

## IN THIS EDITION

A Letter from  
Director Jim Boyd 1

2023 Ministry  
At a Glance 1

Disaster Relief –  
All Year Long 2

Local Impact 2

Storage Building  
Collapse 3

A Home of Our Own 3

Partnering and Connecting  
with Rebuilding Hope 4

# Looking Back, Moving Ahead

## A Letter from Director Jim Boyd

Just like driving a car, we can't spend all of our time looking in our rear view mirror, but it is helpful to glance back now and then. It gives us an opportunity to learn from the past, celebrate victories, and plot our course going forward. This year has been a whirlwind, quite literally at times, as we spent about 10 weeks doing disaster relief from tornadoes and hurricanes. We even had a whirlwind that took down the storage building that housed all of our equipment. Through these trials and storms, we still see God's faithfulness and are confident of His goodness. While a lot of our equipment was damaged, we should be able to repair, rebuild, and replace what we need to.

As we start our 17<sup>th</sup> year of ministry, I am amazed at how far God has brought us and look forward to what is ahead. We are excited for what the future holds. We are establishing a more regular schedule to make it easier for local volunteers to get involved. We are seeking to build or buy a warehouse to meet our short-term and long-term plans. We already have a full schedule of mission teams for next summer. We can see that the "harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" and we are seeking ways to get more people involved, knowing that will give us more opportunities to minister to the hurting all around us. See page 4 for ways to help out.



## AT A GLANCE

75+ LOCAL FAMILIES HELPED

30+ WHEELCHAIR RAMPS/DECKS

11 ROOF REPLACEMENTS/REPAIRS

8 FLOORING PROJECTS

3 COMPLETE KITCHEN BUILDS

10 LOCAL TREE PROJECTS

10 ACCESSIBLE BATHROOMS

10 WEEKS OF DISASTER RELIEF



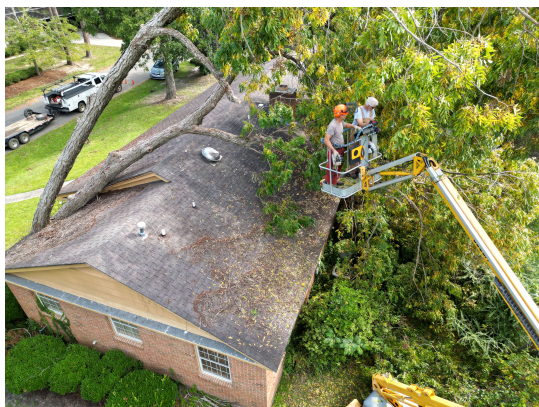
# Disaster Relief – All Year Long

This year the disasters got off to a quick start and never really let up. On January 13 tornadoes tore across central Georgia and we headed to LaGrange, GA and then over the next 6 weeks we moved east to Mansfield and then to Locust Grove.

In March, another round of tornadoes hit and we headed to Hartselle, AL for a few days.

The end of April found us in Adamsville, TN for yet another round of tornado cleanup.

Even at home, we had severe storms throughout the summer and cleaned up broken trees in Dalton, Rome, and Woodstock.



Late in the summer Hurricane Idalia caught much of south Georgia by surprise. They were expecting some rain and maybe a little wind, but nothing like the onslaught of 90 mph winds and flooding that came ashore on August 30.

That afternoon we were on a conference call with the state VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters) and heard the mayor of Valdosta say that more than 1000 trees were down *on the roads*. We packed up and headed to Valdosta and were on the ground less than 24 hours after Idalia left her mark.

We partnered with a couple of churches - Redeemer Presbyterian Church and Perimeter Road Baptist Church. These churches let us set up in their parking lots and they fed us lots of tasty food, provided volunteers, and helped with logistics. We love to see the local church respond and help their communities. Our ministry is so much better when the local church is involved. We had a good turn-out of volunteers from Dalton who made the 5-hour trip down south.

## 2023 Disasters

- La Grange, GA
- Mansfield, GA
- Locust Grove, GA
- Hartselle, AL
- Adamsville, TN
- Valdosta, GA
- Helped more than 100 families



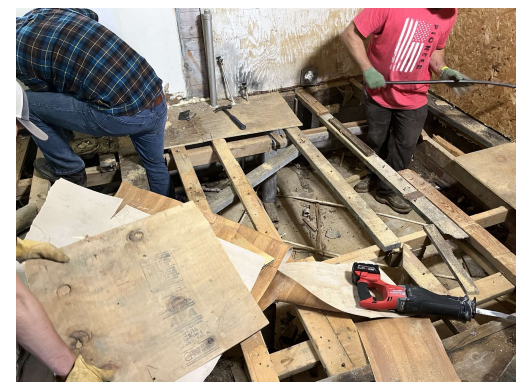
Because sometimes you just have to run your chainsaw in the house.

## LOCAL IMPACT

We had a productive summer with a full schedule of mission teams. Making bathrooms and houses handicap accessible seemed to be the majority of our projects this summer. Thankfully, we had over 160 volunteers work with us in Dalton this year and it was one of our best years ever!

Typically, making a bathroom handicap accessible means taking out an old tub and installing a shower. This usually involves tearing out the floor and often modifying the walls as well.

We have completed many projects and shared the love of Jesus through these physical expressions, but the needs continue to outpace our ability to meet them. We want to help as many hurting people as possible because their needs are very real. To make this happen we need more volunteers getting involved and sharing the excitement about helping others. Sometimes a homeowner just needs someone to sit and talk and pray with them to have a life-changing impact.



Pictured is a bathroom remodel we did for a single mom who takes care of her 5 year old son and her disabled father. The floor was ready to fall in at any time, but with our volunteers we were able to rebuild the entire subfloor, install a handicap shower and install new walls, lights, and vanity.



# Our Own Disaster and Recovery

## Storage Building Collapse

After returning from Valdosta in September, we parked our equipment in our pole barn storage shelter and took a couple of days off to recover. Before we even got back to unload the trucks and trailers, the wind knocked down the building on top of all of our equipment. This was especially challenging as all of our equipment that we needed to clean up and start the recovery process was trapped and/or damaged. It was a feeling of helplessness; one that we often see in disasters when we show up to help. Instead of being the ones to offer help, we were on the receiving end of it. We are grateful for our local volunteers who stepped in and were able to deconstruct the building and carefully extract each piece of equipment bit by bit.

Thankfully, insurance is covering the cost of replacing the building and repairing the equipment. Mostly what we are losing is time. This is a slow process of getting estimates and scheduling repairs and waiting on materials. We are hoping to have this rebuilt by the first of the year.

The Bible is full of stories of people who have lost much and been restored to do even greater things. I think of Job who lost his business, his family, and his health yet still trusted God and was restored 10-fold. Even more amazing though, we see the cross of Jesus that seemed to signify that death and hell had won, but Sunday came and the tomb was empty! What seemed like a loss became the greatest victory because God is in the restoration business. He redeems us, makes order out of our chaos, and makes broken things beautiful. We have complete confidence that this trial will result in God's glory and improve our abilities to help others. Through it all, it's helped us empathize a little better with those we help after a disaster. It's a good reminder that any of us are just a gust of wind from having our possessions and lives turned upside down.



## A Home of Our Own

Before our building collapsed, our staff and board had begun talking about building or buying a warehouse in our community to give us a permanent location long into the future and better name recognition in the community. Our plan is to make this a training and meeting hub for local building projects and volunteers as well as a regional supply and staging warehouse for meeting disaster relief needs. To watch a video explaining the top 10 reasons we need a warehouse or to donate specifically to our warehouse fund, follow the links provided below.



Warehouse Donation Link

### Our Ideal Warehouse

- Located between Dalton & Chatsworth
- 10-15,000 sq. ft.
- Dock door for tractor trailers
- Drive through door
- Office space
- Fenced outdoor parking
- 2+ acre lot
- Estimated budget - \$750,000



Warehouse Top 10 Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfZRmRARG5g>

# PARTNERING AND CONNECTING

## WITH REBUILDING HOPE

### PRAY

We are grateful for each of you as you partner with us in prayer.

In order to more fully bathe our work in prayer, we will send out periodic updates to let you know more specifically how to pray for the families we will be serving. To be involved in this prayer support, please send an email to [rebuildinghope@live.com](mailto:rebuildinghope@live.com) or text at 706-934-9261.

#### Continual Prayer Requests

- *For health and safety for many of those we are trying to help as they are the most vulnerable of the population.*
- *For more churches and people to partner with Rebuilding Hope.*
- *For those whom we serve to be impacted by the gospel of Jesus*
- *For provision as we have our day-to-day operations and are embarking on a fundraising campaign to get a warehouse to consolidate all of our operations.*

### SERVE

As our workload continues to grow, we are looking for more volunteers who can help with projects, both locally and on disaster relief trips.

During the majority of the year when we don't have mission teams, we are encouraging local volunteers to join us on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. You can put it on your calendar to know that we need your help on those days. Let us know by Friday that you'll be joining us the following week, so we know how to plan.

### GIVE

The work of Rebuilding Hope is funded through donations from churches, businesses, and individuals.

Please contact us for more information about Rebuilding Hope and how you or your church can partner with us financially.

#### Mail:

Rebuilding Hope  
2940 Old Grade Road  
Dalton, GA 30721

#### PayPal

Please send your PayPal donations to [rebuildinghope@live.com](mailto:rebuildinghope@live.com) and use the Friends and Family option to avoid processing fees.

**Venmo:** Please send your Venmo donations to @RebuildingHopeDalton

*All donations to Rebuilding Hope are fully tax deductible.*

**Update: Amazon Smile no longer exists, but Kroger Rewards does, so go to "Community Rewards" on the Kroger website and sign up to make Rebuilding Hope of Dalton, GA your preferred charity.**



## Holiday Fundraiser

for

## Rebuilding Hope

Your purchase helps Rebuilding Hope meet physical needs of those challenged with disabilities, financial hardship or natural disasters.

Learn more at:  
[rebuildinghopeministries.org](http://rebuildinghopeministries.org)  
[facebook.com/rebuildinghopeministries](https://facebook.com/rebuildinghopeministries)

### Nancy Halman of Nancy's CheeseStraws

7 oz. Bag	\$11
8 oz. Tin	\$16
13 oz. Tin	\$22
22 oz. Tin	\$33

Pick up in the parking lot of  
**Fiddleheads**  
1237 West Walnut Ave.  
Dalton

## Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>





10am - 11am

**Pre-orders  
until 12/7**

Place an order  
by calling or texting  
Nancy  
706-270-1422



### STAY CONNECTED

-  [rebuildinghopeministries](https://facebook.com/rebuildinghopeministries)
-  [rebuilding\\_hope](https://instagram.com/rebuilding_hope)
-  [rebuildinghope@live.com](mailto:rebuildinghope@live.com)
-  706-229-0521

[rebuildinghopeministries.org](http://rebuildinghopeministries.org)