

**CrossTies Christian Ministries, Inc.**  
**9876 E. 2000th Ave.**  
**West York, IL 62478**

Return Service Requested

If you have a change of address or would like to be taken off of our mailing list, please let us know by email, writing to the above address or calling us at 618-553-9859.



The older I get, I can honestly say many things are changing in this world. The morality has gone from bad to worse. People are hurting with physical, mental and financial difficulties. They need restored through the power of Christ. Speaking about restoration, let me share what has happened to me over this past winter.

For a while now I had been looking for a used backhoe to use around the farm and the camp. I ran across this old backhoe. As I viewed all the specs and pictures of it, talking to the owner it sounded and looked like a pretty nice backhoe. It appeared that it would do what I needed it to do. The main hydraulic shuttle had been overhauled, new rod and main bearings, plus a new paint job with decals and all. It ran and operated very well.

There are people like this. You know...the ones we pass every day. They run and operate well. They look good on the outside, but what's on the inside? Kind of like this old 1982 backhoe I purchased. From the outside it looked good and I thought I was getting a wonderful deal. I got it cheap, saving money which keeps Janna happy (and off my back). Ha ha ha!!! I got that backhoe home, used it for two hours and it broke down. Now, I'm not talking a busted radiator (even though it would get replaced too) or transmission problem. I'm talking two hours of using it and the engine blew. So, I have been rebuilding this backhoe since February.

You realize we are like that old backhoe. We can spruce ourselves up and look good on the outside. However, on the inside we are broken down and of little value to be about our Father's business. We need Him to rebuild us. An engine overhaul is what the old backhoe needed. The deeper I got into the project, the more things I found wrong and cobbled up. It turned into a major overhaul because I was fixing all those little things not seen until you tore into the project.

Do you have little things you think you are hiding from God? I pray the Lord doesn't look down on us and see the outside looking sharp just like my backhoe, then He looks deeper and sees the things no one else can see. If we will listen to the Holy Spirit, He will bring us to the realization of the things we need to fix in our lives. If we will just allow Jesus Christ to put us back together piece by piece (like my old backhoe), then we will be able to complete the work He has for us to do.

Ephesians 4:15 & 16 "Rather, let our lives lovingly express truth (in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly). Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him Who is the Head, (even) Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). For because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part (with power adapted to its need) is working properly (in all its function), grows to full maturity, building itself up in love."

As God's children we need to be completely restored and whole, because we are the ones to reach hurting people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ so more may come to know Him.

Yours in Christ,  
Tony & Janna