

and Katelyn Stallworth all of San Angelo; David and Louise (Sparks) Drennan of Ballinger; and Kevin and Ryan Sparks of Johnstown, Colorado.

Jeffie Roberts welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and for helping make the reunion a GREAT success as it is a TEAM effort. Lawana (Harmon) Askins asked everyone to "Thank Jeffie" for the many hours and years she has organized and worked to keep our reunion going. Several present had wedding anniversaries but Lawana reported that this day June 18, 2011, was Bobby and Jeffie Roberts 57th wedding anniversary. Olene Stricklan prepared 2 large cards for everyone to sign - 90th birthday for Bill Harmon and 57th wedding anniversary card. Everyone was sad about the loss of our loved ones in 2010, Jessie Harmon, Nola Harmon and Stephen Blair.

The weather was very hot (111 degrees) but the eating, visiting, picture taking and swimming was truly enjoyed. The 73rd reunion is being planned for sometime in June 2012.

Response to the Joplin F5 Tornado and Interaction with New Testament Christians

By James Coalson, Ph.D.
[Editor's Note: Following is a part 1 of a presentation made by James Coalson to the Bronte Church of Christ congregation earlier this month. The remaining installations will be included in the following weeks.]

Only a very small percentage of our population had ever been exposed to the damage and destruction of an F5 tornado or the clean up in the aftermath of such a terrible storm.

We decided to get involved with the survivors of the F5 tornado in Joplin, Missouri, on Sunday, May

22, due to the interest surrounding the circumstances of a small Joplin Church of Christ located at 26th & Connecticut on the southern edge of the tornado. The area impacted by the F5 was one mile wide and seven miles in length. Everything in that area was either totally destroyed or condemned to be torn down to prevent further injury.

Clara and I are members of the Oldham Lane Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas. After the tornado and seeing so much destruction and damage, the Church decided to have a special fund raising for the Joplin Church of Christ to assist both members and non-members on an as needed basis.

As we read the New Testament and study the profiles that are outlined in all the books from Matthew to Revelations; each of us as created by God has over time developed different understandings of the attributes of New Testament Christians.

As we study the scriptures we develop clearer understandings of some of the essentials of New Testament Christians that include, but are not limited to, strong faith, devout understandings of the power of prayer and the need to seek wisdom to be able to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

How do all of these attributes fit into the work of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Church of Christ in Joplin, as well as many other churches located in the Joplin area?

On Sunday night, May 22, each of us may remember seeing evidence of the disaster of the F5 tornado that struck Joplin late Sunday evening. Most of us may only remember the "Weather Channel" showing the bare structure of the eight-story hospital with the top two floors missing and curtains



Harmon-Sparks Reunion! The fifth generation of these families and all grandchildren of the late Thomas and Amanda Harmon attending the reunion were Teresa (standing, from left), Jim, Betsy, Sharlon, Ardie, Glenda, Jerrel, Bill, Suzann, William Joe, Doug, James, Lawana (seated, from left), Dorene, Jeffie, Judy, Debra, Darlene. Not pictured but present Mandy and Ernest. Grandchildren of some in this picture are 7th generation Coke Countians.

blowing from all the open broken windows. The nation looked on in "disbelief", and wondered how this occurred as it was rated as the single worst tornado in the United States in some 60 years.

Within hours of the tornado, the Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort located in Nashville, Tennessee, sent several semi-trucks loaded with all types of goods, needed for short term survival after such a strategy to the 26th & Connecticut Church. The pews were all pushed to one side and all the goods received from Nashville were arranged in labeled aisles or lanes to make it

easier for the people to locate the needed items.

This type of effort was also duplicated by other churches. I know from personal contact that the Lutheran Church in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, sent several containers of goods needed for short term needs. The Lutheran Church in Joplin is located about two blocks south of the 26th & Connecticut Church. We observed the relief efforts they were supplying. I am confident such relief efforts were being carried out by most all the local churches in the area.

At Oldham Lane Church of Christ, we started dis-

cussing a fund raising drive within days after the tornado, but Clara and I had the opportunity to visit Joplin on two earlier dates, June 23 and June 28.

Prior to arriving in Joplin on Thursday, June 23, I was thinking with my checkbook about the upcoming fund raiser at Oldham Lane. After I visually observed the first two blocks of the dead zone, my thinking was transformed from "Checkbook Mentality" to "Thinking with the Heart Mentality"; as a Christian should do, since all material blessings are only on loan to us and we are given the responsibility by God to man-

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