



Siloam Missionary Homes

"providing housing to missionaries for a lifetime..."

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DECEMBER 2002



CHRISTMAS MIRACLES



DECEMBER 11, 2002

WEDNESDAY NIGHT we were awakened to the sound of trees crashing to the ground. Then the electric went out. I looked outside and could see nothing because of the total darkness. It's amazing that when all the power is out just how dark and eerie it really is. I could see a flashlight on at Al and Lois's next door and got my coat on and ran to their house. Two trees had fallen over the dining room. I had everyone stay put until morning. Because trees kept falling, we felt the safest thing to do was to stay inside. About three a.m. Jr. and I were checking things out. When it started to get light outside we stood in horror at all the damage. I realize God is in control of all things and that He allows things to happen that help us to grow. In the wee



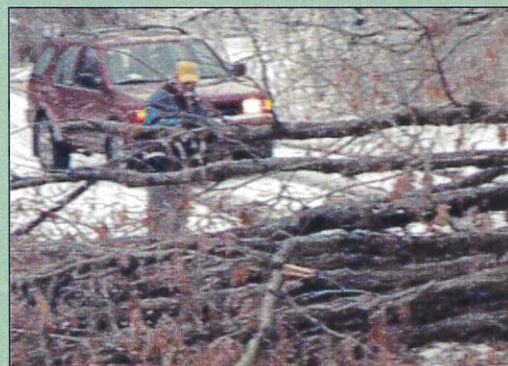
A tree limb broke a section of fence around Mother's Garden

hours of the morning as we went from house to house, in my mind I was thinking about all the work and all the people like you who gave to make Siloam Missionary Homes such a beautiful place. Trees were down everywhere. Power lines snapped. It looked like a war zone. I tried to keep a stiff upper lip but when I saw the fence in

THURSDAY NIGHT was supposed to be our Christmas party. We decided to do it by wood stove and candlelight. All the missionary families brought finger foods. We had a great time and for a while forgot about the outside. That evening the power was still out and we were extremely tired from the night before. Joyce and I filled the wood stove and lit the oil lamps and decided the warmest thing to do was go to bed. The weatherman said it was going to get down into the teens that night. Discouraged, cold, and tired we got into bed. We pulled out our Bibles and read Psalms together. My pastor told me that when you need encouragement, read Psalms. I needed comfort. I needed encouragement. I needed to know the Lord was there to hold me. In Psalms 9:1-3,



Two trees fell onto the mobile home, putting a hole in the roof



A huge tree fell across the entrance way road



There were at least 7 trees across the road



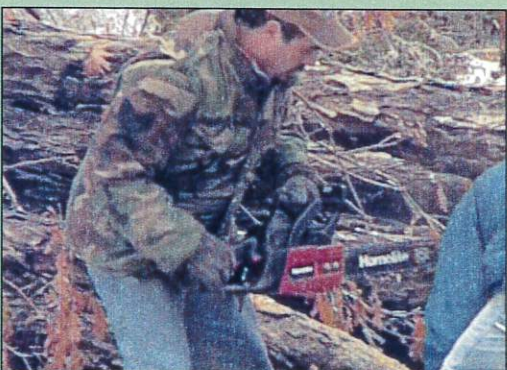
Several trees had to be pulled off the duplex, one made a hole



All the workers got together for a lunch break



Many hands helped get brush cleared and hauled to a burn pile



Chain saws buzzed all day

"I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High. When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence." What an encouragement the word of God can be!! We went to bed praising the Lord to realize in spite of all the circumstances, He is there for me.

FRIDAY MORNING - still no electric. We continued to pull trees off the houses and survey the damage. Bruce Wheeler drove an hour to get us a generator. Praise the Lord, we were able to have running water a couple of times a day. We were also able to hook up two of the water heaters for showers. On Friday morning we got everyone on the property to help with the clean up. All the split dry wood was dwindling. With three chain saws, two tractors and a bunch of helping hands, we cleared the driveways. We used the field next to the chapel for a burning pile. I went to bed encouraged that the place looked better.

SUNDAY MORNING, still no power. The wood ran out during the night so I had to split wood for the wood stove to heat the water for breakfast. Church was wonderful and eating lunch out helped. After church on Sunday night, we all went to JR's and Jennifer's house. They had power. We ate and watched a movie. We all went home excited because we heard that we would have power in the morning. I got up Monday morning and turned on the generator. About 9:00 the electric power trucks drove in. Praise the Lord, we now have power! As I look out my office window and see Al, JR and Tom cutting trees and putting a tarp on the trailer, I am once again reminded of God's protective hand. His plan is not always my plan. I thank the Lord for the miracles of providing a generator, that no one was hurt, that even though we have lots and lots of trees down, more will grow. One of the things that I realized this week, after all we have been through, is what missionaries go through on a daily basis around the world!

Usually at this time of year we have a Christmas project that we ask you to be apart of. Well, I'm sure you know by now that this clean up is going to be costly. If you could help us, this would be greatly appreciated.

In closing, we would like to thank you for your prayers and financial help. On behalf of the board of directors and all the families here at Siloam Missionary Homes, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God continue to bless each one of you as we go into 2003 in serving Him together.

Because of Christ,

Larry George
President



P.S. For those of you who have e-mail, our address has changed to siloam45@directvinternet.com. Larry's is siloam1@directvinternet.com, the MK home is siloammk@directvinternet.com