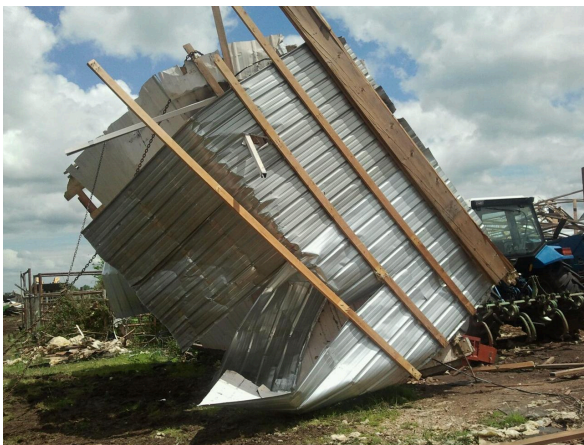
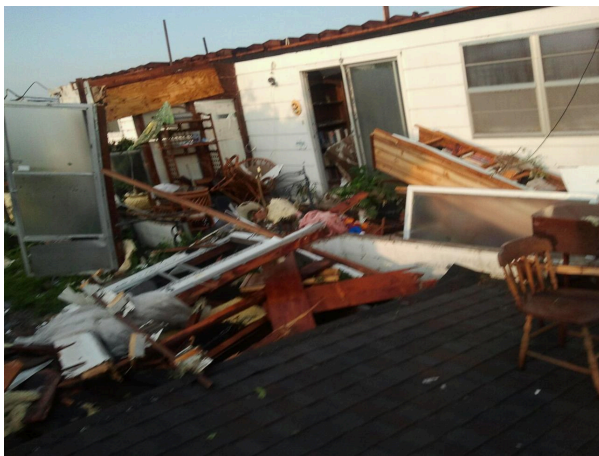


Devastation in Joplin Hits Home

Paul Covert's parents, in their 80s, have survived the tornado that ripped through Joplin, MO., last month. Only a couple years ago did God put it on their hearts that they should build a storm cellar on the farm that has been in their family for 100 years.

When word came of a powerful tornado headed their way in just minutes, they took off for that storm cellar, and God used it to spare their lives!

When they came back out, they discovered the roof of the farmhouse, built by Paul's great-grandfather, was torn off. The tornado also sucked up the ceiling of the first floor but left many of the walls still standing and the home open to the wind and rains. The barns were gone and the garage, ruined. Some of their belongings have been spotted on fence rows half a mile away. Some of their cattle had to be euthanized because trees had fallen on them or they had been injured in other ways during the storm which posted winds more than 200 miles per hour.



Hours of rain, totaling 5 to 12 inches, followed the tornado and continued the damage. And more storms have followed every day, Paul has reported.

At the time of this writing, Annie has done about 50 loads of laundry in an effort to salvage clothing and soft goods from the drenched home, but beyond this day, it will have to be thrown out because mildew is setting in to complete the damage.

But in the midst, miracles and answers to prayer!

- His parents are well, though understandably shaken.
- An RV that was in for repairs when the storm hit, has been returned to them and now provides shelter for the elder Coverts.
- When Annie and Paul started driving to Joplin, they did not know whether his aunt had survived the storms. She lives three miles away from his parents. She and her home were spared so that is where Annie and Paul have been staying.
- The community has drawn together to help one another in generous and abundant ways.
- Other farmers have brought tractors to help dig through debris and lift heavy items out of the way.
- Their freezer with food in it was discovered unhurt.
- Food has been brought in by neighbors who also then stay to help sort through belongings to see what can be saved. The lady sheriff of a nearby town brought lunch to 30 people working at the Covert farm one day.
- A group of 25 Amish men came to the farm to comb the fields to be sure there are no bodies there, blown and unfound from the powerful storm. They, too, stayed to help further after that search.

Prayer and Praise Requests

From Paul: "People have been asking what they can do. Please just pray."

The whole family thanks you for your prayers and for the support offered the people of Joplin in the donation gathered at Central May 28 and 29.

- *Please praise God for sparing Paul's parents and aunt and her home, and for all the help that has come their way.
- *Praise God for the miracles of meaningful personal things spared and surprising touches of grace in the midst of the turmoil.
- *Praise God for faithful people like you who have been praying for all those impacted by the storms and flooding that have devastated many portions of our country this spring.
- *Praise God for the hope of eternal life and reunion in heaven for those who called Jesus Lord but were lost in the storms here on earth.
- *Please pray for strength and endurance for Paul and Annie as they help and then drive back to Arizona.
- *Please pray for Paul's parents and other storm survivors/victims as they come to grips with and grieve the losses they have sustained.
- *Please pray for wisdom and compassion for insurance and government reps that must go into such situations and make assessments and decisions that could dramatically impact people's

lives.

*Pray for God's healing touch on them and on our entire nation. May this season be impetus for people to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus as Lord.