

I know this has been a long time coming, please forgive me. A lot has happened since we left Arkansas and I want to make sure I fully convey what I believe God did on and since this trip.

If you keep up on our newsletters you no doubt know that I took a bad fall and we had to leave Arkansas early. First of all thank you all so much for your prayers. I still have some pain but am much better. My doctors say that I can pretty much do what I used to as long as the pain doesn't increase or new pains arise. While this does restrict what I do and/or the intensity at which I do it, things are getting back to normal.

Some of you might be saying, we were praying so why didn't God protect me from falling? While I may never know exactly what happened and why, I first of all totally believe that if you weren't praying things could've been a lot worse, so thank you to those of you who keep us always in your prayers. Also, while I don't know how or why I fell what I do know is that God has used it for His Glory and I praise Him for that!

We headed to Cherokee Village , Arkansas at the request of my good friend and relief co-laborer Pastor Tim from CC Costa Mesa . Pastor Tom from House of Luke Ministries in Hemet , CA had contacted CC Costa Mesa for help as they felt led by the Lord to respond to help the people out from the winter storm and Tim in turn contacted me.

Tom is the pastor of a "ranch" where men and women can come who struggle with life dominating sins. For the past 10 or so years, he has felt the Lord calling him to start a second "ranch" in Cherokee Village . Tom has several relatives who live in this area and over the years he has seen an increase in people whose lives are being drug down by satan and his schemes. He felt the Lord telling him that this was the year he was to start the process, so he planned a trip to the area for the end of February to scout things out and propose the idea to the mayor and other city officials. Then the ice storm hit and immediately Tom felt the Lord saying I want you to go and help these people and I will open up the door for the ministry to start. Tom obeyed the Lord and he contacted the mayor offering their services, which they readily accepted. Sixteen people from House of Luke Ministries headed out as Chuck and I left Sarasota with our truck and tools. Some of you may remember Earl from Buffalo , NY . We met him while responding in Tennessee about the same time last year, a young man who just decided to come and help people. We quickly took him in and have kept contact this past year. He was looking for warmer climate and decided to head to Arkansas to help us and from there went to Texas and found work along with his warmer climate!

Chuck, Earl and I arrived on Wednesday morning. Once there we immediately got to work, it was quite a mess and no other relief ministry in the area. Even the local churches were hit hard and could barely get their own messes cleaned up, let alone organize to help others. Tom and his group arrived late Wednesday evening.

We met Tom and the gang from House of Luke Thursday morning and immediately set out to work on projects we had lined up from the previous day. These folks were awesome and together we made a great team. We worked at 23 different locations pretty

much from Wednesday through Saturday and cleared a lot of debris! Most of our new Arkansas friends had fireplaces so we not only cut and cleared, but we made and stacked a lot of firewood for next year!

We had the awesome opportunity to meet some Christians, who needed help as we encouraged them in the Lord, but we also had the opportunity to witness to several people who don't know the Lord and we shared with them the hope that is within us! We were able to pray with and for some sick and shut in folks as well and even ministered to a paralyzed man who claimed to be an atheist, but still allowed us to pray for him! There were some guys from Louisiana who were working for the power company clearing lines so that they could be repaired. We managed to minister to some of them as well and two of them attended our evening devotions dedicated their lives to the Lord!

Tom's group stayed on an extra week and worked on a couple of more homes. The last Sunday they were in town, the church we were staying at, First Baptist of Cherokee Village, asked Tom if he would teach for the main service. He obliged and they set out to invite all the people whose homes had been worked on. Most of them showed up and they had an ice cream social afterwards. It was a great time of fellowship as the local church body was able to begin their follow up work that the Lord has called them to do.

Also while there God answered the prayer concerning the House of Luke opening up a "ranch" in Cherokee Village. A home with a lot of acreage has been donated to the ministry! The mayor and town officials were very pleased with what all we were able to accomplish and things are in motion! Praise God!

Once home and bed ridden and when I had stopped feeling sorry for myself, I really had a chance to see what all God was doing on this trip. First of all, I've never seen so much spiritual attack as we had on this trip. Three team members were taken out of action during this trip, some locals made false accusations about us trying to force us out of town, Chuck and I had to leave early and these are just the major ones that come to mind. Once I got home and heard the news of the home and property being donated and how things were moving forward on the new "ranch", I was thanking God for choosing to use us in this endeavor.

And it doesn't end there! Back home I've been counseling a 30 year old male, we'll call J, who has struggled for years with some life dominating sins. I'd come to the conclusion that he needed to totally surrender his life to the Lord and come under a 24/7, Biblically based, accountability program. Unfortunately, he hadn't come to the same conclusion. Once home J once again was back to his old tricks and his wife kicked him out of his home. He had just started working again so he had some money to rent a room. Because he couldn't drive, he needed to live somewhere close to where he worked. He looked for several days and the only place he could find that he could afford that was close to his work and his kids was right across the street from my home! I might also mention that I had nothing to do with him finding this place; it was a total God thing! Now here I am stuck at home with nothing to do and God sends J across the street from me! I spent a few days counseling and reaching out to J and in his own words; he was going to drink

himself to death across the street from me! I prayed hard and asked him if this was truly the goal that he wanted for his life; he replied no, he really wanted to get back with his wife and two young kids. We discussed what would it take for this to happen and *he* decided that what he needed was a 24/7, 100% Biblical based accountability program. We discussed several good programs that I knew about across the country, this had to be 100% J's decision or it wouldn't work. J decided that the Lord wanted him at none other than House of Luke Ministries in Hemet, CA, a ministry that I didn't know existed two months ago! Since then J has just finished up his first full week plus and last we heard he is doing great. After arriving and being drunk for almost a week, he awoke the first morning with no hangover and a few days later quit smoking, something he's done for over half his life! He has a long way to go, so please keep J and his family in your prayers! Now I am in no way saying that God caused me to fall, it was probably all my stupidity, but what I do know is that what Satan may have meant for evil, God used for good, we won't be discouraged and we will continue to do what God calls us to do!

I am in the midst of creating a new website for our ministry. The website will be full of pictures, stories, letters, news items, events, links, etc that relate to the Relief Ministries. We are also going to have different emails, which you will find at the bottom of this long letter! The new website will be up and running soon, I'll send you another email when that happens, but the address is www.ReliefMinistriesCCSarasota.com. I hope you enjoy it!

Some of you know Chuck, or Chuckles, aka turbo snorer as some affectionately think of him, and you may remember his wonderful summary of our trip to Texas last November. He has once again sent me a summary of his time in Arkansas. I have included some of his highlights below and you will also find a couple of pictures attached to this email.

Ah yes now I remember – there I was driving home from church after a lovely lunch and thinking about the pastor's great sermon when out of the blue my cell phone starts ringing. Warning! Warning! Do not answer! Hello, Chuck this is Curt, what are you doing? Oh, nothing, just heading home. Want to go to Arkansas? Sure. OK, I'll get back to you with details – will probably leave this Tuesday morning. OK, bye. Hmm, now let's see who was that I was talking to? Deb, who was I talking to? Curt. Drat, have to stop answering that phone when I'm deep in thought, well, guess I'd better go pack.

There we meet up with Earl (a nice elderly gentleman of 20 years that Curt knows from an earlier mission) and together set out to locate First Baptist Church of Cherokee Village where we're going to be staying. Also staying there are approx 30 tree trimmers and their vehicles, a dozen or so National Guard and their vehicles, Curt, Earl, and myself and our vehicles. And we were expecting around 16 people from California later that night. Did I mention there was only 1 shower for the men and 1 for the women? Going to be a long trip

First stop was a lady without electricity. That means no water from their well. We dropped off a generator and the son was an electrician so he hooked it up to the house. Say this isn't too hard maybe it's not going to be so rough.....

Next was a friend of Don's named Lee and his neighbor Marlene. Lee was paralyzed from botched surgery and claimed to be an atheist. Marlene was his neighbor and took care of him. We cleaned Lee's yard quickly. He was in a bed in the front room and kept an eye on us.

While cleaning Marlene's yard I ran over to Lee's to take advantage of running water and when I was leaving stopped for a brief chat. He kept thanking us for the work we were doing and I told him this was a gift from GOD, we were just delivering the gift. The look on his face said he wasn't expecting that. Keep him in your prayers.

Back outside to Marlene's house. What a mess. The falling tree limbs had ripped the electrical service from the wall. So there we were, Curt cutting like there was no tomorrow and poor Earl and me dragging tree limbs the size of telephone poles down the hill to the edge of the property and piling them. Did I mention that I'm old? Curt are you listening? Anyway I coined a cute little saying that Earl really loved "down the hill and up the hill" after the hundredth repeat he started threatening me, I don't understand....

The women got up the next morning and said they thought there was an electrical short in the walls, they heard this loud buzzing all night long, it wasn't me, I don't snore.

We worked until dark again (I'm going to have to talk to Curt about this working until dark thing) and then back to the church for a shower, meal, then an evening of fellowship and rest. I tried to explain to Curt that the harder he worked me and the more tired I became and the louder I snored. I didn't hear anything so I must not have worked too hard.

Friday morning. Wake up at 6 AM (Florida time) and enjoy the quiet. Now the others are starting to move. Curt is not a morning person. He does not do well before sunrise. He – He – He - He....

Sunday we wake up and it's quiet. The National Guard and tree trimmers have departed. The bathroom is ours! We watch the church service on computer (good ole Calvary Chapel) and then try to set things up with House of Luke. They're trying to upload a service and are going to be a while so we strike off on our own.

The first job we arrive on has a handicapped father and the son is on disability. We start by pulling one of the long ladders off the truck for later and Earl and I go to the front yard to start pulling limbs off into the woods. Curt is coming to help us (or so we thought). As Earl and I work, we hear a sharp crack and find that Curt has fallen. His landing was blocked by brush but I don't think this is what he had in mind. We found him on his hands and knees on the ground. A quick check – no bleeding, no bones sticking out where they shouldn't be, OK, maybe we're lucky. Not so. Curt has a concussion. Back to the church for a quick group prayer over Curt and off to the quick care. After explaining

our situation to the desk they come outside, give Curt a quick once over and send us off to the ER 26 miles away.

We spend the entire afternoon there X-rays and all and nothing's broken. Praise the Lord! Course his mind is messed up but he's been that way for years! Around dark with Curt heavily medicated we head back to the church. Where we feed Curt and put him to bed. After mulling over his situation and knowing he will be in worse shape tomorrow for pain I decided to load the truck and head for Florida .

There is no doubt God was with us both while working in Arkansas and on the long drive back. He is in control and all praise and glory go to him for this trip.

To those who supported Relief Ministries through prayers and financially - thank you, Chuck.

If you are interested in helping with the ministry's expenses we have set up an online giving section on our church's web page, <http://calvarychapelsarasota.com/306287.ihtml>, or you can contact us directly. All donations are tax deductible. We are self-supporting missionaries.

Thanks for all your prayers and support.

Proclaiming the Lord in all we do,
In season and out of season,

Lord Bless,
Curt & Mary Jo Hencye

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