

“When These Things Begin To Happen”

“There will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences, and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven . . . men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken . . . Now when those things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”

LUKE 21:11, 26, 28

Thank God that, in the midst of “complete devastation”, the Lord’s work of “redemption” continues. Thank you all for praying for Lynnae and supporting her. Let’s continue to pray that the seeds are watered and “redemption” takes a harvest.

— *Pastor Mason*

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans . . . to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

For several years now, I have felt a call on my life to work in the area of disaster relief through a Christian agency. But the time has not been right. The last two prophetic words spoken to me were about preparing myself for this work, to be filling my “tool belt” with the tools that I will need. God has also been speaking to me about this during my prayer time and Bible study. On May 22, 2011, an F5 tornado hit the city of Joplin, Missouri. This tornado was $\frac{3}{4}$ mile wide and was on the ground for 6.9 miles through the residential section of the city. It took out almost every house and business located between 32nd and 17th Street from one end of the city to another, killing approximately 155 people. My neighbor, Adrienne Fetzer, were able to serve with Operation Blessing (OB), a disaster relief agency under the umbrella of The 700 Club, during the week of July 4-8.

God continually provided opportunities to share with those around us; while on the airplanes, in the terminals, and in Joplin. My flight out of Rochester was delayed resulting in me missing my flight

from O’Hare to Kansas City. Another young woman also missed the same connection. The airline had rescheduled me to leave 6 hours later and her not until the next day. She had not flown before and was scared. Because God had prepared me, via a pre-trip conversation with Pastor Mason, I knew where to go and what to do to get a flight out in 1 hour. She was on standby for the flight in one hour but had a seat on a much later flight. I prayed out loud in front of her that she would be on my flight. I also praised God out loud with her when she got the seat on my flight right before the plane began boarding. She did not appear interested in God but I was able to plant a seed that God watered immediately.

The destruction in Joplin can only be described as complete devastation. There is a clear line where the tornado went through. In that area all that can be seen are stripped trees, portions of houses and debris. However, when we began asking people in town if they were affected by the storm, person after person answered about how God had protected them and their loved ones. The reoccurring theme was that the one area of their home (whether it was their closet, bathroom, basement, or

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two walls of the living room) where they had taken shelter, was the only area left standing in their home. And they openly gave God the glory!!!

The most amazing testimony about the local high school was told over and over. Joplin is a medium size city with a population of 45,504. Graduation was being held on May 22, the day of the tornado, at the same time as the tornado struck. Graduation was always held at the Joplin High School. However, there had been a baby boom 18 years ago and the graduating class was too big for the High School so they moved the ceremony to another location in another part of town. The high school was in the center of the path of the tornado and was totally destroyed. What an incredible great reminder that God has plans for OUR future to give us HOPE. The people of Joplin are very aware of this. The only letters left on the High School sign were OP. Someone has put in an H and an E so it now says “HOPE HIGH SCHOOL”

During my time in Joplin, we removed debris from one house, tore up a floor in another and put up sheet rock in a ceiling in a third house. However, the most important “work” done was at the checkout at the local Dollar General, KFC, Mucho Mexico Restaurant and during other encounters throughout the week, the time spent talking with local people, listening and encouraging them to tell their own story of how God saved them and those they love and of his continued provision.— Joplin’s homes may have been blown apart by the tornado, but it prepared the way for the Holy Spirit to move through the hearts of Joplin’s residents.

— *Lynnae Loring*



Ladies Fall Retreat

Mark your calendars now—the Ladies Fall Retreat will be held **Friday, September 30 & Saturday, October 1** at

Penn-York Campground. The retreat will begin with dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Friday and departure time will be approximately 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. Our guest speaker will be Nancy Clark, Elim Fellowship Director of Women’s Ministries.

ANDREW & JOHN EASTMOND



**Sunday, August 7
7:00 PM**

Andrew Eastmond and his son John will be returning on Sunday, August 7 at 7:00 p.m. to minister in Word and song. Originally from New Zealand, Andrew was a touring professional musician playing in a hard rock band when he had a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ. His music and message touch hearts of all ages and all walks of life.

It is always a very special time with the Eastmonds, so invite someone to come with you for worship, music and ministry—you will be blessed!

ANNUAL CORN ROAST



Sunday, August 28

The Annual Corn Roast will be held on Sunday, August 28, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Please bring a dish to pass. Roasted corn, hot dogs, beverage and table service will be provided. Feel free to wear casual clothes to church.

This would be a great opportunity to invite someone to join you for worship and a fellowship meal that will feature lots of delicious corn—roasted to perfection. Delia Martinez will also be here to share with our Adult Sunday School Class and enjoy some corn with us.

Don’t miss it! A sign-up sheet will be available in the foyer soon.