

**Annie Peterson Norman** 5:33pm Mar 11

Update from Gary:

Thank you for your generous outpouring!!

Many of our housing needs have been met. THANK YOU! Below is a list of the items we still need.

CD player, book shelves, kid size play table, area rugs, flatware, glasses, broom, mop, laundry baskets, steak knives, cutting knives, coffee mugs, small table or desk, globe, king or queen bed (there are usually 1-2 kids in bed with us, especially now), pillows, bath towels, washcloths, bath mats, lamps, basic toolbox with tools.

"An update by Gary Peterson on Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at 11:08pm

My dear friends, thank you for your outpouring of love. My family is overwhelmed by your generosity!

These are just the major categories. There are at least a hundred things we probably need and aren't even thinking of. Everyone has a specialty that is unique to them. A dear friend is ham radio operator and offered to retrieve this specialty equipment from my truck. Another is a photographer and offered a unique service to us. Homeschoolers are trying to rebuild all the curriculum and resources we lost. In crisis mode we can't even think of these kinds of things but they mean so much! If you have something that is special to you, we accept. We have learned that now is the time to say, "Yes. Thank you." Many of you know that Sarah and I are very independent and private people. We are humbled by this and in many ways it is difficult to any sense of control taken from us by this experience. We place ourselves in your hands.

Housing: We are currently staying with my in-laws. It's a bit cramped in this 3 bedroom ranch but that's where the kids feel safe and that is a major priority now. The kids are still having moments of anxiety and concern that even this house will burn down. :-)

We are going to rebuild the home and that is expected to take 6-12 months so we will be renting some type of temporary single family home in the Elkton/Newark area. If you have some opportunities for this need, please contact us\*

\*(we are emotionally and physically spent. My church (Vineyard Christian Fellowship at the Barn - Landenberg, PA) as well as my co-workers Kenny Dunn and Dave Lawrence of NCC\*EMS have offered themselves as coordinators for the relief efforts. If you have anything to offer to meet our needs, please contact them. They are coordinating efforts and reducing duplication. Thank you so much)

Clothing: We are still finishing up our immediate clothing needs. Thank you for the many donations! We still have a long way to go to replace what we lost. Having five kids and expecting # 6, we stored anything that could be passed down. We not only lost the clothes in current circulation that fit, but also at least 40 large 30 gallon bins with labels such as "Boy 3T Summer" and such. We had a similar collection of shoes as little feet are constantly growing. They were in constant rotation and a huge loss. We are trying to rebuild this.

Vehicles: Both my Ford Excursion and Honda Odyssey were officially totaled. We are still arranging immediate loan/rental. Now that there will be 8 in the family, we are looking to replace the vehicles with: An 8 passenger Honda Odyssey for the whole family and a Honda Civic or Accord for my commute. If you have, or know of, an opportunity or blessing for us in this area, please contact us\*

Furniture: We are currently with the in-laws so there is no where to put anything. We are exploring opportunities for storage. We don't really know where we're going with this yet since we don't even know what the new house will be like. We can be certain of needing the standard furnishings: 1 king bed, 2 bunk beds, crib, toddler bed, numerous dressers, tables, pots, pans, bedding, etc. If you have a way to bless us in this area, thank you. Please contact the coordinator and it will likely be placed on reserve for when we need it.

Finances: Thank you so much for the gifts of money so far! I would love to give you all extremely specific ways to bless us because it is so much more personal. I will try to do that as much as possible. With so many unknowns, your gift of money will certainly be used fill the unexpected needs. We have insurance coverage to replace the house and lost property but we are concerned that it will be far less than the value of what was lost. Insurance companies aren't exactly in business to give money away and we are likely to not remember everything no matter the effort.

Food: There is a meal rotation established for those who wish to bless with a meal. This certainly relieves some stress so we can focus on logistics / insurance / etc.

Toys: Hey, we've got kids and toys are must :-)) If you would like to bless our boys and girl with a gift card, or money, specific toy, we thank you. They know it's not from Sarah and I and are voicing their thanks to us for all their "friends who love us."

Words cannot express our love and gratitude for you all. Thank you. Thank you so very much.

**Annie Peterson Norman** 4:39pm Mar 3

Update: At this point, no additional children's clothing is needed. Thankfully, they have plenty!

However, Gary and Sarah have very few clothes that fit them through the donated items. The family is asking that gift cards to Target or Old Navy be donated so that Gary and Sarah can purchase clothes. Thank you to all who have donated!!! God bless you!

Eileen Edelin wrote on 3-2-2011:  
Update on the Peterson Family House Fire,

Gary L. Peterson Jr. is a member of Singerly Fire Co., the son of Gary,Sr. & Jane Peterson of Elkton, Md.

Jane is a very active member of the Singerly Ladies Auxiliary since 1994.

Annie, Gary's sister is married to J.J. Norman, a member of Singerly.

Sarah Peterson is Gary's grandmother, a member of Singerly's Ladies Auxiliary

In fact Jane responded to Singerly Fire Co. when alerted for the 10-17 and was preparing refreshments, she asked where was the fire?

She was told the address was 112 Silchester Drive in Surrey Ridge Elkton,Md.

She immediately knew it was her son & daughter in laws , which they had just moved into two weeks prior.

Gary & Sarah previously lived at 588 Leeds Rd. for over five years before purchasing their home in Surrey Ridge. They have resided in Elkton for years, although he is employed in Delaware.

Sarah is pregnant with their sixth child and her due date is Sept.4th.

The entire Peterson family is devastated by the loss suffered by Gary & Sarah but thankful that no one suffered injury or loss of life.

It is truly a miracle they escaped with the clothes on their back!  
Singerly did any outstanding job with extinguishment.

Any help is greatly appreciated!

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Date: Wed, 2 Mar 2011 13:11:23 -0500  
Subject: 3/1/11 House Fire, please read and forward  
From: timpoorej@gmail.com  
To: asstchief13@singerly.com

### **Delaware Online Article**

The information below is regarding a Delaware family whose home was destroyed by a fire on Monday. They've been left with nothing. I hope that many of you will be able to help them by donating clothing, household items, toiletries, or even gift cards. Dad (Gary) is a NCC paramedic; mom (Sarah) is pregnant with baby #6, so maternity clothes are also needed. They homeschool, so they also need school supplies and books. They have already received a crib with bedding, a toddler bed, 2 bikes, a double stroller and some toys. They have received lots of kids' clothes, but still need shoes as well as things for Gary and Sarah.

The Petersons escaped the house moments before the fire came shooting out the front door after them. They lost everything but the clothes they were wearing. They just moved into this house 3 weeks ago. Their church is coordinating the main relief for the family, but goods and donations will be accepted at the following locations:

Vineyard Christian Fellowship  
3224 Appleton Rd.  
Landenberg, PA 19350  
Collection center in the foyer.

Singerly Fire Company  
300 Newark Ave - near the center of Elkton, MD

Brandywine Hundred Fire Company (Station 11) near Claymont, DE.  
1006 Brandywine Blvd.  
Wilmington DE 19809

Additionally, cash, gift cards and checks are much needed at this time. Local #3911 will serve as the collection point for monetary donations. Just place your donation in the mail to:

Local #3911  
100 New Churchmans Road  
New Castle, DE 19720  
Please indicate 'Peterson Family Fund' in the memo line.

GARY - Shirt size Medium or 16 1/2.... Pant size 32/30..... shoe size is 8 1/2  
SARAH - Shirt size XS Womens pant size 4 and shoe size is 6

10 YO Boy - size 10-12 clothes... adult shoe size 4  
8 YO Boy - size 8 clothes... adult shoe size 3  
5 YO Boy - Size 6 clothes.... child shoe size 9  
3 YO Boy - size 4-5 clothes.... child shoe size 7

13 MONTH OLD GIRL - 18 month clothing 6-12 month shoe size