

# The Shepherd's Bethel Chronicle

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This newsletter will focus mostly on the construction of our newest addition, the shop and fashion center.

This all began back in May when we received a large gift and were asked by the couple to replace the 45 year old shop and clothing center. Don Crane seen here with me in the ditch and operating the backhoe, which Levi Duncan loaned to the ministry for the entire project, was the first to arrive. He spent a week doing all the underground plumbing and excavating the pad where the building would go.



Next, we had two church groups come and help me tear down the old structures preparing the area for the upcoming landscaping. On the left are some of the youth from FBC Wakarusa Indiana. They spent a week with us and helped with gardening, deck staining, tree removal, demolition of the clothing center, and general yard work. What a tremendous group of young people! On the right are some of the men from Stone Ridge Baptist of Bloomington Indiana. They came on a Saturday and removed the roof from the shop and then razed it to the ground. Lots of fun with sledge hammers and watching Mike use the backhoe to rip the sides and collapse the structure.



I hired Davis Co Metal to construct the main part of the building. Over the last month or so they set footers, framed, roofed and sided, poured the concrete floor, insulated, put all the interior walls up and put a metal ceiling in.



As this was being done friends of ours Ron Gram from Martinsville and Bill Benner from French Lick helped me do all the ruff-in plumbing. Ron even helped with the layout for the upcoming HVAC.



John Lupacchino and John West brought a crew from Colonial Hills Baptist in Indy to ruff-in all the electrical. They worked for two days and had all the wire up and the sockets and light switches ready for walls and ceiling to be put in. John Lupacchino planned the entire buildings layout and sought the Lord's leadership in getting donations from suppliers for all the material. Praise the Lord, this was a Hugh savings to the project. They will return and do the finish once we have electric to the building.

All along the way God has faithfully intervened holding off thunderstorms that would have hampered the progress we had, and mild weather to labor in without excessive heat. The Lord answered all my questions with reliable professional help that has allowed this to be a beautiful and safe structure.

We're not done yet though, we still need HVAC, finish electric, plumbing, bathroom tile and fixtures installed, all the light fixtures, the shop and clothing center shelving and work benches installed.

I'm coming to the end of the financial gift that was given for this project and would have settled with a gravel driveway. God altered that though and we received a gift from Mt. Calvary Baptist in Greenville S.C. which will allow us to pave the front and rear drives. I'm getting an estimate from Hughs Paving in French Lick and should have that done by our target date in late September.

This project would have been overwhelming to me and Susan especially since our maintenance couple retired. God once again interceded on our behalf! We have had the most amazing group of missionary families with us who have pitched in and done much of the required daily upkeep. Many of the ladies were willing to assist with meals for the work teams and to help Susan ready the homes for the next guest's arrival.

Praise the Lord for His servants being willing, during this very difficult period for them, to labor with us! Thank you to David Minnick, Randy Studdard, Chico Pintos, Ben Murry, Peter Doolittle, David Vickers, Forest Mcphail, and all their wives and many of their children. We really wouldn't have survived a major building project like this one without these sweet families assistance.



Finally, I did get a day off last week and took missionary Randy Studdard to a spot on the Ohio River I know. By God's grace he was able to lock into and land this 60 plus pound Blue Cat. Randy and Bonnie have served the Lord as missionaries to the Muslims for 30 years. They spent their deputation here when Sue and I first arrived. Randy's largest fish before this was a 10# cat which he caught with me earlier that day. What a thrill it was to watch him fight this monster. We released it unharmed to fight again.

Please keep us in prayer as we push through this project. It really has been a great time of working and sharing with many new and old friends. I am however ready to wrap it up and return to mowing and maintenance.

Love you all in Christ Jesus our precious Savior. Michael & Susan Weiss