

March 2, 2012

By: Destiny Conley

March 2, 2012 was just a normal day in Magoffin Co. We had all known about the Tornado watches and warnings that were given throughout the day. No one really thought a tornado would actually hit the hills of Salyersville. But boy were we wrong. A little after 7pm tragedy struck before our very eyes. I was affected in 3 ways my school, my church and my town. That's when I knew nothing would ever be the same.

My education experience would never be the same after March 2nd 2012. I had been so excited to get to move to the middle school the upcoming year. But that was not to be. We soon found out the middle school was completely destroyed and we would be moving in with the high school. It's a tight squeeze here with 9th-12th grade anyway but adding 7th and 8th graders makes things even worse. Everything is so challenging here at the middle school/high school. Many teachers don't have any books and other supplies that are important for us. We also have to eat lunch earlier during the day, 10:30 to be exact. It feels more like brunch. Thanks to the tornado on March 2nd 2012 my middle school experience is very different than what it would have been with out it.

It wasn't just my school that was affected that day, another very important part of my life, my church. When I got home from school that day my mom said that we needed to leave and go to the church basement with my granny. Around 7:02 it started lighting, got very windy and dark. The wind was so strong it blew out the windows. Around 7:07 we heard a roaring noise, that's when we knew we needed to take cover. Drywall, water, walling, and glass you name it, it was around us. We hid until it was all over. We sat in the floor for a while letting it all sink in, it was hard to comprehend what we had all just experienced together. Finally, we decided we needed to get out, so we called the priest, 911 and relatives who were desperately searching for us. As we stepped outside we saw debris everywhere. The whole top of the church was destroyed. The once beautiful stained glass windows were now busted pieces colored glass. The instruments that once stood had completely disappeared and some had been so badly destroy that you couldn't even tell what they were. Everything. Gone within seconds right before my eyes. We knew we lost a lot that day, but we also knew that God would give it all back to us, we kept the faith.

My town was devastated. Two schools damaged of which one was completely destroyed, hundreds of houses damaged, and the whole "Restaurant Row" had been destroyed, four

restaurants all received damage. The whole town was left with nothing but each other. With snow in the forecast we had to get as much done as possible with only what we had until FEMA, National Guard etc. came in to help with the clean up. This day will forever be in everyone's hearts.

The one piece of good news we received that day was that there were no fatalities, everyone made it out alive. This day may have destroyed property and material things, but we never let it break our spirit, in fact, it strengthened us in ways unimaginable.