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Houston Habitat for Humanity gives Perry family new home, hope

By MICHAEL W. PANNELL - Sun News correspondent

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Teresa Ingram stands with her children Jaiyda Kelly, 7, Davyon Ingram, 11, and Darius Ingram, 15, prior to entering her new home in Perry on Saturday morning.

photo credit JASON VORHEES — jvorhees@macon.com

PERRY -- A ribbon cut, keys given and a Bible presented added up to hope fulfilled for Teresa Ingram and her three children Saturday.

Ingram is the new owner of Houston County Habitat for Humanity's 51st home build, the 10th in Perry, according to Habitat officials.

Ingram said she named the house Hope.

"I thank God and all the volunteers that made this day a reality," Ingram said. "They began it March 16 and completed it March 27. It's just the grace of God it happened at all and then that it happened so quickly."

Though the house on Van Street was built quickly, Ingram said her dreams and prayers for a home of her own and for her children, ages 7, 11 and 15, began longer ago.

"I thought it was something out of my reach, but God did it," she said. "A sister in Christ told me about Habitat and about Hope Hicks. I went online first and found out about Habitat in October 2014. It was just the right time. They were wanting to build in Perry. Hope and others led me through the process to qualify for a house and look, here it is."

Hicks is Habitat's former program services coordinator.

Ingram's children were nearly as excited as she was, jockeying for the bedroom of their choice in the new home, which is about 1,300 square feet and features an open floor plan, four bedrooms, two baths as well as front and side porches and a landscaped lawn.

Dave Cyr, president of Parrish Construction Group, said he was grateful for the opportunity to be part of the project.

He said when you get involved in something like a Habitat build, God turns it around and blesses you even more than the recipient of the house.

Parrish Construction supported the Habitat house 51 venture and led volunteer efforts in the quick construction, called a blitz build by Habitat. The company led the way among other subcontractors, builders and individuals who made the two-week house raising possible.

The build was part of Parrish Construction's 20th anniversary celebration.

Longtime Habitat organizer, volunteer and board member Randy Haggard presented Ingram with a Bible during Saturday's brief ceremony. He said it had been standard procedure to do so at each dedication since Habitat began in Houston County in 1991, along with the encouragement to make it the home's centerpiece and to heed its council.

Ingram, who works at a Meadowdale Learning Center in Warner Robins, gladly accepted.

"It just tells me there is hope," she said. "God is hope, there's nothing impossible with him. I can't thank him enough. And I'm part of the Habitat family now. Because my house was such a quick build I didn't have as much chance to get in my own 'sweat equity' on the project like homeowners usually do. But I've volunteered with other groups already and I'll be part of future Habitat houses, that's for sure. I'm part of the family."

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