

Tuesday April 17th

Another day in tornado land. As we drive west down 20th street from Ridge Line Road to Main Street the devastation is still very evident. A few scattered homes are being built, and many businesses are working again from new structures. The high school is still a very large pile of rubble.

Volunteers from faith based organizations all across the USA and Canada are spreading out in the city and making great progress with the rebuild, however it is obvious that several years of this lifestyle lay ahead for the citizens of Joplin.

As for Ken and Steve, the day turned out differently than we had envisioned. Catholic Charities, for whom we are working, is moving to new headquarters down the street. Amy, our manager, asked us to install a simple baseboard trim across one wall. As we were walking across the room we felt a noticeable deflection of the floor under our feet. Further investigation revealed that about sixteen 2 x 12 floor joists had rotted out. So thus began a long day of tearing out flooring and designing a new structural support for the floor of a 21 x 53 foot room. This would also require about \$500 worth of new materials to complete the rebuild. As I said, not the day that we had envisioned, and tomorrow we begin a full day of rebuilding the floor.



The pleasant little job of tiling a shower in a bathroom will wait for another day.