

# Sandi McReynolds

## Author & Speaker



May, 2016

The *Miracles in the Storm* series is a tribute to the people of Joplin as they faced the worst disaster to hit this region in a century. Both *Butterflies at the Window* and *Standpipes and Storm Shelters* are novels based on true experiences of my family and friends. There really is something different about Joplin and I want the world to know there are still places where faith and courage can turn the worst of times into good and that God still shows up in the midst of the storm.

I hope you will consider scheduling an interview so we can talk about the message of the books. Please review the information in this packet and feel free to use any part of it for promotional purposes. It is designed for print or digital media. Photos and material may also be downloaded directly from the Media Page of my website, [sandimcreynolds.com](http://sandimcreynolds.com).

I will be glad to provide copies of the books for review at any time. I am available for telephone or personal interview, as well as speaking engagements.

Please direct all questions to me at 417.529.1607. (I do not accept calls directly from unrecognized numbers, so please be sure to leave a short message with your reason for calling and I'll gladly get right back to you.) You can reach me by email at [sandi@sandimcreynolds.com](mailto:sandi@sandimcreynolds.com) or snail mail at 30084 Grapevine Lane, Carl Junction, MO 64834. I can also be contacted through my website, [sandimcreynolds.com](http://sandimcreynolds.com), or Facebook page, [facebook.com/sandi.mcreynolds](https://www.facebook.com/sandi.mcreynolds).

Thank you for any consideration of my work. I hope to hear from you soon.

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### **About Sandi McReynolds, Author**



Sandi McReynolds is the award-winning author of *Butterflies at the Window, a Story of Butterfly People* and *Miracles in the Storm*, a novel based on the true experiences of her family and friends during the 2011 Joplin Tornado; and *Pain & Paradox, the Path of Praise*, a celebration of how God uses the worst things in people's lives to bless them the most. Her newest release, *Standpipes and Storm Shelters*, the rest of the story of the Joplin tornado, is available now.

In addition to books, articles and blogs, Sandi researches and authors scripts for "Great Americans Day," an annual dramatization of America's founders for fourth graders, and has written and edited copy for Jack E. Dawson's "paintings with a message." She is a former Human Resources executive and small business owner and is currently an active member of Christian Writers Fellowship. An avid gardener and mentor of young women, she is available to speak for women's events, garden clubs, and other church and community activities.

Watch for Sandi's new fantasy series, *The Twins of Thune*, coming in 2016. Book One, *Star Dancer*, will be available later this year. Other projects in the works include a trilogy based on the Old Testament book of Nehemiah, a devotional book centered on gardening, and several children's books.

You can follow the author at [sandimcreynolds.com](http://sandimcreynolds.com). She may be reached for appointments or phone interview at 417-529-1607 or [sandi@sandimcreynolds.com](mailto:sandi@sandimcreynolds.com).

## An Interview with Sandi McReynolds, Author

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Q. I understand your newest release, *Standpipes and Storm Shelters*, is the second book of the *Miracles in the Storm* series. Do you plan to write a third?

A. No, but when I finished *Butterflies at the Window*, I didn't envision a second one, so...

Q. What inspired you to write *Butterflies at the Window*?

A. I couldn't bring myself to drive down Range Line for almost a week after the tornado. When I finally did, it was like a terribly painful assault that suddenly turned into a wonderful revelation of Joplin's spirit and God's hope. Liz's reaction to her first trip along Range Line in Chapter 7 intimately describes my own. At one time I was Human Resources Director at the old St. John's hospital, so seeing what had happened there was very personal to me. I had to write about it.

Q. When, and why, did you decide to write the second one? What was the tipping point for you?

A. "FEMA Village," the opening setting for *Standpipes*, was along the route I often took into Joplin, and I was intrigued to watch them move the temporary units out as soon as refugees there found new homes. That was a good thing, but as more and more units were removed, the area seemed more and more forsaken. By the end of the second year, about all you could see were huge empty fields with a few dreary little white rectangles scattered among abandoned electrical standpipes and concrete storm shelters. I couldn't help but wonder how the people that were still there must be feeling. I knew some still hadn't recovered from injuries or found work and, as I say in the book, that big, angry guy we met for only a moment in *Butterflies* gradually took on a personality and then a name. His story was theirs and it had to be told.

Q. *Butterflies at the Window* is based on true stories; a lot of them your own family's experiences. Is that also true of *Standpipes*?

A. Not as much, though the struggles of the Morris children sort of typify what my grandchildren, and other kids across the area, were going through. The stories of Joplin in general are based on fact.

Q. How are your grandchildren and other members of your family doing now?

A. The kids are doing well. The house where they settled after the tornado was hit pretty hard by the Christmas flood this year, but they've handled it okay and are slowly getting back to normal—again. My daughter Kim's house, where we took shelter just outside the tornado zone, was also flooded and she's just now able to move back home. Her husband died two years ago. It's been inspiring to watch her faith in action and see her getting the same kind of help from the churches and community that was offered after the tornado.

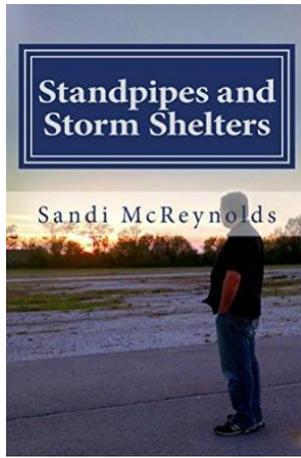
Q. You've released *Standpipes* and re-released *Butterflies* this month, the fifth anniversary of the tornado. Was that intentional?

A. Of course. They both deal with the hardest thing this area has had to face in my lifetime, but they're messages of hope for the future. What better time to think about that than at this milestone?

Q. What do you hope to accomplish with the two books?

A. I'm so proud of the people of this area, and how they've responded to all that's happened. These books are my tribute to them. We haven't always gotten everything right. We're pretty much a textbook study of what happens to an area after such a huge disaster, but as I say in both books, there really is something different about Joplin. I want the world to know there are still places like Joplin, where faith and courage can turn the worst of times into good. And most of all, I want people to see how God always shows up in the storm.

**LATEST RELEASE by Sandi McReynolds**



**About Standpipes and Storm Shelters**

*Standpipes and Storm Shelters* is “the rest of the story” of *Butterflies at the Window*. This is the account of the Morris family, still struggling to find hope after most victims of the Joplin Tornado have found homes and jobs and healing, as well as the on-going saga of the McConnell’s commitment to use all that happened to them to bless others. But most of all, it is the testimony of God’s faithful pursuit of those He loves, even when they don’t want to know Who He is. Book Two of the *Miracles in the Storm* series, *Standpipes and Storm Shelters, the Story of Miracles in the Storm Goes On*, is available locally or in print or eBook at Amazon.com or sandimcreynolds.com.

**Book Details**

- **Title:** Standpipes and Storm Shelters, the Story of Miracles in the Storm Goes On
- **Author:** Sandi McReynolds
- **Paperback:** 111 pages
- **Publisher:** VineTree Press, April, 2016
- **ISBN** 13: 978-0692702727 (VineTree Press)  
ISBN- 10: 0692702725
- **BISAC:** Fiction / Christian / General

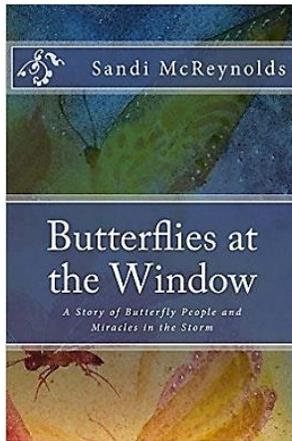
Jaxon James Morris II is a very angry man. At first, relocating his family to Southwest Missouri had seemed just what they needed. Then their safe little world had been shattered by the deadly EF5 tornado that roared through their new home town. He’d been trapped and helpless, able only to watch in horror as it all came crashing down on them.

Now his children’s insistence that “butterfly guys” came to save them only fuels his fury. Now his wife and kids are gone, terrified of the consuming rage he can’t control. Now Jax is terrified, too. Will his shattered leg ever heal? What if he’s never able to walk again? Has the monster that took everything they owned taken everything he loves as well? Now he just exists in an isolated FEMA trailer, haunted by the desolation of disconnected electrical standpipes and no-longer-needed storm shelters.

Then strangers come knocking at his door, and God sets in motion events that will change his life in ways he never could have imagined.

*In “Stand Pipes and Storm Shelters,” McReynolds truly finds her voice—a voice that needs to be heard. She deftly and accurately weaves a tale of adversity, hopelessness, and ultimate redemption. The readers quickly feel with the Morris family as they struggle with the devastating aftermath of tragedy, but also experience real encounters with hope and faith. An equally entertaining and touching read, “Stand Pipes” will impress you with the amazing impact of believers in a true community of faith.*

Dr. Karl Wendt  
Director, Mt. Hope Christian Counseling Center



## **RE-RELEASE by Sandi McReynolds**

### **About Butterflies at the Window**

Five years ago, the monstrous Joplin tornado carved its way across the Joplin area. Like almost every family in the area, the McReynolds and their extended family found themselves in its grip. Book One of the *Miracles in the Storm* series, *Butterflies at the Window, a Story of Butterfly People and Miracles in the Storm*, is a novel based on their true experiences and the mysterious butterfly people stories that followed. Dedicated to tornado survivors and volunteers, it is available locally or in print or eBook at Amazon.com or sandimcreynolds.com.

#### **Book Details:**

- **Title:** Butterflies at the Window, a Story of Butterfly People and Miracles in the Storm
- **Author:** Sandi McReynolds
- **Paperback:** 167 pages
- **Publisher:** VineTree Press, April, 2016
- **ISBN** 13: 978-0692704295 (VineTree Press)  
ISBN 10: 0692704299
- **BISAC:** Fiction / Christian / General

The date is May 22, 2011. Elly's "very good" graduation day becomes even better when three enormous butterflies appear at her bedroom window; incredibly beautiful, almost otherworldly in their splendor. Her first thought is, "Thank You, Jesus! You know how I love butterflies." But when Elly, then her mother, then other members of the McConnell clan begin to see them in the most unlikely places, their presence begins to feel strangely ominous. And when they appear to be watching the family's every move, it's hard to avoid a growing sense of foreboding.

On this perfect spring Sunday, when families across southwest Missouri are celebrating their high school graduations, could these exquisite creatures actually be harbingers of looming tragedy? Then a rare and massive EF5 tornado unexpectedly turns that bright day in May dark and deadly. As the storm of the century bears down, can the McConnell family survive? And in the midst of unspeakable terror and devastation, why are so many children of the tornado seeing butterfly people?

*Author Sandi McReynolds and her family survived the F5 tornado in Joplin, MO in May 2011, and she has used her first-hand experience to write a fascinating "up close and been there" novel. Although "Butterflies at the Window" is fiction, Sandi hasn't altered the facts. People who know Joplin can say, "Yes, that's right," as they read about the places and events in her story. She has done a remarkable job of taking a true experience and showing it through a novel. LeAnn Campbell, Author of Century Farm Mystery Series for kids*

*Anyone who wants to be inspired should read "Butterflies at the Window." Author Sandi McReynolds has taken an actual tragedy, the incredibly destructive tornado that ripped through Joplin, MO, added the stories of butterfly people that flooded the area, and turned it into a healing fantasy. Congratulations! Richard L. Jackson, Senior Vice President (Ret.), St. John's Regional Medical Center, Author of The Rules*

