

# THE GOOD NEWS **FREE**

*Just Keeps Coming*

“...GO HOME TO YOUR FRIENDS, AND TELL THEM WHAT WONDERFUL THINGS THE LORD HAS DONE FOR YOU AND HOW MERCIFUL HE HAS BEEN.” MARK 5:19

Volume 12, Issue 11

Non-Denominational, Non-Church Affiliated

November 2017

## Emptied Out In Order To Be Filled

It's often been said that you have to be emptied before you can be filled and the congregation of Abundant Life Assembly of God Church in Wharton, Texas, has proven that to be true, thanks to Hurricane Harvey.

When Travis Glass took over as pastor over three years ago, he came in with few preconceived notions about how a church should do things. Since he wasn't raised in church, he wasn't set in old ways. And it's a good thing he wasn't, because if he had been, he would not have had the courage to make some bold changes. One of the first things he did was take out the sturdy wooden benches that had been part of the building since its inception over sixty years ago. He quickly replaced them with cushioned chairs that could be added to or taken away as needed. It turns out that was a providential move, as shown by Hurricane Harvey.

Harvey arrived with his entire wrath at the end of August, 2017, and for the first time in anyone's memory, the church building flooded. It wasn't because it rained so much at one time, although it did, but because there was an inundation of backup waters from the Colorado River and Peach Creek.

The waters reached their peak on August 30, 2017. The building was filled with about 18 inches of water. Almost one third of the town and lo-

cal area was flooded as well, with some houses having water up to the rooftops. People tell how they stood in front of their homes and saw rushing water making its way to their homes. Some people described it as a tsunami coming and the helplessness they felt when nature unleashed her fury. But what could have destroyed lives ended up bringing out the best that God's people had to offer... the love of God displayed by serving fellow man.

As soon as the waters receded, ambassadors from the Convoy of Hope arrived to help pull out the damaged sheetrock and soaked carpet. They were assisted by a group of workers from New Life Assembly in El Campo. What used to be a fairly decent church building turned into the beginning of a warehouse to distribute goods to victims in the town and neighborhood. Once Pastor Travis Glass and his wife Caree said "Yes!" to this calling, we watched God go into action in a big way.

Caree learned to be careful what she prays for, because she might get more than she bargained for...in this case, her prayer was for our church to be noticed. For years, people drove past our little red brick church, not even realizing it was there. But, thanks to our uninvited guest named Harvey, we became a lighthouse and people



swarmed to us. We made the news in so many ways and went from being overlooked to being sought out so people from all across the state and nation send donations for our citizens.

No sooner than the church was gutted, supplies started arriving by truckloads and trailers. One of the first deliveries came from former members who carried gifts from the Cajun Navy. If we were to have a roll call of states that sent things, it would include Arizona, Louisiana, New Jersey, California, West Virginia, Colorado, Kentucky, Ohio, and even as far away as Poison, Mt.!. Fellow Texans came to our aide, too, from Robstown, San Marcos, Cuero, Austin, Holliday, Waller, Rosenberg, League City, Sealy, New Braunfels, El Campo, East Bernard, and Bay City.

Denominational ideologies didn't matter, either... Church of Christ, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Methodist, Baptist, non-denominational, and some without

churches... let God use them to help others also.

Once we started giving out supplies, we witnessed a miracle that could be compared to the loaves and fishes in the Bible. Without us telling anyone how low we were on needed items, another load would show up and keep us going. This happened over and over and over again during the four weeks we served our public. In addition to food products and cleaning supplies, we were able to provide water, toilet paper, paper towels, baby diapers, hygiene products, and pet food. Thanks to Sarah Hudgins, we were able to give away new underwear (she had been given 15,000 pair for the victims, so she cheerfully shared). One of the contributions was dozens of boxes of military MRE meals for those who no longer had a stove for cooking on. Aqua Zyme services from Van Vleck even provided us with porta potties

(EMPTIED continued on page 3)

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# Innocent Eyes

*A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.*

**Proverbs 17:22**

A man decided that he was going to ride a 10-speed bike from Phoenix to Flagstaff. He got as far as Black Canyon City before the mountains just became too much and he could go no farther.

He stuck his thumb out, but after 3 hours he hadn't gotten a single person to stop. Finally a guy in a Corvette pulled over and offered him a ride.

Of course, the bike wouldn't fit in the car. The owner of the Corvette found a piece of rope lying by the highway and tied it to his bumper. He tied the other end to the bike and told the man that if he got to going too fast to honk the horn on his bike and he would slow down.

Everything went fine for the first 30 miles. Suddenly, another Corvette blew past them. Not to be outdone, the Corvette pulling the bike took off after the other. A short distance down the road, the Corvettes --both going well over 120 mph--blew through a speed trap.

The police officer noted the speeds from his radar gun and radioed to the other officer that he had 2 Corvettes headed his way at over 120 mph.

He then relayed, "And you're not going to believe this, but there's guy on a 10-speed bike honking to pass."



The Manhattan Commuter train was packed. Suddenly there was a jingle on the floor. Most necks were craned.

One elderly gentleman, however, bent down and picked something up. He then asked, "Did anyone drop a half dollar?"

"I did," answered three men at once.

"Well," said the elderly gent with a smile, "here's a dime of it."



The Pentagon recently unveiled its new super computer to the top brass. This fantastic device, capable of making bazillions of decisions in split nanoseconds, is designed to solve all military problems with the greatest of ease.

To test its capabilities, the brass poses a tactical problem to it and then asks for a decision, "Attack or Retreat?"

The computer hums a bit, blinks a myriad of lights and answers, "Yes."

The brass, somewhat confused by this answer, replies, "Yes what?"

The computer instantly replies, "Yes, sir!"



Over the years, my husband and I have usually managed to decode the cute but confusing gender signs sometimes put on restaurants' restroom doors (Buoys and Gulls, Laddies and Lassies, etc.), but every so often we get stumped.

Recently my husband Dave wandered off in search of the men's room and found himself confronted by two marked doors. One was labeled "Bronco," and the other was designated "Cactus."

Completely baffled, he stopped a restaurant employee passing by. "Excuse me; I need to use the restroom," Dave said. Gesturing toward the doors, he asked, "Which one should I use?"

"Actually, we would prefer you to go there," the employee said, pointing to a door down the hall marked "Men."

"Bronco and Cactus are private dining rooms."



A young man had just graduated from Harvard and was so excited just thinking about his future.

He gets into a taxi and the driver says, "How are you on this lovely day?"

"I'm the Class of 2001, just graduated from Harvard and I just can't wait to go out there and see what the world has in store for me."

The driver looks back to shake the young man's hand and says, "Congratulations, I'm Mitch Class of 1969."



Heather and Marcy hadn't seen each other in awhile, so they decided to meet for lunch.

The talk naturally got around to their respective love lives. Marcy confided that there really wasn't anyone special in her life. Heather, on the other hand, was beaming about the new man she had found.

"He's perfect. He's handsome, and last night when we went out to dinner, he said the four little words I've been waiting to hear a man say to me!"

"He said 'will you marry me?'" Marcy asked.

Heather replied, "No, he said 'put your money away!'"



The two young boys were discussing their ailments together in the children's ward.

"Are you medical or surgical?" asked the first, who had been in the ward for a week. "I don't know what you mean," replied the second.

"It's simple," replied the first.

"Were you sick when you came in here? Or did they make you sick when you got here?"



Unaware that Indianapolis is on Eastern Standard Time and Chicago on Central Standard Time, Bob inquired at the Indianapolis airport about a plane to Chicago.

"The next flight leaves at 1:00 p.m.," a ticket agent said, "and arrives in Chicago at 1:01 p.m."

"Would you repeat that, please?" Bob asked.

The agent did so and then inquired, "Do you want a reservation?"

"No," said Bob, "But I think I'll hang around and watch that thing take off."



A little boy forgot his lines in a Sunday School presentation.

His mother, sitting in the front row to prompt him, gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it didn't help. Her son's memory was blank.

Finally she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the light of the world."

The child beamed and with great feeling and a loud, clear voice said, "My mother is the light of the world."



Once there was a millionaire who collected live alligators. He kept them in the pool in back of his mansion. The millionaire also had a beautiful single daughter.

So one day he decides to throw a huge party, and during the party he announces: "My dear guests, I have a proposition to every man here. I will give one million dollars or my daughter to the man that can swim across this pool full of alligators and emerge unharmed!"

As soon as he finished his last word there was the sound of a large SPLASH! One guy was in the pool, swimming as fast as he could, and the crowd was cheering him on. Finally he made it to the other side unharmed.

The millionaire was impressed. He said "My boy that was incredible! Fantastic! I didn't think it could be done! Well I must keep my end of the bargain, so which do you want: my daughter or the one million dollars?"

The guy says "Listen I don't want your money! And I don't want your daughter! I just want the goober who pushed me into that pool!"



A honeymoon couple is in the Watergate Hotel.

The new bride is concerned and asked "What if the place is still bugged?"

The groom says "Hmm... Good point. I'll look for a bug."

He looks behind the drapes, behind the pictures, under the rug . . . "AHA!" he shouts!

Sure enough, under the rug was a small disc shaped plate, with four screws. He gets his Swiss army knife, unscrews the screws, throws them and the plate out the window.

The next morning, the hotel manager asks the newlyweds "How was your room? How was the service? How was your stay at the Watergate Hotel?"

Curious, the groom says, "And why, sir, are you asking me all of these questions?"

The hotel manager says "Well, the room UNDER yours complained of the chandelier falling on them!"



Toward the end of our senior year in high school, we were required to take a CPR course.

The classes used the well known mannequin victim, Resusci-Annie, to practice. Typical of most models, this Resusci-Annie was only a torso, to allow for storage in a carrying case.

The class went off in groups to practice.

As instructed, one of my classmates gently shook the doll and asked "Are you all right?" He then put his ear over the mannequin's mouth to listen for breathing.

Suddenly he turned to the instructor and exclaimed, "She said she can't feel her legs!"



A couple was arranging for their wedding, and asked the bakery to inscribe the wedding cake with "1 John 4:18" which reads "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear."

The bakery evidently lost, smudged or otherwise misread the noted reference, and beautifully inscribed on the cake "John 4:18"...

"for you have had five husbands, and the man you have now is not your husband."



# Am I a fireman yet?

In Phoenix, Arizona, a 26-year-old mother stared down at her 6-year-old son, who was dying of terminal leukemia.

Although her heart was filled with sadness, she also had a strong feeling of determination.

Like any parent, she wanted her son to grow up and fulfill all his dreams. Now that was no longer possible. The leukemia would see to that. But she still wanted her son's dream to come true.

She took her son's hand and asked, 'Billy, did you ever think about what you wanted to be once you grew up? Did you ever dream and wish what you would do with your life?'

Mommy, "I always wanted to be a fireman when I grew up."

Mom smiled back and said, "Let's see if we can make your wish come true."

Later that day she went to her local fire Department in Phoenix, Arizona where she met Fireman Bob, who had a heart as big as Phoenix

She explained her son's final wish and asked if it might be possible to give her 6-year-old son a ride around the block on a fire engine.

Fireman Bob said, "Look, we can do better than that. If you'll have your son ready at seven o'clock Wednesday morning, we'll make him an honorary Fireman for the whole day. He can come down to the fire station, eat with us, go out on all the fire calls, the whole nine yards!

"And if you'll give us his sizes, we'll get a real fire uniform for him, with a real fire hat - not a toy - one with the emblem of the Phoenix Fire Department on it, and a yellow slicker like we wear and rubber boots. They're all manufactured right here in Phoenix, so we can get them fast."

Three days later Fireman Bob picked up Billy, dressed him in his uniform and escorted him from his hospital bed to the waiting hook and ladder truck. Billy got to sit on the back of the truck and help steer it back to the fire station. He was in heaven.

There were three fire calls in Phoenix that day and Billy got to go out on all three calls.

He rode in the different fire engines, the Paramedic's van, and even the fire chief's car.

He was also videotaped for the local news program.

Having his dream come true, with all the love and attention that was lavished upon him, so deeply touched Billy, that he lived three months longer than any doctor thought possible.

One night all his vital signs began to drop dramatically and the head nurse, who believed in the hospice concept - that no one should die alone, began to call the family members to the hospital.

Then she remembered the day Billy had spent as a Fireman, so she called the Fire Chief and asked if it would be possible to send a fireman in uniform to the hospital to be with Billy as he made his transition.

The chief replied, "We can do better than that. We'll be there in five minutes.... Will you please do me a favor? When you hear the sirens screaming and see the lights flashing, will you announce over the PA system that there is not a fire? It's the department coming to see one of its finest members one more time. And will you open the window to his room?"

About five minutes later a hook and ladder truck arrived at the hospital and extended its ladder up to Billy's third floor open window, and 16 firefighters climbed up the ladder into Billy's room with his mother's permission, they hugged him and held him and told him how much they LOVED him.

With his dying breath, Billy looked up at the fire chief and said, "Chief, am I really a fireman now?"

"Billy, you are, and The Head Chief, Jesus, is holding your hand," the chief said. With those words, Billy smiled and said, "I know, He's been holding my hand all day, and the angels have been singing."

He closed his eyes one last time and was with Jesus.

Submitted by Patti Hanson  
Katy, Texas



(EMPTIED continued from page 1)

when we had no toilets. Volunteers who had never been to our church before showed up to be part of the action.

As a result of our giving, we participated in DaBarron's shoe give away, taco giveaways, hot dog suppers, hamburger lunches, and so much

more. When the Red Cross drove around town with their food truck, they always made it a point to stop by our facility and make sure our volunteers and recipients were well taken care of.

How do you thank so many people for their part in this miracle? When I asked those who came why they did

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# HOUS From Heaven

I've noticed that through everything in life, I know God's presence is with me, if I just take the time to see. This year had its share of challenges for all of us, but through it all I could see God right there with me.

Hurricane Harvey brought a lot of devastation to so many, but during that time there were no divisions of race, faith, political parties or financial divisions. Everyone worked together to help their neighbor any way they could. I watched the news every day because there was nothing but good stories of strangers helping strangers and true appreciation for all the "good Samaritans" that came from everywhere. It's a shame that it takes a catastrophe for people to treat each other the way God commands us to live – "and love your neighbor as yourself."

I received a note from a reader last week who is beginning chemo this week and asked for prayer. I'll tell you what I told her. I went through chemo seven years ago and I wouldn't wish that on anyone. But if I had to go through it again to get that close to God, I'd do it in a heartbeat. God has been my Lord and Savior since I was eight years old, but I never really got to know him until chemo. God promises us He will never leave us nor forsake us and He always keeps His promises.

During this time of Thanksgiving, I am so grateful for all the blessings God has given me this year. When I count you, my Good News friends, I count you twice. Be blessed.

*In His Love,  
Diana Boring  
San Felipe, Texas*



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# Through It All

As we were boarding up our house and waiting for Hurricane Harvey to begin. My heart raced so very quickly while searching for answers deep within.

Did I give enough to others, was my love for God present in the life I tried to share each new day? Did others see God's love through me? This is what I prayed.

I did not care about material things that might be destroyed like I had in storms before. My heart was concerned about how I should have served God more.

I laid wide awake through the night clinging to my Lil Wooden Cross, listening and praying as the house seem to breathe. I could hear the tree limbs snapping and shingles flying, "Oh Lord Protect us," I prayed as we had chosen not to leave.

Our phones kept dinging as loved ones were checking on us throughout the night. That connection with them was God embracing us in his arms oh so tight.

The horrible sounds outside seemed as if they would never end. The rain, the popping noises and the whistling of the strong blowing winds.

Through it all God never left us for knowing daylight would come soon. Though the sun was not visible, hours later morning finally came and the power had gone off too.

I could feel a silence within our home and praised God again while asking him for no matter what we faced, Please God Pull Us Through. The days to follow were not easy, though God did keep the weather cool. Damages were all around us enough to close all schools.

We did not have a generator though we were blessed to be alive. We prepared the best we could and through it all God helped us survive.

Neighbors came together when it was safe to leave our homes. We helped each other making sure nobody was left alone.

We shared what we had and put aside our differences with a few neighbors that were not always kind.

Through it all God gave us compassion for one another, the scripture "Love thy neighbor as thyself" came to mind.

Through it all my heart saw a love around our city like never ever before. It was like Heaven opened a window and a glimpse peeked through the floors.

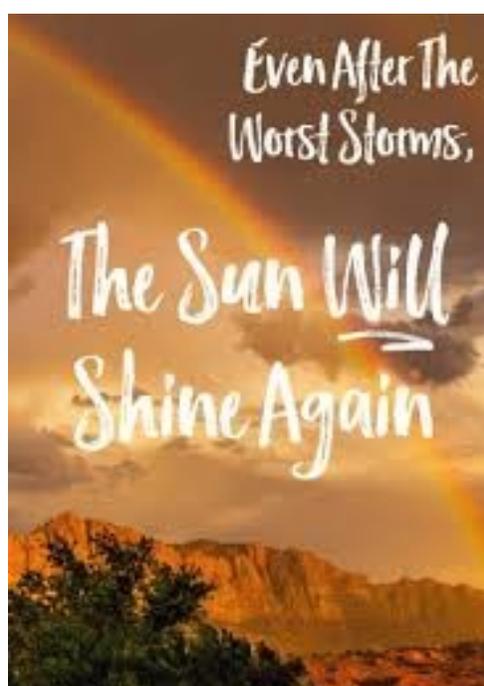
A sweet angel called me to go help her with some friends that were elderly and alone. We did what we could together and checked on others and on their homes.

Through it all we also had damage to our church building that was so hard to see. Through the tears we walked through the building reminding ourselves, that the people are the church, the people like you and me.

As the days passed we would hear from friends whose parents lost their entire homes and other friends who lost their vacation homes on the bay. The devastation was overwhelming—what could we do through it all but simply pray.

Through it all I believe God has touched each one of us in a way only he can. Through it all I have fallen on my knees in Praise, for through it all God has kept us within his Grace filled and ever lasting loving hands.

*Written With God's Hand in Mine,  
Susie D. B. Brockwell  
Victoria, Texas*



**Proverbs  
3:5-6**



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## 1ST TEXAS HOME HEALTH

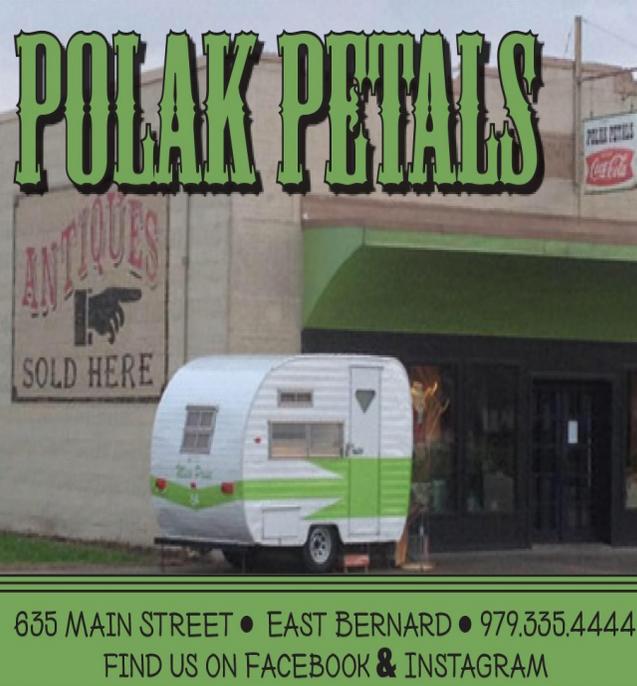


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Whatever you do, do it with all of your might, as working for the Lord, not for men.

Colossians 3:23



## Coconut Caramel Pie

- ¼ cup butter
- 1 7oz. pkg flaked coconut
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 1 8oz pkg softened cream cheese
- 1 14oz can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 16 oz container Cool Whip, thawed
- 2 baked 9 inch pastry shells
- 1 12 oz jar caramel ice cream topping



Melt butter in large skillet. Add coconut and chopped pecans; cook until golden brown, stirring frequently. Set aside. Combine cream cheese and sweetened condensed milk; beat until smooth. Fold in whipped topping.

Layer ¼ of cream cheese mixture into each pie shell. Drizzle ¼ caramel topping on each pie. Sprinkle ¼ coconut mixture evenly on each pie. Repeat layers with remaining ingredients. Cover and freeze until firm. Let frozen pie set at room temperature before slicing.

Lisa Wilson  
Sealy, Texas

## FUN WITH GOD'S WORD

Use the scriptures below to find and circle the **BOLDFACED** words. UNDERLINED WORDS will be found together.

A	A	Q	K	F	I	G	N	S	R	E	L	U	R	L	K	V	E
L	T	R	N	T	Y	B	I	E	S	W	G	L	I	A	I	R	W
R	O	E	O	I	R	G	N	I	M	O	C	N	N	D	O	F	H
E	S	Y	W	T	E	R	E	U	O	M	S	Y	C	N	T	A	E
A	H	E	B	T	H	U	S	D	R	A	O	R	U	A	P	I	N
D	H	J	U	F	T	F	N	L	P	N	L	A	V	M	G	E	O
Y	M	R	G	H	A	I	S	S	E	M	I	T	S	H	K	G	S
F	T	I	I	H	F	K	P	N	L	E	W	A	T	D	D	R	G
E	U	C	O	S	F	J	T	C	N	P	O	E	L	A	E	I	N
L	S	B	H	M	T	W	E	S	D	F	J	A	R	P	B	T	I
G	E	S	T	S	T	I	V	R	I	U	H	X	P	I	X	H	H
N	O	W	U	K	E	S	A	U	S	R	T	I	P	U	K	E	T
I	A	L	R	A	T	U	P	N	G	H	H	D	R	A	E	I	Y
K	F	G	T	E	M	S	E	I	S	S	A	C	J	S	D	F	R
O	Z	N	D	C	P	E	T	A	R	D	F	I	O	M	B	T	E
O	H	O	L	Y	R	J	I	O	I	I	C	H	H	O	Q	W	V
L	G	S	S	X	W	D	W	O	G	B	T	S	T	I	M	E	E

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But the time is coming and is already here when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. The Father is looking for anyone who will worship Him that way. For God is spirit, so those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. The woman said, "I know the Messiah will come – the one who is called the Christ. When He comes, He will ] explain everything to us." Then Jesus told her, "I am the Messiah."

John 4:23-26 (New Living Translation)

## The Shepherd's Way Church

Interdenominational

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10:45 a.m. - Children dismissed  
for Children's Church

**Tuesday** - 9 a.m. - Fall & Spring  
Ladies' Bible Study

**Wednesday** - 7 p.m. - Family Night  
Pioneer Club: 4 yrs. - 3rd grade  
Area 456 Club: 4th - 6th grade  
Elevate: Youth; Adult Bible Study

**Friday** - 10 a.m. - Intercessory Prayer

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# How We Live

Baby Jeremy was born with a condition in which his bile ducts were absent, causing bile to build up inside his body and damage his liver. The only option to prevent his death was a liver transplant. Thankfully for Jeremy, his father underwent a lengthy medical procedure to provide healing for him. Jeremy was given a new liver and a new lease on life.

I wonder: What kind of person will Jeremy grow up to become? As the years go by, will this momentous event become just a distant memory-having little influence on the way he lives? Or will it deeply impact how he lives his life?

In some ways, all believers in Jesus share a similar story with Jeremy. We too were living on borrowed time. But we were given a new lease on life because of another's sacrifice. Jesus gave Himself-His very life-so that we could live abundant, meaningful lives now and for all eternity with God.

So how, in light of His amazing sacrifice, should we live? The apostle Paul exhorts: *"Give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God"* Romans 6:13. He went on to elaborate: stop sinning (Romans 6:15), *"choose to obey"* God (Romans 6:16),

and *"become slaves to righteous living"* (Romans 6:18).

Paul knew that it wouldn't be easy. We'll struggle to obey God in this life, and we'll often live to please ourselves or seek our glory rather than please Him and seek His glory. Thankfully, we're not without help. Jesus didn't simply give us new life; He now lives within us by His Spirit (Romans 8:10). Through His enabling power, we can live in a way that shows Christ didn't die in vain.

**Pastor Andrew Large**  
**Waikiki, Hawaii**



**Give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God (Romans 6:13).**



## Eva's Inspirations

Fill our lives Lord with your love,  
As you watch over us from heaven above.  
And I pray that it always overflows,  
Touching everyone no matter where we go.  
Fill our lives Lord with your grace,  
The kind that comes from your special place.  
And I pray we always share it too,  
Letting everyone know that it came from you.  
Fill our lives Lord with lots of hope,  
Showing us with you we can always cope.  
And I pray that everyone always sees,  
That real hope only comes from thee.  
Fill our lives Lord with your faith,  
That teaches us to trust while we wait.  
And I pray so many who doubt are touched,  
As they see the faith you shared with us.  
Fill our lives Lord with gratitude,  
As we bow our heads and give thanks to you.

*Written by Eva Dimel*  
*Inspired by God ©*



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it, they simply replied, "This is what we do." A church group out of San Marcos said they had been through a flood two years ago and someone came to help them, and they wanted to pay it forward. When the time comes for someone to need help in the future, our plan is to pay it forward too. For many months now, Pastor Travis has emphasized the fact that the church is NOT the building but it IS the people. We've seen that in action. What God is looking for is people who are willing to be used in whatever way He chooses. Harvey was a wakeup alarm for not only the

church but for the people of the Gulf Coast. May we never forget the lessons taught by going through the flood waters of Harvey, 2017.

*So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him. Isaiah 59:19*

**Liz Moreno**  
Wharton, Texas  
Praise77488@sbcglobal.net  
Facebook:  
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## Satan's a Bully

I grew up in the comic book era. There were no cartoons on TV. In fact, there was no TV in the average home. But the comic books brought us Captain Marvel, Superman, and many more characters, all in lavish color. Almost all the comic books carried the same ad. A skinny fellow lay on a beach while a bully kicked sand at him. A year later, the runt has completed the "Charles Atlas" course, and flattens the bully. Satan bullies us constantly, humiliating and harassing us. But in God's joy, we rise up in new strength, and put the bully to flight.

*... the joy of the LORD is your strength ... Sing for joy to God our strength*  
-Nehemiah 8:10 -Psalms 81:1

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832-654-2317, wendyschiller@gmail.com



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