

Victory Center



Changing our Community ... Reaching the World

February 2010

Vol. 16 No. 2



IF YOU HAVE A NEED; SOW A SEED

By Lisa Clemans

There is just something in a woman that wants a nice house – a nesting instinct I guess – and I am no exception. So in the mid 1990s, not long after Heath and I were married, we went so far as to purchase some house plans with the thought of building our dream home. At the time, we were able to secure a mortgage but then ran into some significant roadblocks with the construction loan...so we got frustrated and quit pursuing the idea.

By that time, we had been married for five years and decided it was time to start a family. During that previous year, we had been putting my full-time paycheck into savings to use for those unexpected expenses that always seem to crop up. But when I got pregnant, I began to feel that going back to work after having the baby was out of the question. When it came down to it, I just couldn't bring myself to put my child in daycare. So even though our income had diminished, we found that God was faithful to sustain us on my husband's salary. I am convinced that the reason we never had any lack was because we continued to tithe faithfully.

Six months after our first child, Colten, was born, we were able to purchase a manufactured home. This house was almost twice the size of the 900 square foot one we had been living in. It was brand new; and it was awesome! God continued to bless and sustain us: Heath got a salary increase and we had two more boys, Landon and Westin.

Even though we were so thankful for the nice home we had, we knew that with our growing family we were going to need to enlarge our house at some future date. By this time, we had started to attend Victory Center. When Pastor Charlie presented the opportunity to give regularly to the building fund, we felt this was a great opportunity to plant some seed toward expanding our existing house. In the church we had previously attended, we had never been taught about sowing seed, but since attending Victory Center we had learned about

the principles of sowing and reaping; so we decided to step out in faith. We declared that because we were planting seeds for our church to build, someday we would also be able to build.

We started by giving \$20 a month but a year later we increased our giving to \$40 a month. We continued to faithfully give, but even though we had peace about our building project, we just knew the time was not quite right to begin. In the meantime, we went through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University and started to implement the principles he taught by getting our financial ground prepared.

In 2007, because all of our kids were in school, I started to work part-time at the church and by the time 2008 rolled around, I knew something was stirring inside my husband. Heath is a planner – a VERY thorough planner. Throughout the year, I kept hearing him make statements that let me know he was ready to plunge into the building project for our home. During that year, we looked at different options that would be within the amount we could afford and still maintain our current lifestyle. Even though we wanted a nice large house, we didn't want one that would strap us financially for the next thirty years.

We looked into getting a new ready-built modular home, checked on a new larger shop, and also the general cost of building a basement. Sometimes men and women's opinions differ, but in this case we both agreed that we definitely wanted a basement and a new larger shop. After a lot of figuring, we decided we couldn't have both of those improvements and get a new house too, so we decided to go with a basement under our existing home and a new shop.

Because of the past disappointment we had experienced when we went to the bank to get a construction loan, we really had to stand our ground in the Word so we would not allow a spirit of fear to come upon us this time. But on July 28, which

was four years and one week from the date we started giving into the building fund, we got our construction loan.

During the first six months of 2009 we had sporadically given \$80 a month into the building fund instead of our usual \$40. But in mid August, we, on purpose, decided to continue the \$80 a month increase believing that since God had been faithful to make a way for us to start construction, we were going to increase our giving so that He could put His "super" on our "natural" during the process. And He did!

First of all, since Heath had regularly hired contractors at National Beef where he worked, we decided he had had enough experience that he could be our general contractor and not have to hire one. That decision alone saved us \$30,000. And because earlier that year, Heath had helped a friend erect a shop, they swapped labor so we didn't have to hire anyone to construct our new 40X60 shop. That saved us over \$20,000.

That shop proved to be a special blessing to me. I jokingly call it my semi-attached garage. Heath got the idea of creating a 23-foot tunnel underground that would connect the shop to the basement. So now I can get out of my car and go into the house without having to go outdoors. To some this might be silly, but to me it was a great blessing.

However, during the construction period there were some moments that our patience was stretched. While the men were digging our basement it was hot and dry, but when they were trying to erect the shop, it decided to hail and rain. And then when we were ready to have the house moved over onto the basement, we got two rains that exceeded two inches demanding we spend hours each time pumping out the standing water.

When we contacted the house mover, we asked if it were true that if we left a glass of water on our kitchen table that it would be in the same spot after they moved the house. He laughingly replied that sure enough it would still be there, but the table might be in another room. However, the day our house was moved, I had gone to work thinking it was probably too muddy to move it that day and I had inadvertently left a glass of ice water on the kitchen counter. When I returned home later that day, I found that they were ready to move the house and I wasn't allowed to go inside. Later that evening inside was proof of a perfect move: I discovered my glass of water still on the counter. The ice had melted, but the glass was still there undisturbed. And on top of all that, the mover charged us \$7,000 less than we expected.

Throughout this whole project we have seen the goodness of God demonstrated in so many ways. Now, with the addition of the basement, we have more than doubled our square footage. We have been able to brick our house, put stucco on our porch, erect a 40 X 60 shop, plus create a unique passageway from shop to house, add quoins (decorative stones) to all the corners of our home including our new 18 X 20 addition, reconstruct our porch, and add sidewalks that go all the way around the house and shop, all because we were faithful to give.

So now we can testify without reservation that it is true...If you have a need; sow a seed!

CORRECTIONS

In last month's newsletter Keilon Jet Ortiz's birth date was stated as December 17th and it should have been December 27th.

Also in last month's newsletter Joe Simpson's CD release party at Victory Center was announced as February 7th and should have been January 30th.



Immediately Following Service

On the Menu:

Brisket

Baked Beans

Potato Salad, and Coleslaw

Dessert

MANNA MAIDENS WILL MEET ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, AT CENTRAL PLAINS VILLAGE. STELLA HART, NEOLA GATES, AND GLADYS TURNER WILL BE THE HOSTESSES.

HELP WANTED



Victory Center Kids Clubs are in need of van drivers for Wednesday nights!! There are at least 47 kids attending and many of them need a ride. Stella Jones, Tina Rickman and Rod Sites have volunteered to help which is a GREAT blessing! However, it would be nice if there were more volunteers so that the drivers can be rotated weekly.

Project Joshua's Phase One began on Sunday, January 24th. This eight week phase will focus to develop influential leaders and emphasize the importance of service for today and future generations.

Project Joshua will disciple youth in their response to the Heart of God by establishing principles of excellence and integrity in attitude, discipline, ethics and character.

They meet every Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m. in the youth building and all youth from 7th through 12th grade are encouraged to participate.



Dear Partner in Christ,

Victory Center was birthed over thirty-three years ago with the intention of making an impact on the body of Christ. Our mission statement, "*Embrace, Empower, and Equip*" reflects that desire as we have made it our aim to *embrace* anyone who comes into our fellowship no matter what their social position might be or from whatever walk of life they may come. Through the consistent teaching of the uncompromised word of God, we have worked to *empower* each individual to become all they can be in Christ so that they, in turn, can be *equipped* to touch the lives of others.

As we have endeavored to fulfill our vision over the past many years, we have now come to the crossroads of our ministry. Presently, our existing facilities are maxed out. In order to add any other ministries or outreaches, we must have more room. Our youth building is bursting at the seams and our Children's Church is meeting in a rented building that is completely inadequate for our needs. There is no more office space and no room to add on any more Sunday school classes. Needless to say, in order to proceed with the vision God has given us, we need a new complex of buildings.

Recently, we were able to purchase approximately 49.5 acres of prime property located north of the new Super Wal-Mart, which we feel is an excellent location for our new church building. We obtained this land at considerably less than the appraised value, which we believe was the direct result of God's favor. But in order to move ahead with our plan to build, our first objective is to pay off what we owe on the recently purchased property.

In order to accomplish this goal, we need our faithful supporters to become actively involved financially. Over the years, we have found that when everyone does what they can, the job gets done without causing an undue burden on anyone. If only one hundred people would pledge to give \$30 a week into the building fund, in fifty-two weeks the land would be paid off. Paying off the land in one year would release us to begin construction on our new church shortly thereafter. That is our plan and we believe that God will enable our supporters to prosper so that they might give to this good work.

If Victory Center has been a blessing to you in any way, we would count it a privilege if you would consider becoming a vital part in helping us carry out our vision. Should you sense that God is directing you to give to this project and would like to make a one year commitment, please fill out the enclosed pledge card and return it to Victory Center, P.O. Box 128, Guymon, Oklahoma 73942.

As you plant seed into the soil of this ministry, we agree with you that... "*God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation].*" (II Cor. 9:8)

Working together for Christ's kingdom,

Pastors Charlie and Margaret Mendenhall



Returning



Mark Hankins

March 5-9

Friday March 5th

Men's Meeting @ 7:00PM

The men's meeting will kick off with a wild game feed!

Saturday, march 6th

Men's Meeting @ 9:30am

Two morning sessions concluding around noon.

Sunday, march 7th

morning service @ 10:30am

Evening service @ 6:00PM

Monday, march 8th

&

Tuesday March 9th

@ 7:00pm