

The Lowedown

A monthly newsletter from the life and ministry of Dave & Jennifer Lowe

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Surviving a Brown-Out

Murphy's Law. It's inevitable. When you least expect it or when you can least afford it, your computer crashes.

For the last week, I have been working feverishly to prepare for our summer in Newport Beach. We are scheduled to leave later this weekend (it's May 27 today), and I've been trying to get our notebook finished.

The notebook is a resource manual that contains all of the training and discipleship curriculum for the entire summer. It has been a huge undertaking that I've been working on for the better part of a week.

I was just putting the finishing touches on the notebook when we experienced a brown out (a momentary loss of electrical power) and the computer turned off.

When I tried to turn the computer back on, it would not reboot. One of my interns (Josh) is a computer genius and I immediately called him for help.

He quickly diagnosed the problem and told me that the Windows Operating System had been damaged and we would need to reinstall it.

This did not thrill me. I remembered when my power supply crashed in the fall and I ended up building a new computer. I had to reinstall Windows then and even though my programs were still intact on the hard drive, I had to reinstall them all just to be able to use them again. It's a very time-consuming process. Time is not something I have a lot of right now and so the thought of having to reinstall all my programs was very frustrating.

As we began the task of trying to

reinstall Windows and restore computer order to my life, we realized that the problem was much greater than just the Windows Operating System.

The hard drive partition had been corrupted so that Windows could not be reinstalled. The system saw the hard drive as "unformatted", and it seemed that the only way to get Windows back and running was to format the entire hard drive, meaning that all my data, all my files, everything I've worked on for the last 10 years would be lost.

Fortunately, my friend Josh knows more about computers than I do. He was able to reboot the system from a CD containing a different Operating system called Linux.

Using some creative ingenuity, we were able to retrieve my notebook file by e-mailing it to my laptop computer.

Currently, as I write this, Josh is busy retrieving all of my data files off of the damaged hard drive before he reformats it and reinstalls it into my computer.

I'll still have to install all of my programs but the good thing is that I think most, if not all of my data will be saved.

There are a couple of lessons that I'm learning through this experience.

The first is that I need to protect myself. I never think these things are going to happen to me. A simple \$20 investment in an Uninterruptible Power Supply would have avoided this problem altogether. I'm reminded that often it's the little investments in our lives that protect us from major problems.

Another lesson, I think, is to never give up. Without Josh, I think that I would have probably thought all hope

was lost in retrieving my data. But fortunately, we were able to creatively find another solution; a better solution.

I find that often times in ministry, things look hopeless and I give up too easily. I sometimes concede defeat when I should be looking for another solution.

I find this to be true often in our quest to reach lost students. It's easy to think to myself, "this generation will never turn to Jesus," or "our strategies won't reach students today." Yet, with creativity and hard work, God gives us new ideas and new ways to reach a new generation. I wonder if this isn't partly what Paul meant in 1 Corinthians 9:23 when he said, "I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some."

Thanks for your partnership in helping us do whatever it takes to reach students today.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for us as we lead the Newport Beach Summer Project. Pray for times of refreshing and encouragement.
- Pray for us as a family to experience fun and bonding as we minister together in a new place
- Pray for our travel. We will be driving to Colorado in mid July and returning to Davis at the end of July.
- Pray that we would grow in our leadership abilities and in our vision for reaching lost people.