

**Becky Gross** interviewed by Peder Jensen



Becky was born in Fresno, California back in 1977. She spent all of her “younger” years in the Central California area. She was blessed to grow up in a Christian family that taught her how important faith is in her daily life.

She attended college at the California State University of Fresno where she majored in education and planned to teach elementary school upon graduation. Once she finished school, her plans changed and she started a career in the brain injury rehabilitation field. In this position, she worked with people that were recovering from severe brain injuries and helped them adapt to their new way of life. While working in this field, Becky treated some individuals that were very combative and would spit, kick, punch and verbally abuse her on a daily basis. She was able to psyche herself up

every day because of the success she was having with some of the patients. Over the next four years, she was able to help a lot of patients and personally grow as a caring individual focused on the needs of others.

During a church meeting, Becky met a missionary that was explaining what they had been doing and the important work missionaries did throughout the world. The Lord began to speak to her and guided her towards joining the International Mission Board where she went through some intense training and was then assigned to Indonesia. She entered the country under the guise of being an English teacher. Once she was settled into the area, she was able to begin holding Bible studies, prayer meetings and introducing the Christian faith to the locals. Her only form of transportation was a motorcycle that she really enjoyed riding and being a “daredevil” on the local streets weaving in and out of traffic. Becky spent two years in Indonesia before returning back to the United States.

Upon arriving back to the United States, Becky made the decision that she wanted to focus on missions full time as her career. She joined the organization Lifeway in January of 2008 and spent 9 months in the middle Tennessee area on a short term assignment. Once her 9 months were completed, she decided that middle Tennessee was where she wanted to permanently call home. The local YMCA became her part time employer while she continued to search for a permanent position within the mission field.

Becky found Brentwood Baptist, decided it was going to be her church home and got very involved in the church. One of the members guided her towards the Pastor in charge of missions and she was hired as the Community Missions

Minister. The minister title is simply a description of her position – she is not an ordained Minister and wants to make sure that everyone realizes that she is not a Pastor. Her position is focused on ministering to the local community. Becky works with multiple local organizations finding areas that Brentwood Baptist can partner with to help a diverse group of people. One of these organizations is Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County.

Becky has been working with the “Green Shirts” and Habitat for Humanity since April of 2009. When she first started, Becky was extremely nervous because she had never worked on a construction project and didn’t even know which end of the hammer to utilize. The next 10 Saturdays Becky spent on the jobsite getting to know the homeowner Shantha Saragoor and learning LOTS of construction tips. One Saturday it was late in the afternoon and was extremely hot but Larry (a crew leader) needed some help up in the trusses. He requested that Becky join him and help install the rat runs to hold the trusses in place. As they swung from truss to truss like a monkey their sweat was raining down on the volunteers below. This was the point that Becky knew she was passionate about construction of homes and building a dream for the homeowner.

Becky is extremely excited about getting back out on the jobsite with her Habitat family. All of her direct family is located back in California – but Nashville is home in part due to the incredible team members of Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County that make her feel like part of a family! Thank you to all of those that have welcomed Becky into the “Green Shirt” team.