

TOP STORY

Father 'still wishing for another miracle' as 13-year-old boy remains a patient at Duke since Aug. 6 wreck

ASHLEY HODGE

Aug 20, 2019



Pastor Ohhwan Freedman Kim accepts a monetary donation from the Hatcher family on Sunday. The Hatcher family lost their house in the Aug. 6 logging truck accident that injured Kim's wife, two daughters and son.

Submitted photo

"I'm still wishing for another miracle," said Pastor Ohhwan Freedman Kim of Keysville, husband of Mary and father of 15-year-old Sue, 6-year-old Hannah and 13-year-old Tony, who were all injured in a two-vehicle wreck on Aug. 6.

The family had been at Dr. Kwang Kim's dentist office before making their way to the intersection of Bethel Road and Temple Hill Road in Scottsburg where their Camry collided with a logging truck, according to Pastor Kim.

Mary, Sue and Tony were sent to Duke University Hospital for treatment of injuries, while Hannah was sent to Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital.



Their father said Hannah received minimal injuries and was discharged from the hospital "right away," while Sue was released two days later.

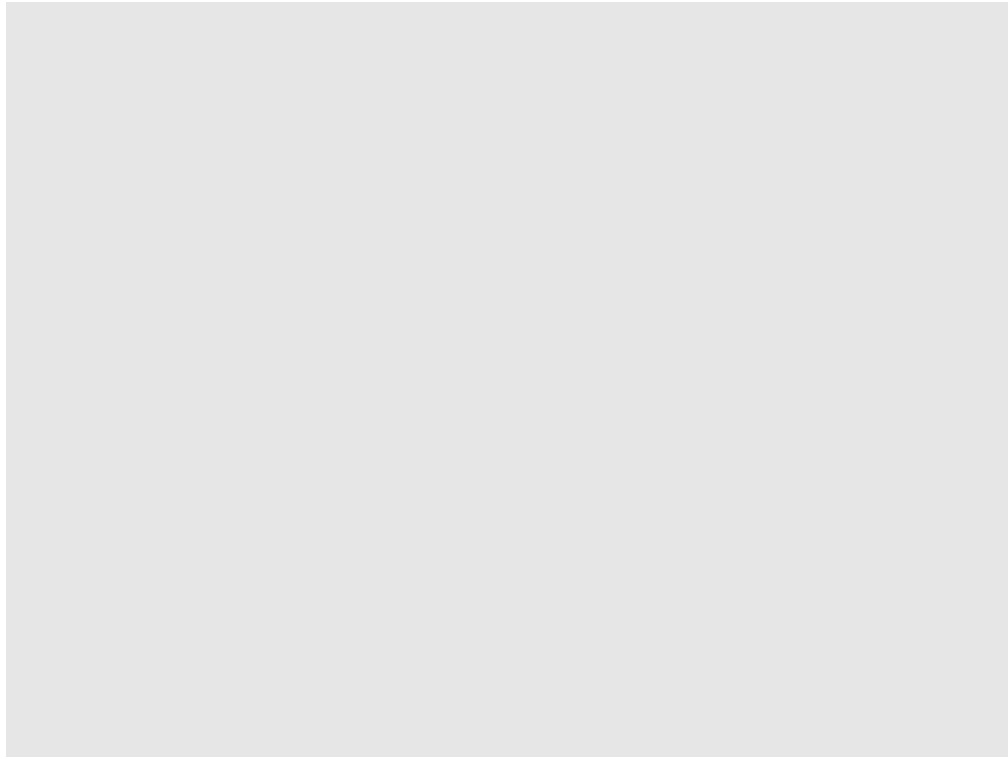
He also said Sue had no outward injuries but had concussion symptoms such as dizziness and fatigue and suffered from short-term memory loss.

Now, he said, Sue is “totally fine.

“It’s a miracle. She had God’s protection,” said Pastor Kim.

Their mother, he said, suffered from many fractures from her chest down to her ankle as well as internal bleeding.

She has returned home but will have to undergo rehabilitation, according to her husband, who also said his mother-in-law flew 14 hours from South Korea to help care for the family.



Tony Kim, who was seriously injured in a two-vehicle accident on Aug. 6, plays for Richmond United with the U.S. Soccer Development.

Submitted photo

Their son remains a patient at Duke where Pastor Kim said, “Every night he is in danger.”

After the accident, he said Tony was put in a medically induced coma, but now “they have cut off all sedation medicine.”

He has shown movement, but it’s reflexive, and he is scheduled to have surgery on his jaw Thursday, Tony’s father said.

Every night before the accident, Kim said his son would lie on his father’s belly, rub his nose and say, “I love you” before going to bed.

“I still do that every night,” said Kim. “My only wish is I want to do that again. Everyone loves Tony. He always had eight to nine boys with him at lunch.”

As a straight-A student since third grade, Pastor Kim said his son made strides in every subject, but math is where he really excelled.

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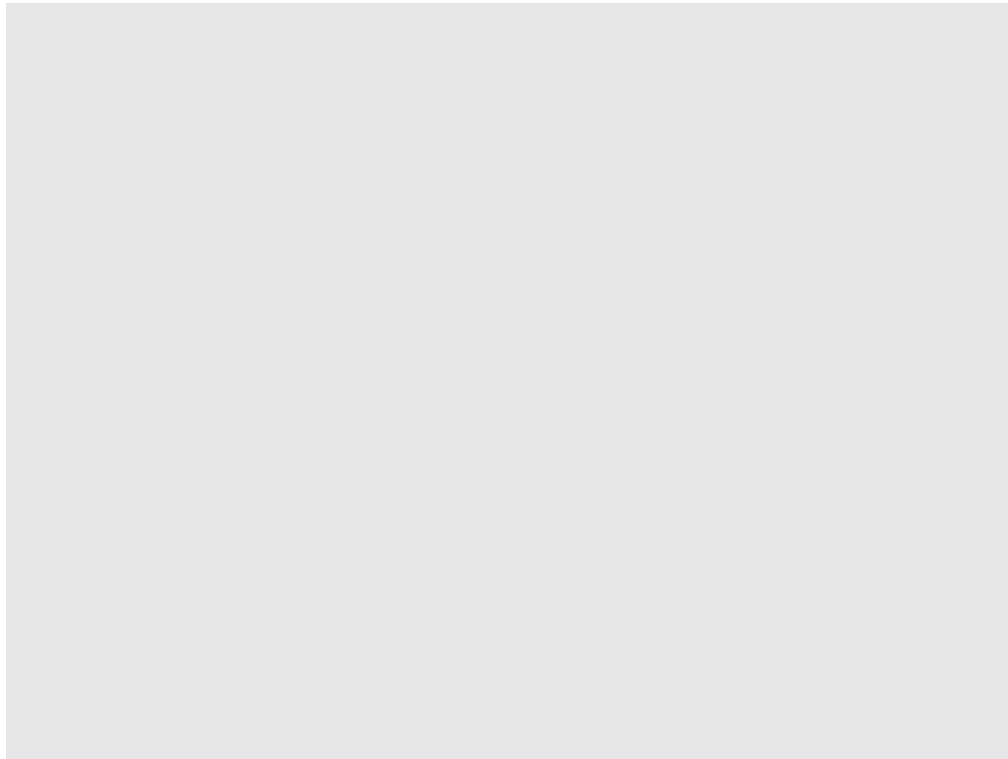
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As a seventh grader, his father said Tony completed eighth grade math and earned a perfect score on the eighth grade standard of learning (SOL) test.

But, the classroom isn't the only place Tony succeeds.

He's a piano player with a "beautiful voice" and a soccer player for Richmond United for the U.S. Soccer Development Academy.

"He was one of the best in the state," said Pastor Kim, who added, "He has enjoyed every moment of his life. He lived his life like a flame... He lived with a specific purpose to be a pro soccer player."



Pastor Ohhwan Freedman Kim of Keysville United Methodist Church is shown with his wife, Mary, daughters Hannah and Sue and son Tony. Mary, Hannah, Sue and Tony were injured in a two-vehicle accident on Aug. 6. Tony remains a patient at Duke.

Submitted photo

Since the accident, everyone has been "cheering for Tony," including his fellow soccer players, his church family, those in Keysville and Halifax County including the Hatcher family, who lost their home as a result of the accident.

The Hatcher family made a monetary donation to the Kim family on Sunday from funds raised on Facebook, and Kim's church family has provided meals, maintained the yard and more.

"It's meant more than I can convey," said Pastor Kim. "I have been overwhelmed by the love and support. Miracles are happening."

TOP STORY

With home not livable after crash, community rallies to family's rescue

ASHLEY HODGE

Aug 8, 2019



More than 100 people from the community gather at 1012 Temple Hill Road in Scottsburg on Tuesday evening to begin the process of emptying out the Hatcher family's house after a logging truck ran into it earlier that afternoon making it unliveable.

Submitted photo

The floors are buckled, and the porch railing is protruding more and more as the days pass.



Authorities blame car in crash; charges pending
From staff reports

The home, located at 1012 Temple Hill Road in Scottsburg, was deemed unsafe or unfit to live in and a code official prohibited its use after a logging truck struck the back corner around 1 p.m. Tuesday.

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But thanks to an outpouring of community support, the Hatcher family now has a place to live.

“I was stuck at the hospital for three hours, and when I came home, there were over a hundred people here. It was really something,” said Robert Hatcher, who went to the emergency room as a precaution.

He had been lying in his bed dozing off for a nap when the accident occurred, and he was thrown into the floor.

He said he checked out “fine” at the hospital.

Immediately following the accident, Hatcher said all he could think about were the individuals involved in the wreck and was hoping for their recovery as well as where his family was going to live now.

What he did not know was a lot of work was going on “behind the scenes” as he called it.

His son, Neal, had made a Facebook post asking for boxes or anything to help them move items out of the uninhabitable house.

That’s what started to put things into motion.



Hundreds of boxes are donated to the Hatcher family to use to empty out their house Tuesday evening.
Submitted photo

That post was soon shared more than 250 times, and shortly after, groups of people began to arrive with boxes, water and trailers.

“It didn’t matter about race, religion, none of that,” said Neal.

He said everyone just wanted to help.

“It’s hard to imagine that all of those people were willing to help,” said Neal’s dad.



Until dust, these people, some the Hatchers didn't even know, helped load up boxes and fill up trailers. They loaded up four to six trailers before Tuesday night was over.

They wanted to get as many items as they could out of the house before they removed the logging truck, because the family had been told there was a chance the house could collapse when the truck was moved.

Around 6 p.m., crews showed up to remove the logging truck and they moved the large crowd that had gathered away from the structure for their safety. But, the house didn't come down.

Since the wreck, the doublewide has continued to shift, but as of Thursday, the Hatcher's home — a place that holds roughly nine years worth of memories including holidays when their mother and wife Pattie would decorate the home from top to bottom — is still standing.

"It was really special," said Robert. "The holidays are going to be tough this year."

But, thanks to working with Dr. Michael Haskett, David Ashwell with Virginia Farm Bureau Insurance and Jeremy Holt with Long and Foster, the family has a place to lay their head.

It's their home for the next several months until they can decide what their next step will be.

But for the Hatchers, the house that now sits in shambles will always be home.

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TOP STORY

Logging truck rams into vehicle, then strikes house on Tuesday; four injured

From staff reports
Aug 6, 2019



This L. P. Dugger Logging truck struck a Toyota Camry and this modular home at 1012 Temple Hill Road in a wreck that occurred around 1 p.m. Tuesday.

Ashley Hodge/Gazette-Virginian

One child was airlifted from the scene of a wreck that occurred around 1 p.m. Tuesday injuring three others and seriously damaging a house located at 1012 Temple Hill Road (State Route 614) in Scottsburg.

Virginia State Trooper K. R. Martin said three children and one adult were injured when an empty logging truck and a Toyota Camry collided.

The driver of the L. P. Dugger Logging truck was not hurt.



The identities of those involved in the accident were not released as of press time Tuesday.

After striking the Camry, the logging truck ran into the modular home where Robert Hatcher had been sleeping at the time of the incident.

Also inside the house when the truck hit the house were Candice Hatcher and a child, who were not hurt.



"I work night shift, so I was napping. About the time I heard it, I was picking myself up off the floor. It was almost simultaneously," said Hatcher, who later went to the hospital to be checked out.

The Hatchers said the house was completely "wrecked" with everything being shifted on impact.

No further details on the accident were available as of press time.

