

First, some data points on the May 22nd tornado:

- The tornado touched down at the southwestern edge of Joplin, Missouri at 5:34 PM on May 22nd, 2011.
- It tracked east / northeast through Joplin and into rural areas east of the city and was on the ground until 6:12 PM.
- The total track length of the tornado was approximately 22 miles and it was 1 mile wide at its widest point.
- It was classified as an EF-5 multiple vortex tornado. Winds 225 - 250 mph.
- There were 161 deaths and over 1,100 injuries
- Approximately 7,000 houses and 2,000 commercial buildings were destroyed.
- St. John's Hospital, Joplin High School, Wal-Mart, Home Depot were all severely damaged / destroyed
- Deadliest tornado in America since 1947.
- Church is approximately 2 blocks from official tornado path.
- No church members were killed or injured, but several were in the tornado itself, sheltering in basements, crawlspaces or bathrooms.
- The church building was not damaged.
- Several relatives of church members had homes destroyed or severely damaged.

Information on Christ the King's Relief Ministry

Christ the King Presbyterian Church in partnership with MNA Disaster Response has been involved in a variety of relief activities related to the tornado. From May 22, 2011 to present:

- We had approximately 500 volunteers from 35 churches, RUF groups, or other Christian organizations from 17 different states
- We served approximately 50 tornado affected families in a variety of ways:
 - Debris removal
 - Demolition
 - Shed construction
 - Roof repair and replacement
 - General construction and repair
 - General benevolence (appliance purchases, rental assistance)
- We hosted dozens of Wednesday night fellowship dinners at the church for volunteer teams
- We built 3 complete homes

Information on some of the people we have served

Bill and Luann Lett and family

Bill and Luann and their three children were in their home at the time of the tornado. Their home was completely destroyed. Thankfully, none of them were seriously injured. We are building a new home for the Letts and expect it to be complete and the Letts moved in by the first of March. The Letts have become members at Christ the King. Tristan, Bill's son, and Bill (back to the camera!) are shown in the picture below at one of our Wednesday night fellowship dinners.



Brian Brownsberger

Brian is the brother of one of our church members. Brian, his parents, and one of his sisters all lived in different houses on the same block at the time of the tornado. They were all at home, and all 3 of their homes were totally destroyed. Brian's niece suffered a serious leg injury in the tornado, but is now recovered. We built a new house for Brian and he is moving in in February. The pictures below show walls being raised at Brian's house:



Debra and Cheyenne Melton

Debra Melton and her daughter, Cheyenne, had their home destroyed by the tornado. We built a new house for the Meltons and completed it this January. The pictures below show volunteers building the walls and the partially framed house.



Jerry Williams

In addition to complete home builds, we did a variety of remodeling and repair projects for people. Jerry Williams is an older man that lives 2 blocks from the church whose roof was badly damaged in the tornado. We had the opportunity to replace Mr. Williams' roof. The picture below shows volunteers from RUF groups in Oklahoma and Texas working on the roof.



Mike and Dawn Aalbers

Now for information on a special couple that served us. In May of 2012, the Lord led Mike and Dawn Aalbers to come serve in our relief ministry. Mike has decades of construction experience and guided the daily work of our volunteer teams on our 3 complete home builds. Dawn served us greatly in a variety of administrative capacities, including volunteer scheduling and housing. The Aalbers are members of Bethany Reformed Church in Des Moines, Iowa. Many volunteer teams from Iowa associated with the Aalbers came to Joplin to serve. Mike and Dawn were a critical part of our relief ministry, and in fact we could not have built the 3 houses we did without them. The Aalbers are now

seeking to follow the Lord's leading to other ministry opportunities. Thanks Mike and Dawn for all your help!



What's next

Beginning March 1, 2013, we are going to sponsor construction of a home for a tornado affected family through Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity. In conjunction with this, we will be concluding the operations of our relief ministry and will no longer be taking volunteer teams. Our session has endorsed the work of Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity, and there are regularly opportunities to volunteer on either the Habitat home we are sponsoring or on other Habitat houses. If you are interested in volunteering in Joplin, we encourage you to consider volunteering with Habitat. Please note, volunteers must be 18 and older for Habitat, except that 16 and 17 year olds may volunteer if their parents are on-site with them.

To find out about volunteer opportunities with Habitat, please contact:

Laura Edwards
Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity
Volunteer Coordinator
417-782-6533 (Phone)
417-781-4553 (Fax)
ledwards@joplinhabitat.org
www.joplinhabitat.org

Another great organization in Joplin that has volunteer opportunities is Rebuild Joplin. Rebuild Joplin is a non-profit organization engaged in construction of homes for tornado victims. We have built 2 houses through Rebuild and have had a great experience with them. Rebuild volunteers generally must be 16 years old or older, though they do allow 15 year olds in some circumstances. To find out about volunteer opportunities with Rebuild, please contact them at the number below and ask for either Maria or Kayla:

[Rebuild Joplin](#)

(417) 623-0065
www.rebuildjoplin.org

In conclusion, God has worked mightily in the restoration of Joplin. We praise Him for it and are grateful to have been part of His work. The tremendous financial gifts and the great number of volunteer teams from churches and groups from around the country have made a real and permanent difference in the lives of people in Joplin. We thank you.

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