

TKJ Schematic

news & views for supporters and friends of



Summer 2006

We have moved. This may not seem like such big news to many of you; but it's pretty big for us. Bethann and I have been at the same address for almost 29 years. Three of our four girls were born while we lived there, two of them in the house. They all grew up there. We totally rehabbed the house - twice. The King's Jubilee started there in the late 1980's. So many Bible studies; so many potluck dinners; so many backyard picnics; so many family dinners. We shared that house with ex-offenders, homeless people, and the occasional hitchhiker. "Come and See" Icons, Books & Art was started there.

But it was time to move on.

Homeless for Half an Hour

On May 30th, from about 2 to 2:30, we were homeless. That's what our realtor, Jim Dietrich, told us, as he was driving us from the settlement on the East Greenville house to the settlement on the Souderton house. The day before, in 97 degree heat, we had moved two 26 foot van loads, several pickup truck and car loads of our stuff from one house to another, with a lot of help from our friends. I told Bethann and Jim that I was feeling a bit envious of snails right about then.

A snail just carries its house with it. Wherever it wanders; it's always at home. No moving vans, no transferring of utilities, no last minute repairs to worry about; no real estate commissions, fees and taxes.

The new place is even older than the old place. It is 35 years older than the borough of Souderton. For a time in the 1800s, it was a hotel. The house is charming, with a hand dug well with a working hand pump just outside the back door and a barn out back. The main attraction to this house is that it is close to church; only a mile and a half away. It is closer to Bethann's work. It has a barn for my business.

The barn had a third floor added for storage. The way it was added was with beams hanging on "J" bolts from the top plate of the side walls. A couple of beams ended an inch from glass panes of windows. I have been busy replacing those beams with proper joists attached to the top plate. It's dirty, hot work. I am grateful for the help I have received from Aaron Thompson and Fr. Noah Bushelli to accomplish this. We have just three more beams to go (if my calculations hold).

I can use more help. I need to get it weathered in, wired and heated before winter in order to keep the business going. If I don't keep the business going; I can't keep TKJ or any thing else going. If you are just itching to try some of those things you have seen on DIY Network, HGTV or This Old House, but want to practice where you can do little or no damage; this is the place to be!

The Revolution: A Field Manual for Changing Your World

The book was published as promised and my article was placed as the final chapter. I feel so honored by this. None of us got to see each other's work until after it was published, so I had a bit of trepidation over what others might write; wondering if I might have to take exception to some of it. I have to say it is a thoroughly solid book. My article is by far the least scholarly. The whole book is geared to action and hope and includes practical ways to address twelve major issues confronting the world. The only thing I would change is how many times the sidebars suggest political involvement. I don't hold out much hope on that front, preferring the direct actions of personal involvement and prayer.

It is for sale at St. Philip's church bookstore and I offer it for sale at www.comeandseeicons.com. I will autograph your copy if you say "Please."

Blankets . . . Already?

The guys are already asking for blankets as we are starting to experience some cool nights. We prefer to give out used blankets as they are less likely to be stolen and sold. Buy yourselves new blankets and give us your old ones. Or, if you are into sewing, you could make an "ugly quilt" layering old remnants into a blanket.

Pray for Rosalie and Clare

These are two women who have been in and out of homelessness for several years. Both are experiencing significant health problems.

I have known Rosalie for about 20 years. I met her when she was an inmate in the Women's Detention Facility in Philadelphia. We are good friends and are only a few weeks apart in age. A few months ago, she was diagnosed with leukemia. She has gone through several rounds of chemotherapy and appears to be doing well. She goes in for tests in a couple weeks to see if the treatments did the job. She was living on the street with leukemia. It wasn't until her third round of chemo that she qualified for Social Security Disability (SSI) and was able to move into a group facility with a room of her own.

Thankfully she has a good support group of several guys, including her brother Pete, who have been looking out for her and helping her to cope. They are all also homeless.

In a country under a regime that can mortgage the future into the hundreds of billions of dollars to destroy (and perhaps one day rebuild) Iraq and subsidize Israel's destruction of Lebanon, we can't muster the resources to house a poor, sick woman with dignity while undergoing cancer treatment. Shame

on us! It is enough to make God weep.

I have known Clare for several years. (Clare is not her real name, but a convenient translation to maintain anonymity. If you pray, I am sure God can sort it out.) She is rather soft spoken and keeps to herself. She has a demeanor that lets you know that she doesn't brook any nonsense. She reminds me of the hearty ice fishing women that I knew when I was growing up in Minnesota. Over the last couple of years she has gradually started to put her life back together. She befriended a federal social worker who helped her get a job working night security at an old folks home; and rented her a room for a time in her house. Clare moved out on her own, but still came down to eat with us. The job paid so little (since minimum wage hasn't been raised in ten years) that she had to choose to pay for rent or for food.

Clare attended a health outreach during the heat wave a couple of weeks ago. The nurse told her to go directly to the hospital. They both were thinking it was something to do with her diabetes. It was her heart. They admitted her for a week. She had had a "silent heart attack" sometime in the last five months and is experiencing congestive heart failure. She was told she cannot go back to work for at least a year. She lost her room, so is back on the street. They told her to apply for welfare, which she did. That is not enough to rent any place, however. She also applied for SSI, but that may not kick in for 30 to 90 days.

Imagine yourself in her place: middle aged on the street fleeing an abusive and destructive mate; just starting to get your life together; coping with diabetes and moved off the street; only to be placed back on the street by a heart condition. How would you react?

Let me tell you about Clare. She was matter of fact, but sad, when she told me. She said, "There's no point in being angry. It won't help my heart or my blood sugar any." (She really reminded me of my tough Aunt Vi and Aunt Gert, then.) I gave her an icon card of Jesus Christ the Merciful Judge from Sinai along with a little of your cash. She received both with humble gratitude. I told her that I would pray for her and ask others to pray for her.

Please pray for Rosalie and Clare.

What We Do

The King's Jubilee serves soup, sandwiches, pasta with meat sauce, fruit drink, cold water, fruit and goodies (if we have them) to between 50 and 150 men and a few women in Center City Philadelphia every Thursday night. This is in a park, year-round. We also share toiletries, blankets and season appropriate clothing with them.

We serve in the open air, because some of those we serve are paranoid and will not readily enter a place with which they are unfamiliar. Also, some of them are not homeless, but are on very low, fixed incomes. They won't go to a soup kitchen to take from a program just for the homeless, but they feel free to eat with us to stretch their food budget, so they can stay off the street.

We also try to gather resources for other ministries that serve the poor in Jesus' Name. If we can't do it in Jesus' Name, we

don't have the time or the desire to do it.

The Commercial . . . sort of

"COME AND SEE" Icons, Books & Art was started with the hope that it would provide a steady income with flexible hours to facilitate my involvement in service with The King's Jubilee. After five and a half years, the website has over 1,000 different icons on it. We have signed royalty agreements with almost twenty iconographers of a variety of styles. The collection is growing all the time. We have shipped to all 50 states, every province in Canada and to over thirty other countries on all six inhabited continents. We average about 9,000 hits per day on the website. Please come and browse our collection at www.comeandseeicons.com

I had to shut down operation for about a month in order to move. I am having a hard time catching up with orders. I need to find some part time help to catch up and perhaps help finish the barn. Then we need to seriously market so that I can afford fulltime help, and so it can start to be profitable, to facilitate more service to the poor. Pray for us.

The Appeal

We can only do what we do, because there are many others who share the resources God has given them with us. Donations are gladly and gratefully received. Whatever we get we spend in service to the poor, holding nothing back. We have no savings or investments. If nothing comes in, we can give nothing away. That has not happened yet. I have confidence in God and you that it will not happen any time soon.

In addition to checks and cash, personal size shampoos, soaps & lotions are always welcome, as well as men's clothing in season.

Checks can be mailed to:



27 N. Front St.
Souderton, PA 18964-1148

Our phone is: 267-497-0267

email: TKJ@shoutforjoy.net

Thank you. May the Lord bless you as you bless the poor in Jesus' Name.

Peace,

Cranford Joseph Coulter

P.S. This newsletter as well as past ones are available for viewing and printing in PDF format from our website at: www.shoutforjoy.net