

Kansas Tornadoes!

The tornado sirens started wailing sometime before 11:00 p.m. last Wed. night, and the weather radio announced that a severe storm with “a history of producing tornadoes” was headed straight for our neighborhood. Some minutes later, the power quietly went out, we heard a whirling sound overhead, and I (Paula) said, “That’s a tornado.” The next morning, Nate said, “Well, we DID have a tornado,” as we surveyed our trampoline lying in our neighbor’s yard. I started making phone calls immediately, and we were relieved to learn that everyone in our congregation is safe and dry. No one else even lost power.

The tornado evidently formed right over our neighborhood and lifted our trampoline 20 ft. into the air where it smashed into our power line, yanking the wires out and leaving a gaping hole in our roof directly over the breaker box. The F4 tornado made it’s first touch down just over the ridge from our neighborhood, then proceeded to Manhattan where it flattened 15 homes and left another 40 or more completely uninhabitable. Four businesses were also destroyed before the tornado hit Kansas State

University, causing an estimated \$20 million in damage there.



Hail stone from the first storm



Nate's office viewed through our car's hail-shattered windshield



Tornado damage in our city

The tornado then bounced over a neighborhood where three of our families live. Miraculously, not a single life was lost.

The first draft of this newsletter was about the baseball-sized hailstones that pummeled our neighborhood last week, destroying our roof and recently-renovated shed. Our house has suffered several thousands of dollars of minor damage not covered by insurance.

We’re feeling very sober, thankful, and reflective, praying for these storms to open opportunities to witness to our neighbors and service workers. What is God saying to us personally? Is this a spiritual attack? Such an awesome display of raw power increases our respect for our God, and tornadoes seem to me particularly guided by His hand, as they are so “picky” in their destruction – just a house here and there, while the rest of the town is completely unaffected.

Tax-deductible donations to our storm-recovery fund may be sent to: Christ the Redeemer Church, POB 1007, Manhattan, KS 66505. If you would like to donate labor or materials, call us at 785-410-7080.

Summer Doldrums

This column may appear to be misnamed after the lead article, but between students being gone, regulars taking vacation and soldiers deploying, we are facing the discouragement of low attendance during the summer months. Please pray us through this time! There is encouraging news, however: two new couples have attended in the last month, neither of which were among the 10 that attended last week, and both of which have the potential for being here longer-term. One is in their 50’s, comes from Episcopal and Presbyterian backgrounds, and is interested in teaching Bible studies. The other couple just moved into town to join Campus Crusade staff and are seriously considering making us their home fellowship. We are excited about the further evangelistic connections with K-State they would bring!

Kid's Corner: Aletheia

Walking is wonderful, and climbing is cool! Now that I can stand on my own, I can grab delicacies perched near the edge of the kitchen counter, and I've also found good grazing in the garbage can! I also like to push a stool over to the sink and stand up on it so I can play in the dish water. In addition, I have quite mastered the art of talking. Whole paragraphs from me elicit stunned replies like, "Amazing!," "I agree!," and "That's wonderful, Aletheia!" Just between you and me, it's obvious that I'm the princess of the family. Even my biggest brother is wrapped around my little finger. And I bless them often with my sweet smile ☺. I love to sing and to fold my hands during prayer time. Mama says to please pray that I will learn to love Jesus more and more each day.



Aletheia Joy, our 9th, gets into everything these days!



- Please pray for God's help as we recover from the storms and find ways to share the good news of Jesus with people. Pray also for the many Kansans who lost homes and businesses in the tornadoes.
- Pray for the faith to trust God through the ups and downs of summer attendance and for wisdom and enthusiasm to shepherd this flock well.
- All the things we mentioned in our last newsletter could still use prayer (*Military ministry, Bible studies, TentMaker Project database, Daily scheduling, Examination of our first elder candidate, and our Teenage boys*)
- And pray for baby Aletheia to grow into a godly lady as she develops in so many new ways.



(left to right) Josh, Nate, Beni, and Amos doing a Bible study on a campout to celebrate Beni's 14th birthday (Photo by Peter Wilson)

