



Roger and Ruthie Voth and their four children, Wesley, Judah, Maylin and Avery, (L-R) along with Bodie Napier, all from Hardshell, Kentucky recently attended a missions conference at Trinity Christian Fellowship in Millersburg. This gave an opportunity for Bodie to meet and duly thank key people who made a tremendous impact on his life when they provided him with a brand new home in Kentucky.

## ‘New Kentucky Home’ Built by Holmes County Work Teams

By Elaine Starner

(Millersburg, Ohio—November 20, 2010) Cheyenne “Bodie” Napier visited Holmes County’s Amish country on the first weekend of November. This was the first time he had seen or ridden in an Amish buggy, the first time he had traveled outside his home state of Kentucky, and the first time he met many of the people who had changed his life.

He was able to meet key people who were involved in building a new house for him when he attended the missions conference at Trinity Christian Fellowship in Millersburg. God works in many ways to change lives. In Bodie’s story, it seems that one of God’s tools was pizza.



Almost ten years ago, Bodie Napier of Hardshell, Kentucky, was visiting a friend on a Saturday night when Roger Voth, a pastor at a nearby Mennonite church, showed up on the doorstep with an offer of pizza. That slice of pizza offered in friendship resulted in Bodie's visit to the Little Buckhorn Creek Mennonite Church the next morning. "And I've been there ever since," he says with a wide smile. Bodie, in his mid-thirties, lived alone in a house trailer on his grandmother's land. A balancing impairment makes it impossible for him to hold a job, and he must use a cane and arm brace to walk. Welcomed into Roger's church, he attended as many services and activities as he was able. He offered to mow the lawn at the camp at which the tiny congregation met, and soon he felt a part of the church family. He became a Christian and was baptized in 2001.

A few years later, several friends from church stopped by Bodie's house and found him unconscious on the floor. In the following weeks, doctors found that Bodie's liver was failing and only a transplant could save his life.

The new liver for Bodie was slow in coming. More than once he was called to the hospital in Lexington, only to have someone else receive the liver instead. He suffered a bout of yellow jaundice, was hospitalized several times, and during one period his body swelled up, causing much pain and misery. "We almost lost Bodie," writes Eldon Miller, the senior pastor at the church. "It was getting scary."

Then, one December 25, a call from the hospital came yet again. And that year, Bodie's Christmas present was a new liver.

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In May of 2009, floods swept through Bodie's community in Breathitt County in the mountains of Appalachia in eastern Kentucky. Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) sent workers to help with the cleanup, and among those workers was a group from Trinity Christian Fellowship in Millersburg, Ohio. Two of the Holmes County men worked at Bodie's trailer. Although his home had not been damaged by the floods, the trailer was in "dire need of repair". The men went prepared to replace flooring in the trailer, but also found an open door, an opportunity to change a person's life.

Bodie's trailer was unheated; he had only a kerosene heater for warmth in the winter. In several areas, the floor was rotting away and there was little if any insulation left under most of the rooms. The bathroom had numerous water leaks; and, standing in the shower, the men could look through cracks in the floor and see the grass and weeds under the trailer. Bodie had been standing on a piece of plywood to take his showers, hoping to prevent a fall through the weakened floor.

The men repaired the water leaks and the floor; but while they worked, they started dreaming. Would it be possible to build this man a new home instead of just "patching up"? Back in Ohio, the dream began to take shape. Word of the project spread and fund-raising began. Holmes County businesses contributed



material at no charge or reduced prices. People who wanted to be part of this campaign “to bless and be blessed” donated finances or labor. Trinity Christian Fellowship made and sold 1,000 pizzas to fund the project. Many who wanted to help ate pizza and gave generously. Once again, pizza was one of many tools that would change Bodie Napier’s life.

By September of 2009, plans, funds, materials, and labor were in place to build a new, one-bedroom house. Roger Voth arranged to have the old trailer moved, the concrete and footer were poured, and materials began arriving at the site. On October 1, a crew of ten workers from Holmes County framed the little house. By 8 o’clock that evening, the tar paper was on the roof of the structure, and the neighborhood “couldn’t hardly believe what was happening right in front of us!”

In just ten days, Bodie had a new home. He had a microwave to heat meals, a water softener, handmade kitchen cabinets, windows that could be cleaned, a tiny front porch--all things that many Americans take for granted. His house is now heated, and he’s very grateful for the luxury of a handicap shower stall that is in no danger of falling through the floor.

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The first weekend of November 2010, Trinity Christian Fellowship held a missions conference and Roger Voth was the keynote speaker. Bodie traveled with Roger and his family to Holmes County, where he finally met many people who had helped to make his new home possible. He is all smiles when he talks about the blessing of his new home. His general health has improved, and he believes it is a result of the cleaner environment. He still wonders why he was chosen to receive this great gift “from people who didn’t even know me!”

But Bodie in turn blesses others. His new home has become a gathering place for family and friends. He welcomes them and shares the gifts he has been given, completing a circle of blessing and being blessed.