



Operation Colletta Spotlight



Colletta where her home once stood.



The Salkehatchie cross.

Colletta Cuyler is a retired custodian from Hampton Elementary School in Hampton, SC. Even though she is a cancer and stroke survivor she supplements her retirement income by doing light housekeeping for others.

Her job at the school made it possible for her to buy her home. Though it had structural and other problems, she was so very proud of it. She kept her home and her yard in an immaculate manner. Her front porch was always laden with pots of lush and beautiful plants, no matter what season of the year. She loved gardening and growing beautiful things and her talent for this was obvious to all who passed her home. **That is until a hot humid night this past July when Colletta lost everything she had to a devastating house fire.**

She had raised her children and many of her grandchildren in that small wooden house near the school. She loved and nurtured her children and did her best to provide the things they needed. Though she had health problems and financial stresses, she never complained. She fought her way back from two major illnesses that would have stopped people of less faith and determination in their tracks.

Colletta feels that her life has been full of blessings due to her strong personal relationship with the Lord. She tells everyone that this relationship is her greatest blessing. For more than thirty years, she has been an active member of Cherry Grove Baptist Church in Hampton County. When her house burned, she was heartbroken that among the items destroyed was her entire wardrobe of “church suits.”

The week of the fire, a team from Salkehatchie Summer Service, a Methodist-sponsored youth mission program, was working on Colletta’s home. On the day of the fire, they were installing storm windows. Colletta said she would be waiting on the porch when they arrived early the next morning. Tragically, the following morning, the storm windows had been consumed by the fire, and there was no front porch on which to stand. In spite of the devastating loss, Colletta insisted on being there when the youth workers arrived, just as she had promised. They were overcome with disbelief, shock and even anger at what had taken place overnight. It was Colletta who ministered to them as she wiped away their tears, hugged them, comforted them and reassured them that this was God’s will and that somehow she would overcome the loss because God would be at her side.

Please help us help Colletta make good on this promise to those youth. Visit our web site at www.MissionarySupply.org for information on mission trips and donation opportunities.