



**MISSION TRIP 2013**

**TO HENRYVILLE, INDIANA**

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF VILLA PARK**

**and**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF PARIS**

**The Mission Team:**

*From the Christian Church of Villa Park:*

Dan Carter  
Doris Carter  
Betty Prorak  
Steve Prorak

*From Pilgrim UCC and friends:*

Jennifer Burney  
Mikaila Davis  
Christine Capparelli  
Katie Capparelli

*From the First Christian Church of Paris:*

Susan King  
Jaime Larson  
Andrew Rozman  
Thomas Rozman  
Beth Sablotny  
Dana Stites  
Jacob Wimsett

The Mission Team had another great experience this year. 6 of the 15 team members were new to the team and had not previously been on a mission trip, but the entire team quickly came together, worked well together and enjoyed time in Christian fellowship.

The Team worked with March2Recovery, an organization that was created to help with recovery efforts in the Henryville IN area after the tornado that hit the area on March 2, 2012. The entire team was able to work together all week on a home for the Ripley family. Malcolm and Jennifer Ripley were living in a small mobile home when the tornado hit. They sought shelter in a neighbor's basement. They were not hurt themselves but the tornado did enough damage to their trailer to render it uninhabitable. While the Ripleys were waiting for assistance with a new home, they became guardians of 4 of their grandchildren. A 3 bedroom, 2 bath double wide trailer was donated to March2Recovery and March2Recovery made the decision to help the Ripley family by giving them the double wide trailer, which was larger than the home they originally had, but would better accommodate their now larger family. Since this was a used trailer, much work needed to be done. During our week, part of the team worked on the outside of the home and installed siding and soffit. Others of the team worked inside the home replacing drywall, installing baseboard and window trim, and painting. The homeowners stopped by each day with their grandchildren to see our progress and were very appreciative that we had come to help them. The Ripleys are now living in their newly renovated mobile home with their grandchildren.

We had opportunities to talk to local people and to listen to their stories. Although much of Henryville and the surrounding area have been rebuilt, the physical and emotional impact of the tornado is still apparent. We felt privileged to be able to come to the area and show Christ's love to the people of Henryville through our week of service.

Once again the financial and prayer support for the mission trip was a partnership between the Christian Church of Villa Park and the First Christian Church of Paris. The total cost of the trip was just over \$3,200:

Housing (contribution to host church)	\$ 500
Food	\$1,209
Gasoline	\$ 856
Supplies	\$ 443
Contribution to March2Recovery	<u>\$ 250</u>
Total	\$3,258

The costs were covered by fees paid by team members, mission trip funds previously raised by Villa Park and new fundraising efforts of the team members from Paris. We hope you enjoy reading the reports of some of our team members and will be inspired to serve Christ in your own way and to continue to support the efforts of others in their mission work.

Doris Carter, Team Coordinator

### **Report from Steve Prorak**

This year's mission trip was a demonstration in diversity and togetherness. I think we had more people that were new to the group than in quite a while. We also had more people that were learning new skills in quite a while also. It was very helpful that we were able to work on one site. The site was almost perfect for our group. We had siding going on to the outside of the house and a variety of window, door and trim things going on inside. I was amazed at how well everyone worked together. People would shift from one project to another without a hitch. Lots of people learned new skills and everyone had fun. It was helpful that the weather was a little cooler than expected, but we still had our share of Southern Indiana heat.

Our facility was also one of the nicest ones we had stayed at in a while. It was a large new church and we had the building to ourselves most of the time. I think we got much closer as a group because of the bus from the Paris group that we could do our travels in. Overall, I felt that the group all had an excellent time, worked together well, and we made significant progress on the house.

### **Report from Betty Prorak**

Each mission trip I have been on has been unique. This one was no exception. We enjoyed the group – a mix of veteran and new-to-all-of-this volunteers – and the work was gratifying. Repair of the Ripleys' doublewide trailer had been started by others. We picked up where they left off. Some of us who learned about vinyl siding last summer got to pass on our skills and completed most of the outside of the trailer. Others worked on painting and numerous trim jobs inside. Lots of teaching and learning! Dan Carter did a fine job of overseeing our work; his only complaint came when, "No one needs me!" because he had directed us so well.

The Ripleys visited the work site each day, so we got to hear of what they experienced with the storms on March 2, 2012. We also listened to other people in town and at the host church as they shared their stories. God was and is at work in the Henryville, Indiana area. I am grateful that our group could be part of that work.

### **Report from Dan Carter**

This mission trip was different for me because I was restricted in what I could do because of hip surgery. I had several mothers, who will remain nameless, who always pestered me about doing too much, climbing ladders and playing basketball. They all meant well and tried to protect me from myself. It was interesting to watch the new people on the trip learn to use power tools, hang siding, install finish trim and paint. Measure 3 times and cut once. They went from knowing little about how to do anything construction related to working without supervision and doing a great job. Second careers anyone? March 2 Recovery had construction people to help us if needed but after watching us Monday morning they decided we did not need help. Prior mission trips have taught us how to do construction. It was wonderful to meet the family that was going to live in the home and to hear their stories. They went from a single wide trailer that was in bad shape pre-storm and trashed after the storm to a double wide trailer that would meet their needs. They also took in several grandchildren who would now have a warm and safe place to live. One of the best things about going on a mission trip is that people with different

backgrounds and abilities come together and become a family. God really is great and shows us many ways that we can serve others. Spots are open for next year's trip.

### **Report from Jennifer Burney**

Once again it was a wonderful week. This year we worked on the double wide trailer of Malcolm and Jennifer Ripley. Their original trailer was rendered uninhabitable on March 2, 2012 by a tornado that traveled 49 miles in 49 minutes. Jennifer is still not able to talk about that day. Malcolm told us how they survived the tornado by seeking shelter in their neighbors' basement. Doris and I spent the week putting in baseboards and framing windows. We also replaced and put up some new drywall. We really had fun putting in the new drywall in the shower stall! We were all very fortunate that there were no injuries all week long...until the last day. When I was using a wood chisel and it slipped and I cut my thumb. I find it very ironic that I was using power tools all week and I injured myself with a hand tool. I felt doubly blessed this year. Not only did I have my niece Mikaila along but my friend Chris and her daughter Katie also came along. We had a wonderful group of people. It was really great to have 6 new people with us this year. A BIG Thank You to Doris for all her hard work in finding an organization for us to work with and a place to stay. Thanks to Beth for finding us a great place to go on our day off. Thank you to Betty for what I know will be a wonderful DVD. Thank you to everyone who did a meditation it was a great way to start each day. And last but not least... thanks to Dana and Susan for preparing our meals and doing laundry. I'm looking forward to next year.

### **Report from Christine Capparelli**

This year I had the wonderful opportunity to be a part of the church Mission Trip. When Doris asked me to write a short report, it became a difficult task. I came away with so much, I didn't know where to begin. The only reoccurring thought I had was my experience was amazing.

We worked on rebuilding a couple's trailer that was destroyed by a tornado that devastated the area in March 2012. My daughter, Katie, and I were eager to help but had little knowledge in home repairs. In fact, up until that point in our lives, we had never used a power tool. Thanks to Dan, we became semi-pros at working the miter saw and spent most of the week putting in baseboards and trim around windows. I was very impressed on how hard my daughter worked and what a great team we made.

I also had the pleasure of getting to know and work with some very kind, giving and organized people. The entire Mission team made us feel welcomed from the very beginning. I especially like starting every day with meditation and prayer.

The past year has been a very difficult one for me personally. Many events have caused me to reflect on life. This mission trip was truly a gift from God. I was eager to help others and learn something new to make the pain I felt inside go away. I found some peace. It is in giving that we receive. I know I came away with so much more than I gave. Thank you for letting us be a part of your team.

### **Report from Jaime Larson**

This summer I was part of a group that went to Henryville, IN. to help with those affected by the tornadoes that went through a year prior. It was wonderful to be part of a group that could help a family in need that had lost so much. Our team worked so well together and we accomplished so much. I had learned many new skills. I helped to hang siding, put in trim, painting, and tearing down drywall. I was truly blessed by this experience. The homeowners came out daily with their grandchildren to see the progress. When praying with this family at the end of the week you could truly feel the love and appreciation that they felt. Words can't express how fortunate I feel to have been part of this wonderful experience. Thank you to all that helped it making it possible to go on this trip in hopes that we could

spread the love of Christ to a community that was hurting from so much loss and devastation. I hope and pray that I God will allow me to be part of future mission trips.

### **Report from Andrew Rozman**

During the summer, I had the privilege of traveling to Indiana as part of the mission team, a group of Christians who volunteered their time and efforts to help repair damage caused by recent natural disasters that occurred in a place called Henryville. I found this experience to be very rewarding. It was a blessing to work with a group of people who were so optimistic and hard working. I was greatly inspired by the efforts that were shown to express God's love by doing selfless work with the endeavor to bring hope to people in need of God's love and reassurance. The people I worked with and work for are still in my heart and prayers and I look forward to next year's mission trip.

### **Report from Thomas Rozman**

This summer I went on a mission trip to Henryville, Indiana and I had an unforgettable experience. Although I wasn't able to keep up with some of the harder workers, I had a good time and I felt like everybody was more than willing to help me out and teach me new things. I feel like I learned a lot on the trip and I am looking forward to more mission trips in the future. All in all, I had a very good time.

### **Report from Susan King**

This was my first mission trip and I wasn't sure what to expect. Henryville had two tornadoes plow through it. There had been horrific damage to buildings, land and property. Injuries to humans and animals. Loss of life.

I heard about hope, help, neighbor helping neighbor, a woman helping strangers, customers helping business owners. A mother lost her legs while protecting her children. She is now a driving force to get insurance companies to provide prosthesis for children that keep up with their rate of growth, not on a set schedule. A restaurant owner, who had a school bus blown into the front of his building has shown a sense of humor. He changed the name of his restaurant to Beaudro's Bus Stop. On the walls, there are photos of the damaged building, but on the tables are napkin holders in the shape of school buses.

The owner of a gas station is from a country that doesn't have tornadoes, so when the sirens went off, he had no clue of what to do. A customer got him and most of his employees into the back, away from the glass front. The first tornado hit causing major damage and severely injuring one man who was caught in front. The customer went to help the injured man and got him toward the back. Nineteen minutes later, the second tornado struck, causing the building to collapse. The owner and several more employees had been injured. The customer stopped bleeding words, lifted debris off of people who were trapped and then got them to the fire station in a car he found that still ran. The gas station has been rebuilt and is open. One employee lost four of his fingers. The owner has had several surgeries on his back and still faces more. The customer? He is fine, though he had a lot of damage to his home and property. He gets a large discount from the grateful station owner.

Henryville, Indiana will always remember what happened on March 2, 2012. I hope I will always remember the people I heard about.

My first mission trip won't be my last. To be a small part of helping a community and its people is an amazing experience. I feel I received a blessing.

### **Report from Beth Sablotny**

This year's mission trip to Henryville, Indiana met the high standards that have been set by past years' mission trips. The wide-spread destruction that the tornadoes of March 2, 2012 inflicted upon the area left quite a bit for groups to do by the time we came to work in June. There was plenty to do at the Ripley home. We were able to do a lot of work to improve the outside of the house by hanging new siding, putting up new soffit and working on windows. Painting and cleaning went on inside the house. We knew when we left that it wouldn't be too long before the family was back in their home.

As always, we enjoyed the company and fellowship of old friends and new ones. We had good conversations, devotions, food and fun! We even took a little time for a side trip to Churchill Downs (and some hat shopping) and some good BBQ.

Trips like this reenergize me for life and for helping others. I am looking forward to next summer's trip.

### **Report from Dana Stites**

Another summer, another awesome mission trip! Henryville, Indiana is a community that is full of life, hope and togetherness. The devastation caused by the March 2, 2012 destroyed or damaged nearly every building in town, but it did not destroy their spirits.

While the majority of our mission team was on the job site, Susan and I cooked for the crew, grocery shopped and explored the town and its people. We helped with paperwork at the March2Recovery headquarters and heard many personal stories about experiences during the tornadoes. We heard stories of courage and selflessness, stories of perseverance and patience, stories of ongoing problems and thankful for quick work and resolution. Hearing these stories and learning about what still needs to be done in the area reassured me that we had come to the right place this year.

Our "fun time" at Churchill Downs and Smoke Town USA BBQ allowed us to reconnect as a group and relax. Safe Harbor Christian Church, where we stayed was a beautiful facility and we were able to use their sanctuary for our morning devotionals. We were also able to attend a mid-week worship that was very moving.

I am thankful for another inspiring and moving mission trip and looking forward to what next summer brings.