



Life Saver Ministries
83 Middlesex Street
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October 2018

Dear Life Savers,

Not too long ago, one of our generous supporters bought a new refrigerator for My Father's House. As he and a friend were bringing it into the house and reinstalling the doors that had to be removed to get it through the door, he said to me, "Kevin, you're a carpenter, right?" I think he said that because his friend was a carpenter. I said, "I do carpentry, but I wouldn't call myself a carpenter."

I would never insult real carpenters by calling myself a carpenter. I live in an old house and don't have the funds to hire real carpenters, so out of necessity I do carpentry. I do a pretty fair job, if I do say so myself, but it takes me at least 3 times as long to complete a job as it would a real carpenter.

I love old houses. Old houses have character. No matter how much you try to make a new house look like an old house, it's not the same. The downside of old houses becomes apparent when you start doing work on them.

No matter what your geometry teacher told you, there are no such things as a 90-degree angles or parallel lines, at least not in an old house. Things shift and settle over the years. Floors are not level, doors and walls are not plumb. The lumber you can buy today is not the same size as the lumber that was used to build an old house. Today's 2x4s are actually 1 ½ inches x 3 ½ inches. Back then, they were really 2 inches x 4 inches, sort of. Some were a little bigger, some were a little smaller.

I have been remodeling my house since 1979. I've remodeled every room at least once. I've replaced 26 windows, insulated all the outside walls, installed floors, put on a new roof, enclosed the rear porch, built a deck, installed kitchen cabinets, added a bathroom, built closets, rewired the entire house, and I'm still not finished. I don't know if I'll ever be finished. (Don't tell that to Cathie.)

My current project is installing the interior trim on the windows in our bedroom. It's one of the projects where I've said to Cathie, "I said I'll do it. You don't need to remind me every 6 months."

If you are thinking of buying an old house or remodeling your old house yourself, here are a few things I've learned over the years.

1. No matter what the project, there's always one tool you need that you don't have, so you make do, which greatly extends your timeline and increases your aggravation.
2. Even though you did a similar project a few years ago, you forgot the mistakes you made and will make them all over again.
3. Always buy more wood than you think you will need. (See number 2).
4. No matter how much time you think a project will take, it will take longer.
5. Don't try to live in any room you are remodeling. Trust me on this one.
6. No matter how easy it looks on YouTube, it's not.
7. If you live in a house long enough, you will remodel that room again, especially if it's a bathroom.
8. Have your wife leave while you are working on your house. It doesn't matter where she goes, as long as she goes.
9. Here's the most important thing to remember. Write this down. Clean up and put your tools away before your wife comes home. When she walks in the door and says (and she will), "Is that all you got done today?" you don't want to have a hammer in your hand.

Life at My Father's House is kind of like a remodeling project. The young ladies that come to our door need to rebuild their lives. It's hard work. They don't have all the right tools. They make the same mistakes again and again. It's never as easy as others make it look. It takes longer than they think it will. They have to live their lives as they renovate them. People, even people who love them, will criticize their progress.

Like all of us, they will always be renovating parts their lives, but the changes they are making right now are *big* changes, *scary* changes. Thankfully, they don't have to do it by themselves.

Because of your generosity, the staff and volunteers at My Father's House are always here to help them, guide them, support them, and walk along-side them. Thank you for providing us with the tools and building materials we need to help them with their renovations.

Speaking of renovations. Thanks to a grant, specifically for this purpose, from the Theodore Edson Parker Foundation we have new carpeting in all 8 bedrooms, the living room, and the parlor, as well as new vinyl flooring in the kitchen, pantry, and dining room.



As we look toward the end of this year, we have a lot of catching up to do financially. We are praying that you will be generous in your giving during the next couple of months and enable us to finish 2018 without a deficit. Right now, our deficit for 2018 is \$56,945.

As I mentioned last month, we are planning to hire a new Associate Director to begin the process of handing the leadership of this ministry to the people who will guide My Father's House into the future. This will require additional funds, beyond what we need to erase our deficit.

God, through you, has provided this loving home for His children in need for a long time. We are praying that He and you will continue to provide.



Meet Bella. She is one of the happiest kids I know. Just like her name, she is beautiful, and as her shirt proclaims, she is a ray of sunshine around here.

In His service,
Kevin
Kevin Coffey

Would you like to work with our moms and kids at My Father's House?

We have an urgent need for permanent part-time staff.

Weekends 8 AM to 4 PM, 4 PM to Midnight, and Midnight to 8 AM

Week Days Midnight to 8 AM

Please email Cathie at ccoffey@mfhouse.net