel with great company!

Since this is our first newsletter, perhaps some introductions are in order. Most of you know Branden - the ruggedly handsome, incredibly talented, engineer minded puppeteer who leads our clan and is loved by all! Then there's me, Ernie. Yes, it's a boy's name. A 40 year old mechanic's name in fact. And somehow it suits me I think :) I'm Branden's wife, partner, and helper. If you and I have never met, you should know that while Branden is creative in a kid at heart, dream big, let's create something unique and amazing kind of way, I'm more of a

list keeper. I love organization and writing and music and art. I love kids too, and having fun, as long as it's balanced with some sanity :)

Speaking of kids, we have two. Ninjas actually. Silas is six going on 30, curious, creative, and energetic. Ethan is our witty, four year old introvert. He's a peculiar mix of shyness and hilarity! Both are smart, imaginative, and funny and they consume our lives in the best kind of way!

Now, a little backstory... Branden has been doing creative ministry for about 18 years now. He started learning about puppetry and teaching when he was sixteen and basically never stopped.

In August of 2001, Branden and I got married, moved across the country, and started our life together. For the

last twelve years, we've lived a pretty normal life, working and serving, having kids and moving a few times, nothing really out of the ordinary. But for as long as we've been together, we've also prayed about starting a company.

It's always been in the background really, this idea, a ministry company that would provide live children's programming for churches, schools, libraries, and whoever else would have us! Over the years, we've prayed and talked, sometimes really seeking the Lord about it, other times we'd find ourselves just brainstorming together, asking "What if?" We've outlined skits and characters, written things down, we would dream really, but with no idea about how or if it would ever become anything real.

Okay, let's fast forward. A little over a year ago, we knew transition was coming. Branden had had a long, difficult season working for a company here in Denver. The last two or three years had been a roller coaster of challenges and hurt and learning to trust the Lord. We knew that door was closing, but had no idea what would come next.

On December 7, 2012, Branden lost his job. The stress of a difficult situation quickly turned into fear and a flood of anxiety as we surveyed our circumstances. We had no security in the world, no direction, no clue even as to how we would pay our bills.

I remember just this feeling of being beaten, like maybe we had had it wrong. We'd been trusting in the Lord, telling each other that God had a good plan, that things were going to be okay. But now, those words seemed empty. Just weeks before Christmas and after such a hard fight, it felt like we were alone.

The Lord was with us of course :) We felt defeated, but He remained faithful. The months that followed were full of ups and downs - more difficulty, but also just a time of hearing from the Lord, and seeing Him stand with us in the storm. Some days it felt impossible, but the Lord was there, and somehow that was enough.

By May, it had been six months. Half a year of searching for employment and seeking direction, both to no avail.

Then, on a night like any other night, the Lord would speak to me as I slept! I say this with excitement because that's not how the Lord usually speaks to me. It was like a

dream, but I wasn't dreaming. I was listening, and watching. He gave me a show - characters and set pieces, skits and object lessons, music, everything!

The next two weeks were the same - almost every night, I'd fall asleep and watch the Lord unfold entire programs. I'd wake up at 3 or 4 in the morning, brimming with these ideas and concepts, and I'd have to get up and write them down! He was giving us direction, something we'd been without for such a long time.

Nothing had really changed in our circumstances, but there was this new excitement growing. The Lord began to remind me of things He'd spoken to us as we'd prayed about this ministry over the years - ideas and concepts and verses, including 1 Corinthians 1:27 which says,

*"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong."*

That is what we were, what we are. We had come to the end of ourselves. Every effort we had made to make things happen or even secure employment had proven unfruitful. It had been a long, painful season of choosing to trust the Lord when it felt like maybe He had forgotten us. The Lord had brought us to a place of complete dependence, and now, in our humility, He would begin to stir us up for something new.

Branden and I started to write and build, to work. The Lord would begin to send people our way, people with the talents and resources to help us with things we needed, even though they had no idea we needed them! We began to build graphics and a website, props and puppets. We started to write the shows God had given me in my sleep. For the first time in a long time, it was like we had stopped drifting and were moving forward.

It felt good to have direction, and to see the Lord's hand, hear His voice clearly again. To hearts that had grown weary of grasping at straws of faith, Jesus was our strength, proving His goodness, His faithfulness over and over and over. The last year has been hard, no doubt about it. But in the heartache, through the flames and smoke, we have seen the Lord. We have found ourselves in Him and I am confident, we would do it all again.

We launched the business officially in October! Using the verse God had given us so many times over the years, we decided to call our company Wit & Folly Productions. “Wit” meaning smart and funny; “Folly” meaning silliness or foolishness. We pray that the Lord would use puppets and storytelling, simple songs and skits, things that seem like foolishness to the world, to share His message of pursuing love and redemption, to make Himself known!

So what’s next? Well, a lot I hope :) We have started to knock on doors and are praying about where the Lord would use us this year. We’ve finished and built one show that can be done in a secular setting and are wrapping up another show that will be specifically for churches, either one night family services or multiple day crusades.

When I think about our life, what the day to day with look like for our little family, I’m honestly so excited! Maybe we’ll be on the road, teaching kids and partnering with churches to share God’s heart! Or maybe the Lord would keep us more local, shining His love in schools and libraries. Or maybe, like I’m learning, I have no idea what the Lord has in store for us! Either way, our hearts are to run in stride with Jesus, to hear His call and go with Him!

If you’d like to keep up with Wit & Folly and the ministry God is doing, we’d love to have you! You can find us on the web at [www.witandfolly.com](http://www.witandfolly.com) and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/witandfolly>. I also keep a family blog, just a place to sort

of journal our day to day adventures :) You can find it at [www.treuumage.com](http://www.treuumage.com).

If you’re interested in sharing in this ministry and the work that God is doing, there are a few ways that we would love for you to consider! First, and most necessarily, would you pray? Pray for us, that we would faithfully and fully seek and follow Jesus. In the last year, we have found like never before, we have a vicious enemy who would like nothing more than to destroy and discredit the work of the Lord and His people.

Also, would you pray for open doors? I’m reminded of Colossians 4:2-4, where Paul says, “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.” This is our heart, to share Jesus and His Word, as he truly is, with gentleness, excitement, passion and simplicity.

Next, would you pray about supporting us financially? When the Lord began to really speak to us about starting this ministry, I have to say, both Branden and I struggled with fully trusting the Lord to provide in this way. In addition to the practical needs of our family, there is just a monetary investment that goes in to starting a company. We are learning though, that our God is a BIG God, and that where He guides us, He is faithful to provide!

As you seek the Lord, if He would lead you to sow into this ministry, Branden and I want you to know that

## OUR CREW





we are incredibly thankful! We're super blessed, just knowing that God is putting our family and this work on peoples' hearts! And we're so excited for you too, that you'll get to share in the fruit of what the Lord is doing!

You will be a part of this ministry!

To show you our appreciation, Branden and I want to give you a gift :) If you give a one time donation of any amount, we'd like to send you a personalized note of thanks as well as an huge shout out on our Facebook page! For a one time gift of \$50 or more, we'll send you the note, Facebook shout out, and a little thank you video featuring one of our awesome puppet characters!

If you feel like the Lord would have you partner with us for a little longer, and commit to giving \$25 or

more each month for six months, we'd like to send you the thank you note, shout out, and a pair of Peepers, which is a toy that transforms your hand into a puppet!

For a six month commitment of \$50 or more, we'll send you the thank you note and shout out, as well as a Wit & Folly t-shirt! We're in the process of designing them now, and will be printing them soon! And for six months of \$100 or more, you'll get the thank you note, shout out, plus an awesome puppet, handmade by Branden himself!

Lastly, and perhaps the most critical and exciting way you can partner with us, if you or someone you know serves at a church or are

connected to one, that you think might be open to hosting a family service or crusade or a camp with Wit & Folly as the the speaker, we would love to serve you! Along with teaching, we also provide engaging games and live worship that's relevant for children and their families!

If you'd like more information or to chat about booking a program, please,



please, please send us an email! You can reach us at [info@witandfolly.com](mailto:info@witandfolly.com). We would love to come alongside you in the discipleship of your kids and to serve your community!

Okay friends, that's about it! The adventure has begun! We are incredibly blessed to be walking with the Lord, and that right now, this journey for us means sharing Him and His Word in this unique and amazing way! We're literally living a dream that Jesus has been birthing in us for over a decade!

We hope you'll join us, in prayer, financially, in service, however the Lord would lead you! Thank you so much for all your love and support. We hope to see you soon!

*~ Ernie*



For information about our programs or to book a show, please contact us at:

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To partner with us financially, please send donations to:

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