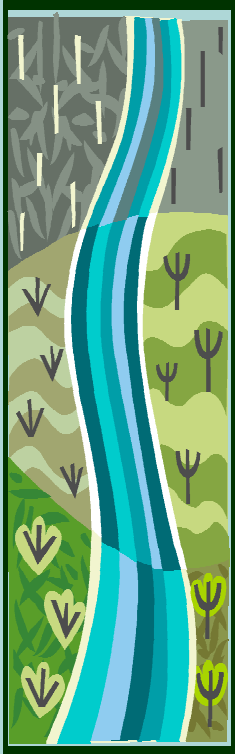


# Living Waters

Our District Mission is to cultivate Christian discipleship and strengthen the connection of the United Methodist Church in the Five Rivers District

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## Reflections From Ron

Hello Colleagues and friends —

It seems that we are always in the midst of transition. We could be transitioning from one day to another day or from one season to another season. We could be transitioning from one life experience to another life experience or from one emotional feeling to another. We might even be transitioning from one pastoral appointment to another. Some of those transitions are more welcome than others. And it's different for everyone. Some people welcome the changes that come from life. Other people meet transitions with apprehension and disdain. There is, however, one truth that affects us all, no matter how we greet transition — the changes will come or not come regardless of how we handle them, and we get to determine how we will handle them.

Paul kind of set the

stage for this spiritual position when he wrote to the church at Philippi. It seems that Paul had worked but had not been appropriately compensated. The Philippian church then took up a generous offering for Paul, and Paul wrote:

<sup>10</sup> I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup> Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hun-

gry, of having plenty and of being in need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Ah-h, contentment. The notion that despite change, despite transition, despite not knowing what today holds, or what tomorrow may bring, the idea that we can be content knowing that God is watching out for our every need and that through faith in Christ, we can handle whatever life throws our way.

This is the attitude that some of the people in Greensburg, KS have. It's not that they aren't overwhelmed by the devastation of nature's destruction. It's that they have trusted that God will bring them through it. They have hope and a peace that passes all understanding.

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## ***Mother's Day in Greensburg, Ks.*** By Larry Lybarger

On Sunday, I flew with three others from eastern Kansas to Greensburg to be a part of the relief effort there. We left in a small single engine plane flying over streams and farms of eastern Kansas and then over the tall-grass prairies of the Flint Hills and finally over the thousands of farms that make up the "Bread Basket" of central and western Kansas. The sight was beautiful with everything green and lush from an early spring. By mid-morning we arrived to the grass landing field of Greensburg at the city's edge. There was no beauty there---the town looked like it had been hit by an atom bomb. The reports on the news casts were true--almost all was destroyed. Had the path of the storm been a mile or so either direction of the city little would have been damaged. To see the destruction, one would have expected hundreds to have died rather than less than a dozen. All the schools, all the churches, the public buildings, the businesses, the homes were wiped out. Of the approx. 850 homes, one report said 8 were unhurt, less than 100 can be made livable again in 90-160 days, the rest are being bulldozed away. People lost all they had.

***Enough on the destruction***---What I want to tell everyone is that on Mother's Day the community gathered together for the first time. A special service was held in a large tent put up on the edge of town. Over 3,000 attended the Sunday morning service--the town had 1,450 residents. The extra were relief workers, & out of town family members who came to share and show their support. The service was led by all the pastors of Greensburg---a non-denominational effort. Each pastor was given a few minutes to share: one spoke of Job and his suffering and yet his faith in the Lord; one quoted Jeremiah and the plan to build new lives and new homes; one spoke of the story of the Good Neighbor and the help toward the Samaritan; one led the congregation in the Lord's Prayer; one led in repeating the 23rd Psalm. The most moving part of the service was the music, including a quartet that sang with great heart the song "This Land is Holy Ground" and then another sang the song "All is Well with My Soul"---that followed the story of its author who had lost all in his life---his home, his business and his family. There were many hugs of support and many tears, but the most striking story of the service was the unity and strength of the people to come together to pray and worship with an abiding faith in their God. The florists of surrounding communities provided flowers for all mothers before the service and meals to everyone after the service.

I returned home today, Wednesday, reporting that thousands have responded to the peoples' needs. I stayed in a neighboring church basement. That church is overflowing with clothes, food, and materials for the relief. Other churches are doing likewise. Today, over 900 volunteers were present--not counting the hundreds of National Guard troops, business support, government relief workers and hundreds of pieces of equipment. So far, over 6,000 truck loads of debris have been removed in trying to clear lots so FEMA homes and permanent homes can be built. It is estimated that over 100,000 truck loads remain to be removed. It is hoped water and electricity might be restored to parts of the city this week. Workers have come from all parts of the nation and churches from everywhere. Some from Mississippi and Louisiana, who had been hit by Katrina---wishing to return help they received. The people know they are being prayed for and they are thankful. These people are a testament for their faith and their courage. Even though they are in shock, they are determined to move ahead.

The relief teams that our group assisted were the Heart-to-Heart International medical team and the United Methodist's Disaster Team, of which my bother is a member. We helped distribute water; assisted the hospital administrator move permanent records to safe keeping in her crumbling building (an employee of 27 years, working on Mother's Day); helped organize a church relief center; assisted in repairs and in getting a business going again. The business owner's wife, father-in-law and single employee were all killed. The owner had a broken knee cap, but was doing pretty well. We felt so lucky and humbled to be able to do just a few things to help.

Anyone interested in helping might best contribute through a financial donation to a charity or church relief organization of their choice, designating it be used toward Kansas relief efforts. For now, there is plenty of food, clothes and volunteers to do the tasks needed

***Keep praying.***

# JUNE 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			<b>Kansas East Annual Conference</b>			
10	11	12 Church Con- ference Waverly UMC 7:00 p.m.	13	14 DS at Cabi- net Incubator in Wichita	15	16
17 Moving Be- gins for new pastors	18	19	20	21	22	23
			<b>Bishop's Week at Mt. Sequoyah</b>			
24 Closing ser- vices at LaHarpe UMC	25	26	27	28	29	30

## ***GROUND ZERO GREENSBURG, KANSAS May 13th, 2007***

By Dale Lybarger Retired Fuel Distributor Garnett, Kansas

I arrived home Sunday evening after a full day of trying to absorb the magnitude of damage from the previous week's tornado. This was a small rural town much similar to Garnett. It's fame was the world's largest hand dug well and largest meteorite. It also was home to Kansas's largest John Deere Combine Dealership. As a previous business owner, I could start to measure the actual financial loss of 34 combines, 8 tractors, numerous other equipment and an inventory of \$1,000,000 in parts plus the total loss of their shop, office, and sales facility.

I had flown to Greensburg Sunday with Gordon Blackie, a pilot representing Midwest Mission Air. We had received special clearance to land at Greensburg airport because of Mission Air's association with Heart to Heart, another Christian organization already working in Greensburg.

At home Sunday evening I returned a phone call from Steve Burnett, one of the disaster response coordinators of the Kansas Conference of the United Methodist Church, I had worked with in Mississippi. Steve asked if I would assist in opening an office at the United Methodist Church in Haviland, which would coordinate work requests from residents of Greensburg. I accepted his request and then called Ray Arnett of Garnett and Larry Lybarger of Paola, both had contacted me earlier wishing to volunteer. We met Steve at the Haviland church, after stopping in Wichita to locate and tow a donated travel trailer. The trailer will be used for sleeping quarters for office staff staying for extended periods. We met Jean Snead at the Haviland United Methodist Church, she ask for our help in moving donated clothes so that we might have sleeping room and make space for the coordinating office. The church was overflowing with clothes.

Tuesday morning the Southern Baptist church members were preparing and serving breakfast at the Haviland school, so we took advantage of that before departing for Greensburg. Kansas Hwy troopers were manning a checkpoint about two miles out of Greensburg. We were given clearance by showing our church disaster response identification. WE proceeded into Greensburg and met Norman Volz, owner of Volz Oil Co., the only fuel distributor in Greensburg.

Norman's wife, Beverly, his business secretary-bookkeeper, perished in the storm, her father who lived with them is in a coma at the Pratt hospital, and Norman suffered a leg injury and is temporarily incapacitated. His key fuel driver was also killed in the storm. Volz oil office and warehouse suffered some roof damage and a portion of the building was torn off. Ray and Larry inspected damage to the building and Ray made plans for repair to the most obvious holes in the roof.

After meeting Norman Volz for the first time, I explained that we had come to assist him in trying to make his business operational again. The cardlock facility, one of a very few places with electricity, was functioning satisfactorily but fuel was being brought from Kinsley 40 miles away. Upon inspection of a existing bulk plant in Greensburg, I determined that by installing some fittings that storage could soon be utilized. By Wednesday that was accomplished and Merle, a driver from Capital City Oil of Topeka, arrived and began to make deliveries from this storage. I continued to assist Norman at the office while Ray and Larry worked at repairing the warehouse roof.

Friday morning I responded to a call for fuel from the Greensburg landfill. I drove one of Volz Oil's delivery trucks joining a steady convoy of dump trucks to the landfill. An average of 1200 to 1400 loads of debris per day has been hauled this week. Trucks and equipment have arrived from several hundred miles around. Volunteers, contractors, Kansas National Guard, Air Force Guard, Kansas State Highway, and many county and municipal units are leveling and removing debris.

Red Cross, Salvation Army, numerous Christian organizations and church groups are responding to assist the town. Volunteers from Mississippi and Louisiana have arrived to reciprocate the many trips Kansan's made to the Gulf after Katrina. I must offer my observation that God performs miracles even in tragedy. One miracle is that only 10 people's lives were lost. Another is that a 17 year old girl was found alive under rubble 7 days after the storm. The spirit of the town is positive and their attitude is of recovery and rebuild. With perseverance and prayer it can happen.

Impossible situations can become possible miracles.

[Robert H. Schuller](#)



June Birthdays

Larry Buss	6/07/51
Nick Woods	6/20/40
John Vaughan	6/22/48
Duane Kessler	6/25/35
David Livingston	6/26/73

Friends:

We currently have two sites available for drop-off of assembled flood buckets.

**Iola:Wesley**

301 East Madison  
 Iola, KS 66749-3499  
 Phone: 620-365-2285  
 Rev. Trudy Kenyon Anderson

**Lawrence:Central**

1501 Massachusetts  
 Lawrence, KS 66044-4253  
 785-843-7066  
 Rev. Maria T. Campbell

God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with. *Rev. Billy Graham*

**Flood Bucket Kit Items**

Value: \$45 per bucket.

*Note:* if the requested item size is not available, go down to the next available size. If nothing is available in the requested or smaller size, put masking tape on the outside of the bucket saying, "This bucket contains no \_\_\_\_\_"

- ✦ 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid
- ✦ Bleach (two 1-quart or one 82 oz. bottle. Do not include bleach if you are shipping the bucket through the US Postal Service, UPS or FedEx)
- ✦ 5 scouring pads
- ✦ 7 Sponges
- ✦ 1 scrub brush
- ✦ 18 cleaning towels (reusable wipes)
- ✦ Liquid laundry detergent (two 25 oz. or one 50 oz. bottle)
- ✦ 1 household cleaner, 12-16 oz. bottle
- ✦ Disinfectant dish soap, 16-28 oz. bottle
- ✦ 50 clothes pins
- ✦ Clothes line (two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.)
- ✦ 5 dust masks
- ✦ 2 pair latex gloves
- ✦ 1 pair work gloves
- ✦ 24-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags, 33-45 gallon (remove roll from box before placing in bucket)
- ✦ 1 Insect repellent spray, 6-14 oz. can (If aerosol, cans must have protective caps. See Special Requirements below.)
- ✦ 1 Air freshener, 8 or 9 oz. can (If aerosol, cans must have protective caps. See Special Requirements on page 6)

## Five Rivers District Office

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Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Kansas Bishop: Dr. Rev. Scott Jones

District Superintendent: Rev. Ron King

Admn. Assistant, Newsletter Editor: Marvé Ralston

### Reflections from Ron cont. from page 1

This acceptance of life's circumstances is a spiritual contentment that the world might never understand. Here's praying that we have reached that place of contentment in our lives.

Agape and shalom,  
Ron

### Important Flood Kit Assembly Information continued from page 5

- ✦ All items included in kits must be NEW items.
- ✦ All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items-nothing more.
- ✦ Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

#### Special Shipping Requirements

**Cleaning Agents.** All cleaning agents must be liquid and in plastic bottles. No powders. Pack them inside a bucket or strong outer box.

**Aerosols or Flammables.** If including these types of supplies, ship kits by UPS Ground, Fed Ex Ground, or by truck. Do NOT ship by US Mail or DHL/Airborne freight.

#### For Processing / Shipping Cost Information and Instructions

Follow the "**Instructions**" link in the highlighted Packing and Shipping Kits section at the right side.

Thank you for your donation- it helps sustain lives!