

Tornado Hits Iran Alive: Our Values Are Tested

Dear xxxxx,

Friday, May 22nd, that is when it hit. We see it on the news, in papers, we hear about it, but it's not "real" until you personally experience it. On that early Friday night a tornado hit the Iran Alive office, causing thousands of dollars in damage. The tornado itself was not unusual since many homes and lives had been destroyed around that time in Texas. But what was very strange was that our building was the only place that was damaged in our entire neighborhood. Not even the small satellite dishes next door had been touched! Heavy A/C units weighing several tons were picked up and thrown about 10 yards leaving a hole in our roof, causing a flood in our TV studio.



Our Faith Was Tested

The news of the tornado felt like a big blow to my gut, something completely unexpected. With Texas weather, humid and warm, and no working A/C system, it would not be long before our sensitive electronic equipment would overheat and we would be off the air.

"We cannot allow that to happen," I thought to myself. "Surely the Lord was not surprised by this. According to His promises, He will use such trial to our advantage if we continue to love Him and do what He tells us to do." I remembered Isaiah 43:2 ***"When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you."*** Our precious and dedicated staff acted quickly. Within an hour we bought a portable A/C unit from Costco and installed it to cool the small room where all broadcasting equipment is housed. I am so proud of the dedication and commitment of our staff. They proved that this is not just a job for them, but a serious call to sacrificially serve the Lord.

Our Love Was Tested

The air quality inside our offices and studio was hot, humid and quickly began to smell moldy. We could not work in the building. The question was "Should we continue to have our live broadcasts or stop them temporarily?" Here our love was tested. We felt: "We love these people. We should be there for them. Love sacrifices and we should sacrifice with gladness." So we continued our live daily live broadcasts despite the heat. On occasions, the viewers could see the drops of sweat rolling down our face—and they felt loved."



Our Most Valuable Asset

Going through this challenge confirmed in our hearts once more that our most valuable asset is not our equipment but **people!** That includes our staff and volunteers, those who are saved and blessed through this ministry and **especially you who are our co-laborer in Christ.** We **VALUE** our relationship with you as we face both the joy that comes with victory and the rough times, together, as a family.

Your prayers and financial support means you are ministering side-by-side with us to see the salvation of a nation in one generation! Together we are working where Jesus is working.

As you partner with us we can continue to stream God's Word through Iran Alive's satellite broadcasts 24/7 into millions of homes, bringing new life to people who have no missionaries, and no building churches to attend. You are their lifeline. The following testimony is the result of our partnership:

My name is Leila from Iran,

When you announced that the Tornado had caused problems in your studio, it was at a time when I was facing the most difficult challenges in my life. I didn't have money to pay my rent, my refrigerator was empty, and my husband was without a job. I was thinking to myself, "Why is my life so stormy while others are living a great life! I started feeling depressed until I watched a program where you mentioned a Tornado had hit and damaged the studio. I noticed that with all that was happening you were joyful and were praising God for what you have. Your attitude had such a positive impact on me and changed my outlook on my own situation. I received such strength from seeing you standing firm, especially because I see myself as part of your family. I said to myself, "If they can do it, so can I," and started praising the Lord for my situation too. I've never known such joy.

Your donations are needed now more than ever. Will you stand with me through this difficult time? God has blessed us with you and all of our partners. Please continue to keep us in your prayers, and consider increasing your regular donation, or, giving a donation above and beyond your usual support so we can keep making history together in Iran and throughout the Middle East.



Honored to serve the Lord with you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hormoz Shariat".

Hormoz Shariat, Ph.D.
President & Founder, Iran Alive

PS: Everyone here at Iran Alive would like to thank you all for the prayers and thoughtful messages during these difficult times.

We hope that this bond just grows stronger and better.
We won't let something that happened on that day, May 22nd weigh us down. We, as a family, can take everything, because if God is for us, then who can EVER be against us?

