

A Joplin, Missouri Surviving Story

4:00 PM

“BOOM!” “CLAP!” went the thunder and lightning outside. At first it was a nice, cool Sunday afternoon, then the storms broke out. “CABOOM!” *it went again and it shook the house.* Oh how rude of me, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Jeremiah Davis Jr. and I am 12 years old and I have a little brother named Jonathan Davis and he is 8 years old. So back to the story, it was Sunday May 11, 2011 and we had just got back from church. The forecast said there wouldn't be rain, on top of that thunderstorms. But now look where we are, in our basement with the weather radio on, and flashlights in our hands because the power went off! Now there's something wrong with that picture and I believe that the weatherman on Channel 8 News will receive a complaint letter from me, myself and I. I personally don't like anything to do with storms. No sir, not at all. But the scary part was our parents weren't here to tell us what to do! Now we were scared, shaking, and not because the heat went out but because the whole house felt like it was going to topple on to us.

4:55

“Jeremy,” my little brother said as he called my nickname, “are mommy and daddy coming home soon?” “I don't know, but I sure hope so Johnny.” “CABOOM!, BANG BANG” I sure hope that these storms end and mom and dad come home really soon. “Jeremy?” “Yes Johnny?”, “Are we going to die?” he asked on the verge of tears. Even though it was dark I could hear it in his voice. To be honest, that really made me think twice about the predicament we're in because right about now, it was a life or death situation. I know you think that this is just a thunderstorm, but the reason me and my brother are in a basement is because the weatherman has been saying “*Tornado Watch! Tornado Watch!*” for the past hour. To be honest it was really getting me nervous because we don't get storms like this often. After all Joplin, Missouri is in the Tornado Alley so I shouldn't be surprised, but the worst the weather has gotten is flooding. “I don't know Johnny, I really don't man” I said almost crying myself. I know, I know I'm supposed to be the bigger one, but right now this is the scariest type of weather I, Jeremiah Davis has been in, out of my 12 years of living.

5:30 PM

Then, the worst possible thing they could've said , “ *For the counties of Jasper, Newton, and cities that are included but not limited: Galena, Webb City, and Carthage, Missouri a **TORNADO WARNING HAS BEEN ISSUED, PLEASE FIND A SPOT ON THE LOWEST LEVEL OF YOUR HOME THAT HAS THE LEAST AMOUNT OF WINDOWS!!!!!!***”

Oh My Sweet Baby Jesus a tornado. Oh no i don't think I'm ready! “ Ok-k-k” I stuttered truly scared for me and my brother's life. “Um, alright Jonathan, I want you to hold to me and DON'T let go okay?” He nodded his head in response. “Okay Jeremy, you can do this,” I thought as i felt his tiny arms wrap around me. I wrapped a thick comforter around us and we crouched against the nearest wall. We were starting to hear the sirens now and I could hear the tornado just inching toward us, kind of teasing us. I could now feel the tornado right behind us roaring in our ears. “Jeremiah, I can feel it!!!” he said practically sobbing. I think it struck a nerve in my heart when I heard him say that to me. “

CABOOSH! BANG! BAM!” I could now feel the pressure of half the house on my back, making me crush Jonathan. “ You're hurting me Jeremy!!” “ I'm sorry but the pressure of the house is on top of me!! Do you want to be crushed or hurt really bad?!” “Crushed I think but Jeremy, what about mom and dad?!” he said as we screamed back and forth over the sound of the tornado right above us. Oh my gosh! How did I forget about the people who gave me life? I really hope they're okay because if something happen to them I would be devastated because Janett and Jeremiah Davis are the best things that have happen to me and after that comes Jonathan. We could now feel the rain and wind ripping against us, pelting us like miniature rocks. I think I was getting it the worst because I was on top of him, protecting him like the big brother I am.

6:05

The wind was starting to die down and the rain had stopped. I could kind of hear voices in the distance. “Any survivors?!” At that very moment my heart started jumping in my chest and I muzzled up all the energy had and screamed “ **US!! HELP US WE'RE TRAPPED**” “*I wonder if he heard us?*” I thought. “**Jeremiah is that you?!**” “ **Mom?! Dad?!**” “ **Stay where you are son, we're coming!**” Finally! We're saved! “ Johnny, Mom and Dad are coming to save us!” ^ No Response^ “ Johnny wake up!” “ Hmm? What happened? Is it over?” “ Yes it is, but we are saved,

finally saved.” At that moment the room, or the space we were in, was filled with tears of joy.

6:15

After Mom and Dad came with help, we got out of the crumbled house. It feels really good getting out of there and being able to breathe again. But looking at the wreckage we could've been dead and by the way Mom and Dad were acting a lot were not as fortunate as us. But we are lucky to have survived that because that was the worst tornado in Joplin history and the Davis family survived it. Blessed are we to be one of the few people to survive this tragic event.

AFTERMATH

A total of 158 people died and 1,150 were injured during the most chaotic EF5 tornado in Joplin, Missouri. 2.8 billion dollars in damage. It was the third tornado to occur there since May 1971, but the worst out of all three.

-Alicia B.