



Brian Messner
Sheboygan Falls, WI

Brian Messner had a deep love for the Lord, his “lovely wife”, as he always referred to me, and a compassionate servant’s heart. Here is Brian’s story.

Brian and I were married in Dec 1991. He was diagnosed with heart disease in Mar 2000. After many years of enjoying happy hours after work, he was told by his doctor that he needed to stop drinking. He walked out of the dr office that day and has not had a drink since. This meant a total lifestyle change for him and for me. I dealt with it by turning my life over to Christ. He, not having married a Christian, struggled with my decision. But after much praying for him, in 2003 he started attending church with me and a few months later, also gave his life to Christ.

Brian jumped into church life with much enthusiasm. At the encouragement of other members of our church, we attended our first Lifest in 2005. He fell further in love with the Lord and he loved attending Lifest. He particularly enjoyed the music of The Newsboys, David Crowder, Selah and Chris Tomlin. At that first Lifest, we were introduced to the music of Peder Eide. We have attended every Lifest since that time. We have also attended Peder Eide events over the years outside of Lifest and were part of the live audience for the recording of Peder’s “With” album. Brian was especially fond of a story that Peder shared about a spoon necklace that he had created and sold at his merchandise booth. Brian bought one of them several years ago and wore it all the time. He was always happy to share the story with anyone who asked about the spoon. As the story went, knives cut, forks stab, but spoons serve. Be a spoon.

Brian was a spoon. He served as deacon and elder at our church. He helped out in the kitchen washing dishes for the monthly meal our church served to the needy. He also volunteered at the Sheboygan Falls food pantry, both on days the pantry was open and also picking up donated food from local grocery stores. He was always willing to lend a hand whenever or where ever the need arose.

Through Lifest he was introduced to Compassion International. At our first Lifest he insisted that we needed to sponsor the child that was in the packet that was handed to us. The child shared my Sept birth month. Two years later that child was removed from the program. He was in the process of searching online for another child, when Compassion sent us info about a child in the Dominican Republic that needed a sponsor. We had already found one online that we wanted to sponsor, so now the dilemma, which one do we sponsor? It didn’t take him long to come to the decision that God was calling us to sponsor them both. In April of 2014 Brian and I had the opportunity to visit with both of our sponsored children in the Dominican Republic.

Brian also donated monthly to Life Promotions 18 campaign. Every year at Lifest we had certain things that he insisted we do. Those things included, eating at Famous Dave’s stand, eating at the Lifest foodstand for a double brat and an ear of corn. AJ the animated magician was a favorite. He loved the comedy of Nazareth and Darren Streblow. And even at our age with no children, insisted on popping into the children’s area to see Swen and Dean. Our days started at morning worship and ended when the main act left the stage. We went nonstop in between, taking in all our favorites. We then took our weary bodies back to our “campsite” at the Holiday Inn.

In Oct 2014 Brian was diagnosed with early stage Alzheimer’s Disease. That didn’t stop him from attending his beloved Lifest. But, the Alz disease complicated the treatment of his heart disease. In 2017 he was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. At that time the difficult decision was made to not treat the heart disease. As both diseases progressed Brian was still able to attend the dedication of the new Main Stage and the 20th Lifest in July of 2018 was his last. The photo of him was taken at the Café stage that year.

Brian was admitted to in home hospice care in Feb of 2019 and passed away in April of 2019. His memorial service was filled with Lifest memories and Peder Eide music.

Submitted by his “lovely wife”
Julie Messner