The “pigs in a poke”

A pig in a poke is a thing that is bought without first being inspected, and thus of unknown authenticity or quality. The “poke” is the bag it comes in.

When someone tells you they have pigs that need to be processed because the slaughter houses are full and they can’t get to market; you might be a little hesitant about taking them. That is of course, unless you know the Lord is orchestrating everything! That’s exactly how Steve & Dawn Lofland felt about the last nine hogs that have been offered to them at a small cost, or no cost.

Steve contacted me and as of last week we have processed and given away enough sausage, chops, roasts, ribs and shoulders to feed over fifty families in the area. Pictured are some of the families that came and helped out with the process. We have done this for a few years now and all the families at Shepherd’s Bethel have enjoyed the benefits of home processed pork in a variety of ways. (Second photo top is my friend Bill and my grandbabies helping out) Steve, Bill and I are pictured at the bottom getting the hogs ready for the church families to pitch in the following day. We did three hogs this week and it only took four hours to cut bag and freeze the whole lot!

Praise the Lord, what a gracious loving group of people! Pray that people see Jesus because of these dear Folk.

How rich our lives have become as we have shared our time with people seeking His Kingdom, for His Glory!
Just like everyone else in the Midwest, in February we got dumped on. Praise the Lord I now have a tractor with a heated cab to keep the place clean. First time in over thirty years I haven’t plowed in freezing conditions with ice forming on my face and hands.

My granddaughter Isabelle calls big red “Clifford”, after a storybook character. How wonderful the Lord has been to allow us such fine equipment. If you didn’t notice I used Clifford to hang the pigs we were butchering also.

Wood shop tools are arriving and we’re getting ready to start making things beautiful. I just took a Red Cherry and a White Oak to the Amish to have milled. I picked up over 1,000 feet of ¾ board from him last week, at 14 cents a board foot. As some of you may know, lumber is outrageous right now and this is a Hugh savings for SBBM. Pray that I keep my fingers out of the way as I labor to fix and upgrade these lovely homes.
My sister Debbie moved from Chicago to Jasper Indiana and has donated a bunch of household items to the mission. These drape valances were in her home in Chicago but she generously made them available to us. This is the Livingroom of “Faith Dwelling Place” where they will be enjoyed for years to come.

This summer we plan to upgrade the mission, with the missionary children in mind. We have never had more than a set of swings and single climbing structure for the families, but that is about to change. God allowed us to purchase this beautiful playground set, which was listed for $51,000 dollars, for $23,000. Already God has supplied over $12,000 of the needed funds and I sent a check to the Texas based company last week. It will be shipped as soon as the remaining funds arrive. This structure will be placed in the middle of our ministry complex so all the families can see their kids. (With twelve homes available, we have had over thirty children here at a time) We also hope to design & build, by ourselves, a few benches and a gazebo, with a fire pit, for the parents to sit out and share in the fellowship. It will all have to be landscaped and the ground cover for the playground installed, but by summers end it should be done. If your church men’s group or teen group would like to help out we would be very grateful. I already have two teams scheduled for June and July so let me know soon if you’d like to be involved.

Thank you again for praying and loving this mission! Your generous gifts have made SBBM what it is over the last fifty years of ministering to God’s chosen servants. Love for Christ Jesus, Michael & Susan Weiss