



Jenn Leak... Jenn's Got Talent

Jennifer, soon shortened to just “Jenn,” was born at the Navy Hospital in Pensacola when her father served in the military. They lived in Pensacola until she was 7 years old. Jenn learned to read when she was just four. When she started kindergarten, the teacher checked to see how many words the children were able to read. Jenn’s mother proudly reports that “After Jenn had read several times, the teacher finally opened the Bible and Jenn read one of the Psalms.”

After Pensacola, the family moved to Chattanooga while her father attended Tennessee Temple University. When he graduated, they moved to Brazil, Indiana for a short time and then on to Marrowbone, Kentucky where Jenn finished her high school years. During high school she played basketball and ran track. She was able to go all the way to state competition in track.

Jenn attended Berea College in Kentucky where she received a nursing degree. After graduating, the College hired her to be the supervisor over all their dormitories.

Jenn is the oldest of four sisters and the favorite aunt to her 11 nieces and nephews, but don’t let the other sisters know! Her sister Rachel Ross explains what makes her so loved by all the kids... “I would say because she loves deeply, and she is so fun.” Why wouldn’t they love an aunt who approaches every challenge so cheerfully, takes pleasure from the unusual, deals with the kids in a playful way... teasing, loving to entertain.

And this lady has always been a genuine good person and a Christian through and through. She never seems to pass up an opportunity to help someone in need. She has been an inspiration impacting the lives of countless people on mission trips. Jenn was just 16 when she went on her first mission trip. She was fearless, sharing the gospel at places where it was not the popular thing to do. On her trip to the jungles of Bangladesh she had her red hair put into corn rolls. The people there are still talking about that hair.

She seems to jump into a crisis and handle it well! It explains her dream of being a flight nurse.

Following the September 11 terrorist attacks, Jenn went to ground zero in New York with the American Red Cross.

Jenn worked as a school nurse in the city of Nashville, Tennessee when a devastating flood hit the city in early May 2010, drenching the city but uniting the community as the area demonstrated its true strength ... and yes... she was part of the team working with FEMA to recover.

Once she had her nursing degree, she certainly widened her world view and learned to appreciate different cultures through frequent mission work. She went to Myanmar, in southeast Asia, to help train in the Christian clinics there. Other mission trips included journeys to Nepal, India, Hong Kong, Vietnam, and Bangkok.

Marcia Pavey first met Jenn on a mission trip to Myanmar, arranged by the Inner Light Ministries. Bob and Marcia later became good friends with Jenn, working together at the Inner Light Ministries Church Camp in Indiana.

In September 2017 Inner Light Ministries sent Jenn on a special mission.... to Islamorada to help the Paveys recover when the MUMC parsonage was severely damaged during Hurricane Irma. And the entire town is delighted that Jenn decided to stay and make this Islamorada her home.

Jenn is a volunteer with Islamorada Fire Rescue, but that is on hold for right now. Now she is working as a nurse at Crystal Health & Rehab Center on Plantation Key, a place that certainly needs her full time help and all our prayers as they fight to keep their 182 quarantined residents safe during the pandemic.

If you think you now know all there is to know about Jenn, think again! Let's talk a bit more about all that talent and recognize that there is absolute truth in the headline... "Jenn's Got Talent."

She's worn so many hats:

- She has worn a hard hat... as an inspector on big steel works!
- She's flipped a few tiny houses.
- She can paint anything, a house, interior or exterior, any size canvas, and amazing murals, with the church being the recipient of several murals, inside and outside, at Fellowship Hall.
- Jenn is an excellent carpenter... just check out the beautiful serving/work table in the church kitchen in Fellowship Hall along with the coffee serving stand.
- What a great voice, singing with the church Worship Team, knowing every word without ever looking at the music
- Jenn can hunt and Jenn can fish

But most of all she is loved for being such a good and kind person.

Her sister Rachael put it this way: "If I had something to say it would be this, Jennifer loves adventure and travel, she is always up for doing something fun. But she also deeply loves her friends, family and God. She is devoted and loyal."

Last year Jenn and Chris Zeher had an amazing experience volunteering at an elephant sanctuary in Surin Providence of Thailand. One more adventure off the long, long bucket list.



When we are all together again you can ask Jenn to fill in more of the story. Don't you just bet there is so much more to learn!







Whether it is family time, work time, travel time, art or music time, time to help others, or time for merriment (like dressing up as Minnie Pearl,) there is always a smile on Jenn's face. She just plain loves life! And everyone who knows Jenn loves her and appreciates all the good that happens when she's around.

