

continued from front

watching, listening, and caring for him.

When doctors first shared the diagnosis, longtime friend Traci Paige heard the fear in Brian's voice as he said he didn't want to die. Later, when she and Brian had time alone, Traci shared her own story with him. Traci, a cancer survivor herself, told Brian how she felt facing death before knowing Jesus.

"I shared my testimony with him, and the fears I once had about facing death without knowing Jesus," said Traci. "We talked about faith, hope, and the peace that comes from making Jesus the Lord of your life. I asked Brian if he was ready to make Jesus Lord of his life, and he said yes."

Reconciliation

From there, others from the church came alongside Brian. Willie Paige and Chris Hayes brought a shortened set of Bible studies on discipleship, the lordship of Christ, the cross, and repentance, prepared with help from the church's minister, and headed to the hospital.

Before they arrived, Raj and Brian had a quiet, heartfelt conversation of their own. They spoke honestly, apologized, forgave, and released years of pain. It was a moment of reconciliation that only God could orchestrate.

As the study went on, Noah held his father's hand. Partway through, a nurse came in and gently removed the monitoring equipment, a quiet acknowledgment that there was nothing more the hospital could do. For Brian, it seemed instead to bring peace. By the end of the study, he was ready. He confessed Jesus as Lord and let go of his old life.

LATEST STORIES ON www.DisciplesToday.org:

Go to www.DisciplesToday.org to read the latest News articles and to access the archives for all channels.

> *Fourteen Baptisms in One Day in South Sudan*

July 29, 2026 • Layla Matar – Beirut, Lebanon

In the midst of hunger, poverty, displacement, and hardship, God continues to write new stories of hope. We witnessed a beautiful testimony at the Church of Christ Refugee Church in Wadweil, South Sudan...

> *North American Singles Conference 2026: Divine Design*

July 25, 2026 • Richard Buckner – Philadelphia, PA, USA

Don't miss NASCON26: "Divine Design – Created for Purpose" in Baltimore, Maryland, September 3-6, 2026. Thousands of Christian singles from across North America and around the world will gather for a powerful weekend of worship, fellowship...

The next day, February 3, the hospital made arrangements.

"Maintenance staff brought in a baptismal and filled it with water," said Ashley. "Nurses and hospital clergy stood by as the room filled. Though my dad was in pain, he was willing to gather his strength, get up, and be baptized with Raj, myself, and my brother, Noah, by his side. It was a special moment."

Later that same day, Brian was transferred to hospice.

In the days that followed, his family shared a beautiful and meaningful time together. Raj stayed close by his side.

In the early hours of February 7, just three and a half days after his baptism, Brian died.

Willie said, "What I am most thankful for is that, in his final days, Brian made the decision to give his life to Christ—without hesitation. Watching him take that step of faith was powerful and a beautiful reminder that God's grace is always at work and his timing perfect. For that, we give all the glory to God."

Another friend, Steve Ryan said, "What happened over 24 hours was clearly the hand of God and the Holy Spirit at work. Raj, his wife and a disciple, has persevered for years, and God heard her prayers. 'Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed...' (Romans 4:18). I was honored to spend my brother's last day on this earth in hospice care with him and his family. He was a radically changed and redeemed man."

Editor's note: This has been cut due to space, please search for this story on DisciplesToday.org for the entire article.

> *Climb Mount Kilimanjaro with DT Travel*

July 29, 2026 • DT Travel

What if one week could strengthen your faith, deepen your relationship with your child, and create memories of a lifetime? From July 31 – August 8, 2027, DT Travel invites parents and their children...

> *The Joy of Being Seen: A Review of the Belong Conference*

July 21, 2026 • Franklin Castillo – Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, USA

On April 24th and 25th, Jennifer and I had the privilege of attending "Belong" – a church conference envisioned by Marty and Erin Chavez. The conference was created to help disciples better understand autism through lessons, testimonies, and conversation...



disciples today

To Inspire, Inform, Unify and Grow
the International Churches of Christ

INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL NEWS BULLETIN

WWW.DISCIPLESTODAY.ORG • ISSUE 1071

A Million Miles in 24 Days: Brian's Journey to Christ

UPCOMING EVENTS

US ICMC

July 30-August 2, 2026
Milwaukee, WI, USA

North American Singles Conference

September 3-6, 2026
Baltimore, MD, USA

DT Travel 2026 Mediterranean Cruise: Footsteps of Paul

September 12-22, 2026

North American Teachers Conference

September 17-19, 2026
Raleigh, NC, USA

Spacon

October 2-4, 2026
Brisbane, Australia

Minister's Wellness Webinar

October 15, 2026
Online

Confencia de Las Americas

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Oct 15-18, 2026

Singles Cruise

April 22-25, 2027
San Diego, CA, USA

July 29, 2026 • Robert Irvin – Dayton, Ohio, OH

Brian Schwing was a hard worker who provided for his family year in and year out. But for most of his life, he wasn't very interested in God. Then, in the space of a few weeks this winter, everything changed.

His wife, Raj, a longtime pillar of the Dayton, Ohio, church, was baptized more than 31 years ago.

Both of their children, Ashley and Noah, were baptized into Christ, although Noah hadn't attended church in recent years.

On January 14, Brian slipped and fell on ice in his driveway. He brushed it off and carried on, choosing not to seek medical care. But after a couple of days, it was obvious something needed addressing.

On January 16, his daughter Ashley stepped in. She scheduled an appointment and gently but firmly insisted her father go. Brian agreed, leaving work that day, and Ashley went with him. While there, she brought up something else — a large bump on his hip that had been there for some time — and encouraged him to show the doctor.

The moment the doctor examined it, the tone in the room changed. Brian was sent to the emergency room, where tests confirmed cancer had spread quickly and aggressively through his body. He was assigned an oncologist, who gently explained that nothing more could be done beyond caring for him in his final days.

Decades of prayer

For more than 30 years, Raj had prayed for Brian to give his life to Christ, through seasons of hope and disappointment. The weight of life had pressed into their marriage over the years, leaving distance and unspoken hurt alongside that longing for healing. But through this heartbreaking diagnosis, God was at work.

A tumor in Brian's stomach began growing rapidly. He was rushed to the emergency room again, admitted to the hospital, and made as comfortable as possible, now living under a quiet urgency.

Brian's son, Noah, was serving reserve duty in Indiana with the U.S. Army. He came home without hesitation. He and Ashley stayed at their father's bedside,



www.DisciplesToday.org hosts thousands of pages of news, articles and images to help connect disciples and churches around the world. All information and content is freely available for everyone.



International News reprinted
courtesy of Disciples Today
www.DisciplesToday.org
content@dtoday.net
All rights reserved ©2026

continued on back