



Asher Bray

Class of 2003

Humanitarian / Civil Engineer

A 2003 graduate of Greenville High School, Asher attended East Elementary prior to coming to the high school. While at GHS he participated in both soccer and track and field. Asher credits all of his teachers and coaches for the positive impact they had on his life.

After high school, Asher attended Carroll College in Helena, Montana, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Civil Engineering in 2007. Following graduation from Carroll, he enrolled in Thiel College to learn French in preparation for joining the Peace Corps. While at Thiel, he also earned a minor in mathematics and became a 5th year senior walk-on for Thiel's soccer team.

In 2008, Asher joined the Peace Corps and was assigned as a Water and Sanitation Engineer in Uganda. Working with the Ugandan people, he teamed up with the Church of Uganda at North Kigezi and Kinkizi Diocese's water and sanitation program.

During Covid19, Asher joined Samaritan's Purse, setting up an Emergency Field Hospital in Cremona Italy. The town gave him honorary citizenship for his work in building water and sanitary infrastructure for that hospital.

All of this humanitarian work has led him to be the Deacon at Crosspoint Community Church in Boone, North Carolina. In addition he serves as an adult leader with Trail Life. Asher's life has been one of service. He started at a young age giving back at the First Presbyterian Church here in Greenville. His work with the church's youth group taught him the joys of being a help to others. This continued when he went to college. There he served with the Engineers Without Borders in community work with the Blackfoot Indian Reservation. He volunteered his service to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church youth group, where he took high school-aged boys rock climbing and camping and engaged with the youth weekly for about two years. At his graduation, his college awarded him the Hunthausen Outstanding Collegiate Citizenship Award for his dedication to the youth of Helena.

Asher is proud of his love and commitment to serving others. He believes his desire to serve others is rooted in his faith and trust in Jesus Christ who has shaped his path and career.

"Looking back, it's important to note that all my teachers had positive impacts on me during my high school years in one way or another. Mr. Hayes was my track coach and teacher. His excitement and passion, both in the classroom and out, encouraged and motivated me as a student. Mr. Hayes went out of his way to build us up, encourage us, and care for us, going as far

as holding team dinners at his house before track meets. This had a positive influence, building on my perspective and attitude towards the mentorship of others.

Coach Chad Gongaware, Coach Whiteman, and Coach Glassman were my soccer coaches throughout the years. They all had an impact on my development by teaching me that good sportsmanship and teamwork are fundamentals for success.

Mr. Kelly Jones was my pole vault coach. His consistency and good-natured humor in coaching influenced my perspectives on practice and commitment to things that I do.

Advice to his younger self:

"If I were to share wisdom with my 16-year-old self, I would guide him in his faith in Christ and encourage him to be bold and courageous, loving and respecting others. I would tell him to have fun, study hard, play harder, be honest with himself and people, and listen to his parents and teachers. I would guide him to be cautious in the intimidating and influential moments that test his character. I would further guide him to seek counsel from his dad or a close friend to support him in hard times by being honest about challenges and mistakes letting him know he's not alone."

Asher, his wife Clair and their four children reside in Boone, North Carolina.