



## HBC “The House that God Built”



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On March 2, 2012, a devastating tornado went through West Liberty, Kentucky, destroying most of the city. David Cook, pastor of First Baptist Church, lost his home. Pastor Cook was out of town when the tornado hit. He called his wife and told her to go to the church and stay in the basement until the tornado was gone. She took her daughter, a radio and a flashlight with her to the church. When the storm was over, she heard on the radio, “the church had a broken

gas line and the church was full of gas, so stay away from the church.” The whole church and basement was filled with gas - except the room they were in. God had not only saved them from the tornado but also from the gas. The door going out of the basement to the outside was blocked by debris hindering them from leaving safely into fresh air, so they had to go up through the church, through the gas, to get out.

Pastor Cook returned to West Liberty about 6:30 or 7:00pm not knowing if his family made it safely through the storm. The National Guard was stopping everyone from entering town because of the dangerous conditions of the buildings and they would not let him go in to check on his family that night. It wasn't until about 10:30am the next day that an ambulance driver told him to go with them as they went to pick up a patient and then he could go find his family.

When he found them, they had stayed in a house with about fifteen people. The house was badly damaged. There was a tree through the side of the house lying on a couch. One slept on the couch under the limbs of the tree, others slept in chairs, on the floor or anywhere they could find a place to lie down. It was very cold, so they took the rug, curtains and anything they could find to keep warm through the night.

Pastor Oney of New Hope Baptist Church just outside of West Liberty city limits, and a good friend of Pastor Cook, found out that his friend's house had been destroyed during

the tornado. He offered New Hope's parsonage that was used for visiting pastors, to Pastor Cook and his family and moved them in the next day.

HBC Mission Team had been working on houses in West Liberty and stayed at New Hope Baptist Church. Pastor Oney contacted me asking if our church would be willing to help another church build a house for Pastor David Cook and family.

Not knowing what was going on, I said, "Our men and women said they would love to come and help this family." Pastor Oney asked me to call Coy Watson at Monticello Baptist Church, in Monticello, Kentucky, southwest of West Liberty, who felt God leading him to do a building project in West Liberty and tell him that we were willing to come help them. Upon calling Coy Watson, Coy shared with me a dream in which God had told him to build this house, but his pastor (Phillip Drake) said they couldn't build it because they didn't have people to go to West Liberty and build it. Coy said they could build the walls in Monticello and take them up to West Liberty, about a three hour drive. Pastor Drake said they couldn't put them up because of not having enough men to put them up. Coy said God will supply the help or I will put them up by myself starting Monday. And then I called... telling him Hillcrest Baptist Missions Team of nineteen people would be in West Liberty Monday morning at 8:00am to help build a house. Coy then told his pastor, "God answered my prayer!"

Through donations to Monticello Baptist Church this house was built. Each time the money was spent; more came in until the house was almost finished. When the house was about half built God took Pastor Cook home to be with Him. Coy called and told me his wife had cancer and that he couldn't go back and finish the house. Then another church called Coy and said "I hear you need help finishing the house that God told you to build. We would like to finish the house if it is ok with you." They came and built what they could with the time they had, but they could not complete the house until late fall. Upon calling Coy and talking with Pastor Cook's wife, Hillcrest men and women decided to go back a third time and finished the house. We invited Coy to come back a few days and see the finishing of the home and to dedicate the "Home that God told Coy to Build". Soon Mrs. Cook and her daughter will be moving into their new home.

I thank God and the people at Hillcrest for their support.

