

Sometimes the people whose homes we work in will tell their story as we are working. Today one of our clients began by telling us that she believes God led her back to Joplin. When she was in her early 40's, she became overwhelmed with life—children, work, divorce. She decided that God called her to move to the mountains. So she packed all her belongs in her car. She had no money, lived in her car, and turned to churches for help.

After wandering the country for several years, she stopped in little town in Idaho, and eventually went to a half-way house. Despite additional hardship, she stayed in Idaho for six years.

Finally, her children and mother wanted her to come back to Joplin. She found a job at Wall Mart and bought a house—the house we worked on today. The house needed work when she bought it. While the tornado didn't demolish the house, there was some damage. After battling the insurance company, she received a check to pay a contractor. The contractor scammed her, not completing the work he promised.

She is now currently broke, her car needs tires, she is barely making her house payment, and suffers from kidney stones. Her house is being rebuilt by volunteers, but she has not been able to purchase a stove. She still believes in God, and thinks her life is better than it has been in a long time. She would like to have a stove, but she's afraid she will be given a stove that should go to someone more needy.

We have been trying to solve her electrical problems, but we are also trying to find a way to get her a stove. She is grateful for all the wonderful volunteers who have helped save her.

Each house presents repair and construction challenges. But more importantly, the family in that house has faced and is facing challenges as well. The stories and the repairs go together.