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Twenty-four hours ago, a massive weather front barreled across our nation and through our area, producing very strong winds, extremely heavy rainfall, hail, flash flooding, downed trees, and property damage. This morning's report described three hundred thousand households southeast of Pittsburgh that are suffering from massive power outages related to this storm. Many people have been affected and are suffering.

Every time a storm swells up, I'm reminded of how uncertain life really is and how fragile we really are. We tend to go on day after day, striving, pushing, climbing, accumulating, investing, insuring, convincing, and deceiving ourselves into thinking that if we get strong enough, smart enough, and sufficient enough, we can take the uncertainty right out of life.

We never can. Try as we might, we are pretty small parts of this great, big, universe. The power of all the different kinds of energies out there is inconceivably enormous compared to our individual objections. Life sure is uncertain. Storms remind me of that.

A baby is born critically ill.
A teenager perishes in an

automobile accident on the way home from a graduation party. A marriage crashes on the rocks. A pink slip is found on an office desk. A physician says, "I'm sorry". The market tanks. The income flow stops. Shock grips another life, followed by fear, anger, depression, and often short term or chronic poverty. Storms rise and rage, unleashing their energies upon our little, helpless lives. Life sure is uncertain.

I'm no expert in these things. I don't know why storms come up and bring devastation and suffering to what were once the sunny fields of happiness and contentment, but they do. I don't know why some kids grow up in violent neighborhoods, never feeling loved by anything or anyone but the gang to which they fly. I don't know why the elderly widow weeps for lack of a friend. I don't know why the single young mother has to choose between food for her children or gas for the furnace in the cold of winter. None of this is fair. Storms never are.

Ever since we began 23 years ago, Hosanna Industries has been striving to do its best in delivering practical, tangible, helpful, compassionate assistance to our neighbors who have

suffered from one or many of life's damaging storms. We have tried to be diligent and steadfast. We are still trying to answer all of those "Hosanna" cries for help. I am deeply, deeply, grateful to you for all of the ways in which your prayerful, faithful support has allowed us to help so many thousands of people in so many ways.

Since the beginning of this calendar year, our office records indicate a 30% surge increase in legitimate requests for our services. This unprecedented hike is alarming. Our wonderful staff of mission workers has ramped up the pace and is keeping abreast of this new demand. In less than half a year, without explanation or precedent, the mission's field program is a third larger than ever before across the board: expense, productivity, and because of your support and that of many others, giving is remarkably keeping up with this dramatic increase in service provision so far.

No, I'm not an expert at all in these sorts of things, I'm just one man in a big, big world, but it sure seems to me that there's all kinds of storms out there raging across the human landscape, many more than ever before, and perhaps many more yet to come. So many voices are crying out right

now in their own ways the same plea of "Hosanna" that the Master heard so long ago.

Truth is, we can't do anything about the fact that storms rise up in our journeys through life. We don't control the weather. We can't make life certain. We aren't able to prevent all of the causes of suffering. But as one or a million voices cry out, "Rescue me, Lord!" in our world right now, another Voice is still being heard to say "Peace, be still!" The wind and waves still obey His voice. The storms quiet down, and we have the privilege of helping each other put our homes back together again and get our lives back on more solid ground.

Every time we replace a roof, build a house, install a handicap bathroom, provide a new furnace, lend a hand, teach a skill, say a word of encouragement, or demonstrate compassion and community amidst the manifold storms of life, I hear Jesus saying, "Peace, be still."

Thank you, dear Hosanna friend, for advancing the effect of His message.
With love and gratitude, DDE

Construction Update

We continue to build better homes and lives for our neighbors in need. Six months ago Ester was cold, John's roof leaked, Jennifer's house was an unsafe eyesore, and Linda had to heat water on her stovetop to get a bath. Because of your support we have been blessed to provide Ester with a new furnace, John with a new roof, Jennifer with comprehensive home repairs, and Linda with a new hot water heater. Through Hosanna Industries, you have helped 54 households, not just with repairs to their homes, but with repairs to their hearts and souls as well. Your support this year has allowed us to purchase tens of thousands of dollars of nails and 2x4's, shingles and drywall, plumbing fittings and electrical components, furnaces and flooring products, doors and windows. More importantly, your support provided Ester with the warmth of knowing someone cares for her. It removed a burden from John and his daughter who said that our mission workers and volunteers are angels and there are not enough words to describe how thankful they are. It gave Jennifer, who has experienced many trials and tribulations, a chance to begin a new life with grace and dignity. And it allowed Linda to get a hot shower before she visited her doctors to find out what they were going to do next to treat her cancer. Thank you, dear friends, for choosing to help your neighbor in need through our mission. Norman is still on our waiting list. He is in his seventies and cares for his severely handicapped son. He needs a ramp so his son can get to the handicapped accessible van. Lisa is on our list, too. She needs plumbing repairs because her copper pipes were stolen. Marilyn needs new windows because hers are drafty. All of our communication with Marilyn goes through her priest because she is so poor she doesn't even own a phone. And there are about 100 other households with similar needs and stories. If you'd like to help, please pray, spread the word, call Emily at 724-770-0262 to volunteer, or send in a donation. We continue to strive each day to use your gifts as wisely and effectively as possible to bring increased hope, security, peace and joy to hurting households.



Trade Skill Learning Center Students Complete Two Terms

The nine students from Homewood and the one young man from Butler continue their learning in our Terrell Trade Skill Learning Center. In the first semester they learned framing and in the second they learned masonry. Just as important for their futures, they are also learning to value and trust others, the worth of hard work, the capabilities of the hands, and a new concept of what it means to be a man. Their futures are becoming brighter day-by-day. The third term will begin in September. Throughout the summer we are hoping to help them "earn while they learn." They have skills and need income. If we can lead them through some home repair jobs this summer, they can earn a small income, practice what they are learning in the Terrell Trade Skill Learning Center, and experience the satisfaction of a job well done. We are excited about this new possibility for their lives.



West Liberty, Kentucky Here We Come

When natural disasters occur, significant amounts of debris need to be cleaned up. Infrastructure needs to be rebuilt. FEMA and insurance companies need to respond to countless applications. People need to make weighty decisions regarding rebuilding or relocating. Then it's time for Hosanna. It's time for us to meet the people who were underinsured, whose resources don't allow them the opportunity to rebuild, who are crying out for help. When the cleaning supplies have been used, when food tents have been packed up and taken elsewhere, when the town seems to be functioning normally again, when many lives have been re-established but there are still broken homes, hurting hearts, and desperate needs... that's the time for Hosanna. West Liberty, Kentucky is a small town. 90% of its business district was destroyed by an EF4 tornado just over a year ago. They've worked together. They established a long-term recovery team. The town is cleaned up. Most of the people are back to work. Most of the homes have been repaired. But there are two households who are still crying out, "Hosanna, rescue me now." Phyllis and Donnie's mobile home needs a solid foundation. They need a safe room for themselves and their teenage daughter, Savannah; they survived one tornado but fear a future re-occurrence. Billie and her 16 year old daughter, Becky, need a new home. Their rental was destroyed. They lost nearly every material thing they owned. With the help of various volunteer groups, they started to build a home. Nine months after the tornado took away Billie's possessions, a heart attack took her husband away, too. Billie is strong. She is faithful. She looks to the Lord and knows He is with her. But she needs a house. She needs the safety and security a home brings. She's crying out and Hosanna is responding. We will be helping Phyllis, Donnie and Billie the week of August 19. If you would like to help by volunteering, please contact Emily Cadenhead at 724-770-0262. If you would like to help by contributing financially, just send a note with your donation and we will make sure your gift is used wisely and effectively. If you believe in the power of prayer, go ahead and pray right now. Pray for Phyllis, Donnie, Savannah, Billie and Becky. Pray for Hosanna. Pray for our volunteers. There is tremendous need.

Trap Shoot, Golf Outing and Thanksgiving Pie Benefits

Young and old, male and female came out to Northside Sportsmen's Association in Warrendale on Saturday May 18 to support Hosanna Industries. One hundred shooters, many sponsors, members of the Pine Richland National Honor Society, and several donors made this event a tremendous success. Nearly \$25,000 was raised to help the needy that day. Thank you, Amy Lee Firek, and all those who helped make this great day both enjoyable and beneficial.



Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for Monday September 23 for our annual golf benefit, Saturday October 19 for our 1st annual autumn trap shoot, and November 8 as the last day to order your apple or pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving.

New Tool Truck

Earlier this year we determined we needed a new tool truck. We had been driving a pickup truck and pulling a trailer that carried our tools and materials each day. The truck was aging and driving a truck and trailer through the city and down narrow streets was a challenge. For increased safety and to better be able to serve people crying out for help, we contacted friends of the mission and began raising the funds necessary to purchase a new tool truck. The beautiful truck shown here is fully outfitted and helps us meet the needs of impoverished households on a daily basis. Thank you to all who helped us add this vehicle to our fleet, including Gainesville United Methodist, Oak Grove Lutheran, Plain Grove, Second Presbyterian of Indianapolis and Zion United Methodist Churches, Frankenstein Builders Supply, Goehring, Rutter and Boehm, and Purvis Brothers.



Can We Help You?

Have you seen our campus lately? Please allow us to be a resource for you. On our campus we have facilities for you to hold retreats and gatherings. When your church, school, or business is looking for a place to make miracles happen, you are welcome to stay in our dorms and work alongside us, or participate in a training day to prepare for a mission trip. If you would just like your organization to learn more about us, we are available to speak at your convenience. If you would like to learn more about caring for your own home, we will have a Love Your Home Seminar Saturday September 28 to teach specific home improvements. Hosanna means, "Rescue me now, Lord." We are in the business of helping people. If there is anyway we can be of assistance to you, your church, school, business or organization, do not hesitate to contact us.

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The Real Worth

By e-mail...

We had a great time working with ya'll last week! I was impressed with how organized and skilled your whole crew is ... and that so many were females! ~Marcia

I am happy to serve on the Board of Hosanna Industries because it gives me the opportunity to give something back to a great organization, some of the finest people I have ever had the privilege to serve. First class. ~Todd

On Facebook...

I want to thank Brian and all the angels who landed on our roof on Beechnut Drive in Gibsonia today!! Thank you all for the great job you did for my father... there are not enough words to say... how thankful we are for all your help today!!! ~Kim and John

By Mail...

As you transform a house to a home, so also do you transform the lives you touch. God's love is alive and reaching far and near—you deliver God's amazing grace! I am forever grateful for your relationship, your craftsmanship, and your care to provide what I could not do on my own. Love and prayer ~Jen

I would like to thank you so much for helping me in my time of need. Do you know the saying, "you don't know what you got until it's gone"? That is so true! Being without hot water for almost two months I really missed it. Also, I am so grateful for the gift card from you. It will be used wisely for needed food and medicine. I thank and appreciate Brian and Amy for their work on the installation of the hot water tank. Now I know that there are angels on earth. You are so thoughtful, kind and caring. May God bless you all! Thanks again! ~Linda