

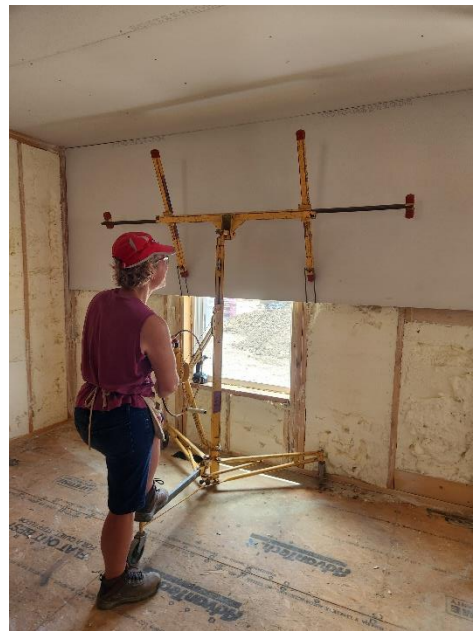
Spring Creek Testimonies

Brethren Disaster Ministries Work Week

Thank you for supporting our BDM trip to Fleming-Neon, KY on July 27 - August 2, 2025. We had a great, hot week. Your prayers were felt by all of us. Thanks also for the texts and emails. We wanted to share some of our experiences with you.

Michelle & Nathaniel Houck

This was Nathaniel's and my first time joining a BDM trip. We did not know what to expect. We thought it would be stressful. Would we be able to do what they were asking us to do? After listening to the leaders talk on Sunday night, our nervousness and stress level went up. What did we get ourselves into? When we arrived at the site Monday morning, we were assigned to hang drywall. Udo, one of the leaders, explained to us in detail how to do it. He guided us along the way. After that first day, our nervousness and stress disappeared. Everyone was so nice. It was a wonderful week of fellowship, connections, and fun! We are already looking forward to next year! Thank you, Marsha, Jim, Diana, and Jon, for welcoming us on the trip!



Jon & Diana Johnson



Our week in Kentucky started early Sunday morning as we met at 6:00 AM to load up the van and hit the road. Since there were only 6 in our group this time, there was plenty of room to spread out and be comfortable. We stopped for breakfast at Cracker Barrel in Winchester, VA, then introduced some folks to Buc-ee's in Harrisonburg, VA. Our next stop was Wise, VA, for dinner at Moon Dog Brick Oven Pizza before arriving at the work site in Neon-Fleming, KY. After unloading the van and getting settled in our respective cabins, we toured the base of operations then got together for the orientation meeting and to meet the staff.

We spent the week at a single building location that was about an hour's drive from Neon. There were 2-3 houses at the location where we all worked together. That was a really nice aspect of this trip because we were able to all be together and not spread out at different

locations. That also meant that we were able to gather on the porch every day to enjoy lunch together as a group.

We were given our instructions for the day and immediately got to work. Jim and Jon were assigned to the house on Lot #4 to work on the roof and front porch. The rest of the group, Marsha, Michelle, Nathaniel and Diana, were assigned to the house on Lot #2 to finish installing the drywall. As it turned out, these were the jobs we would have for the duration of the week.

We worked on drywalling on Monday and Tuesday and were able to finish the first house on Wednesday. We then moved to the house on Lot #3, which was only framed at that point. We worked really well as a team and were able to finish the drywall by the end of the workday on Friday. That was a wonderful feeling of accomplishment!

Jim spent most of the week on the roof of the house on Lot #4 installing the plywood and shingles. Jon rotated between working on the roof and porch at Lot #4 and installing drywall at Lot #2.



It was a very hot week, and we were pretty sweaty and dirty by the end of each day. We very much appreciated the shower trailers and the A/C in the cabins. And we were so fortunate to have a wonderful cook who prepared delicious meals for us. We certainly did not go hungry!

Our return trip was also an adventure! We started the morning in search of slushies, enjoyed breakfast at a Huddle House in St. Paul, VA, and delicious grilled cheese sandwich comfort food for lunch in Harrisonburg, VA.

We have been on several BDM trips over the years. They are hard work, and we usually end up being dirty. But these trips are some of the most rewarding things we have done and, truly, some of the most fun. The experiences we share, the memories we make, and the relationships we build make everything worthwhile.

Jim & Marsha Heisey

Wow, another trip in the books for 2025. We had a small group of 6 people on this trip but even though we were small we were mighty!! We had great and safe trips down and back, with fun adventures along the way. We stopped at Buc-ee's, which for us was a first-time event, on the way down and were on the search for a 7-Eleven for slushies on the way home!!



It was a hot week down there, so we were glad for nice showers when we got back and being able to have AC too. Even though it was hot to work in, we got a lot accomplished. Jim was on the roof all week installing plywood and shingles. Marsha was on the crew that hung drywall in 1-1/2 houses. Marsha had done that before, but my how things have changed and felt much easier than when she did it 15 years ago. These trips challenge you to learn new skills, which is a great thing. Marsha, Diana & Michelle took turns helping in the kitchen/household duties too. If you have a desire to help with those types of things rather than building, we are always in

need of someone to go along to help with this.

It was great fun to play a new game in the evening called Skyjo. It was great getting to know others from the church better too. We look forward to the next trip and hope others can join us!!

Submitted by Marsha Heisey
Spring Creek Church of the Brethren