

September 2017

**SPECIAL EDITION**

*Founded in 2008*

# **THE LAMP NEWSLETTER**

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105 KJV).*

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## **THE STORMS ARE RAGING!**





**Wanda J. Burnside**  
**Founder**

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Dear Readers,

The storms rage! You have heard their names: MATTHEW, HARVEY, IRMA, JOSE, MARIA, LEE, and MORE TO COME! Some of you in Texas and Florida prepared for their arrivals and threats of rage, terror, destruction, and all kinds of predictions for TROUBLE! You have lived through them with a wide range of outcomes and stories to tell about these HURRICANES!

Then, there are those who faced these storms in the islands and were slammed with total devastation. Well, maybe you did not go through it, but you know of others who faced these great storms. No matter what, we were all affected by every storm one way or the other.

There are many things to say and report concerning these hurricanes. And yet, as much as we have heard and seen, there is much more to report. Some will talk about the horrific storms and the terror. There are others who can tell you about the miracles that God did through and in the midst of the storm that came their way.

I worried and prayed about the hurricanes because I have friends and family in Texas and Florida. It was hard to see and hear about what each hurricane was predicted to do to these states. I cried to the Lord to protect the people and spare their property. I am sure you did the same. Yes, it was hard to witness what was happening.

There are aftermaths of what happened from these storms. For those who once lived or yet still live in the face of the storms, it has been terrible. Just think of those who have nothing left...no home, no car ...NOTHING.... NOTHING. IT IS PAINFUL.

## **DOES GOD KNOW and REALLY CARE?**

When we go through hard times and difficult situations, we wonder if God knows what is happening. We wonder if He cares. We cry out, "Lord, DO YOU CARE ABOUT ME? DO YOU SEE WHAT I AM GOING THROUGH? WHERE ARE YOU, LORD? WHY ME?"

In the Bible, there were numerous hard times, storms; problems and trouble... trouble...trouble. I am glad that those miserable and horrible times are written in the Bible. If you don't need these stories, I do. I go through a bunch of things all of the time. I need to know what God can do!

Let's look at a few who asked if God cared and did He know what was going on:

In John 11: 1-44, Mary and Martha needed Jesus to come right away because their brother Lazarus was sick, very sick. He eventually died while they waited in faith for Jesus to come! These sisters were beyond disappointed that Jesus did not come immediately. They were good and angry!

In Mark 4:35-41, Jesus and the disciples were sailing along in a boat on the Sea of Galilee when a raging storm came up! The disciples were strong and fearless men until that monstrous storm tossed their ship up, down and around! They were nearly thrown out of the ship. They could have drowned and died! They called out to Jesus to help them because He was right there in the boat. They wondered if He cared about them! They yelled, *"Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" (vs.38)*

## JESUS IS THE ANSWER

Now, in both of these stories, Jesus did something miraculous to help and solve their huge problems. Jesus had the answer because He is the answer to all of our problems and difficulties. Jesus did not fail or disappoint them. He wanted to help and bless them.

They had a problem and Jesus provided the answer. He made a way for them. That's what He wants to do for us, too. The thing is, Jesus did not panic. He did not say, *"I've got this! Step aside and let me handle it."*

Well, that is what we want! We want Him to take over and take control. But, Jesus loves us too much to do that. YES! He has the ultimate plan for our lives. There is one thing He doesn't want to be in the way of .... OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. He wants to connect with us. He wants us to discover more of who He is. He uses every situation and occasion to open the door to us to come to Him.

I know that you are thinking, "Who cares? When I am hurting, I want a quick fix! Get the nightmare over with NOW!"

Jesus can, but...having you close to Him, and understanding who He is, is **VITALLY IMPORTANT**. He uses everything we go through to bring the truth into our lives. What hurts us makes us seek Him more. We desire to get His attention! We want Him. We forsake others for Him.

You know, it is like lovers...a man and a woman. When they are in love...they want the other to know them...understand their ways and wants. It is the main thing. It is important to them. Our Heavenly Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ desire the same.

## WHAT DID THEY LEARN?

Mary and Martha learned that Jesus is **THE RESURRECTION**. He has all power and authority over life and death. They learned that Jesus controls both of these. He is limitless. He is unstoppable. He is the **ONLY ANSWER**.

The disciples learned that Jesus wanted them to use the authority that He had given them. He did not want them to let fear control them. He wanted them to be bold and speak in authority to the raging sea.

## IN OUR STORMS

The hurricanes, with their high winds, are **DEVASTATING**! They raged! They destroy life, property, the land and so much. Yet, I have heard of great testimonies and strange things that God did for people of every age who put their trust in God. They stood on His Word and declared what He promised to do for them. They believed and trusted God to bring them through. He did! I heard what He did! They learned a new level of trust and authority over situations in these storms.

I don't want to go through these weather storms that are such a monster! However, I have been through other monstrous situations in life where I thought I would be destroyed or wiped out. Fear came in and shook me to my core, but I stood on God's Word and completely surrendered to Him. I got *me* out of the way! What I thought and believed did not matter at those times. I cried out to Jesus! He came and made a way for me! He provided for me! He made a difference. He will do that for you, too. He is waiting for you to come before Him. He is there to bring you through.







**Author Ramelle T. Lee**  
**Staff Writer**

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## *Ministry Outreach to Houston, Texas 2017*

### **Historical Overview**

The devastating events of Hurricane Harvey that swept across Houston, Texas, surrounding areas and Louisiana, have brought destruction of unprecedented proportions. The lives of the people have been so disrupted that it is hard to watch the breaking news and see the effects right before your eyes.

During the critical days before and after Hurricane Harvey made landfall, the national, state and local government officials had the monumental task of coordinating all efforts on the ground to stabilize and guard the people, while keeping the nation informed of the moment by moment developments of this storm.

Numerous meteorologists gave round-the-clock reports of where Hurricane Harvey was headed, and its behavior. We thank them for their accurate reporting and keeping people informed of the expected timetable of weather

conditions and events of this hurricane. We honor the heroic efforts of the national reporters who continued to report on these events even when they themselves were placed in harm's way.

The reported estimated cost for rebuilding after Hurricane Harvey is staggering. President Trump and Congress have pledged continued financial support to ensure that FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and other agencies get the needed funds to aid the residents hit by Hurricane Harvey.

In addition, we are thankful for so many volunteers, agencies, rescue teams, firefighters, police and people throughout the immediate area and even the country that are doing so many wonderful things to help people any way they can to continue to give the people hope in these areas of devastation.



### **My Community Outreach Efforts**

In an effort to bring hope and healing to a number of people affected by Hurricane Harvey, **Touching Your Heart Ministries** has sent ministry items to Houston, Texas. We are thankful for the efforts of the TCT Network (Total Christian Television) in Marion, Illinois who have sent needed supplies, food, water, and many other essentials to help the people. These included donations from people everywhere who want to support these efforts.

I'm thankful for Mrs. Wanda J. Burnside who contacted the TCT Network here in Redford, MI who has collected donations that are being driven to Texas. Thanks to Bob Gross, Manager of the WDWO station and his ministry team for ensuring delivery of much needed supplies and donations to Houston, Texas.



Here are pictures of my donated ministry gifts from **Touching Your Heart Ministries**. On September 8, 2017, God blessed me and my assistant, Mr. Tyeast Jackson, to take these items to the local TCT Network for delivery to Houston, Texas.



Shown above are the 700 copies of Ramelle's inspirational poems for adults and youth to provide words of encouragement, hope and healing.



100 Rainbow neon balls for children, along with 86 boxed Disney character Valentine Stickers and 200 copies of uplifting poems for children.

**God Bless the people of Houston, Texas and surrounding areas, and Louisiana**

**Author Ramelle T. Lee, Touching Your Heart Ministries  
P.O. Box 119, Lincoln Park, MI 48146 313-680-4429**





**Michele Gardner-Barnes**  
Staff Writer

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*All around the world,  
people are praying for  
Houston, Texas*

### *Lord, We Lift Our Hands to You!*

The world has united in their prayers for Houston Texas! The tropical storm Harvey sat on top of Houston and rained and rained. Houston is the fourth largest city in the United States of America. This year, it had “unprecedented” flooding.

We, in the USA and around the world, watched as Houston became flooded with 50 inches of rain. The continuous televised news reports showed people trapped in their homes and all sorts of buildings.

Well, after report after report, I walked over to the television and shut-off what looked to be a nightmare! I began to pray. I know others were praying too!

I sincerely prayed and asked the Lord... **“What can I do?”**





Out of my soul poured .....



*Lord, I lift my hands to You,  
for You alone are God,  
Lord, You control the lands and seas,  
and yes Lord, the stormy clouds.  
Lord, people lived because of Your loving hands.  
Lord, if it be Your will,  
please allow Houston  
to restore their land!  
I thank You Lord! Thank You!  
Yes, Lord, Thy will be done,  
The world cries out Hallelujah, Praises to Jesus Christ Your Son.  
Lord, as You divided the Red Sea as passage for Moses,  
Lord, anoint the waters to mend the hearts  
and many souls of the people of Houston in need.*

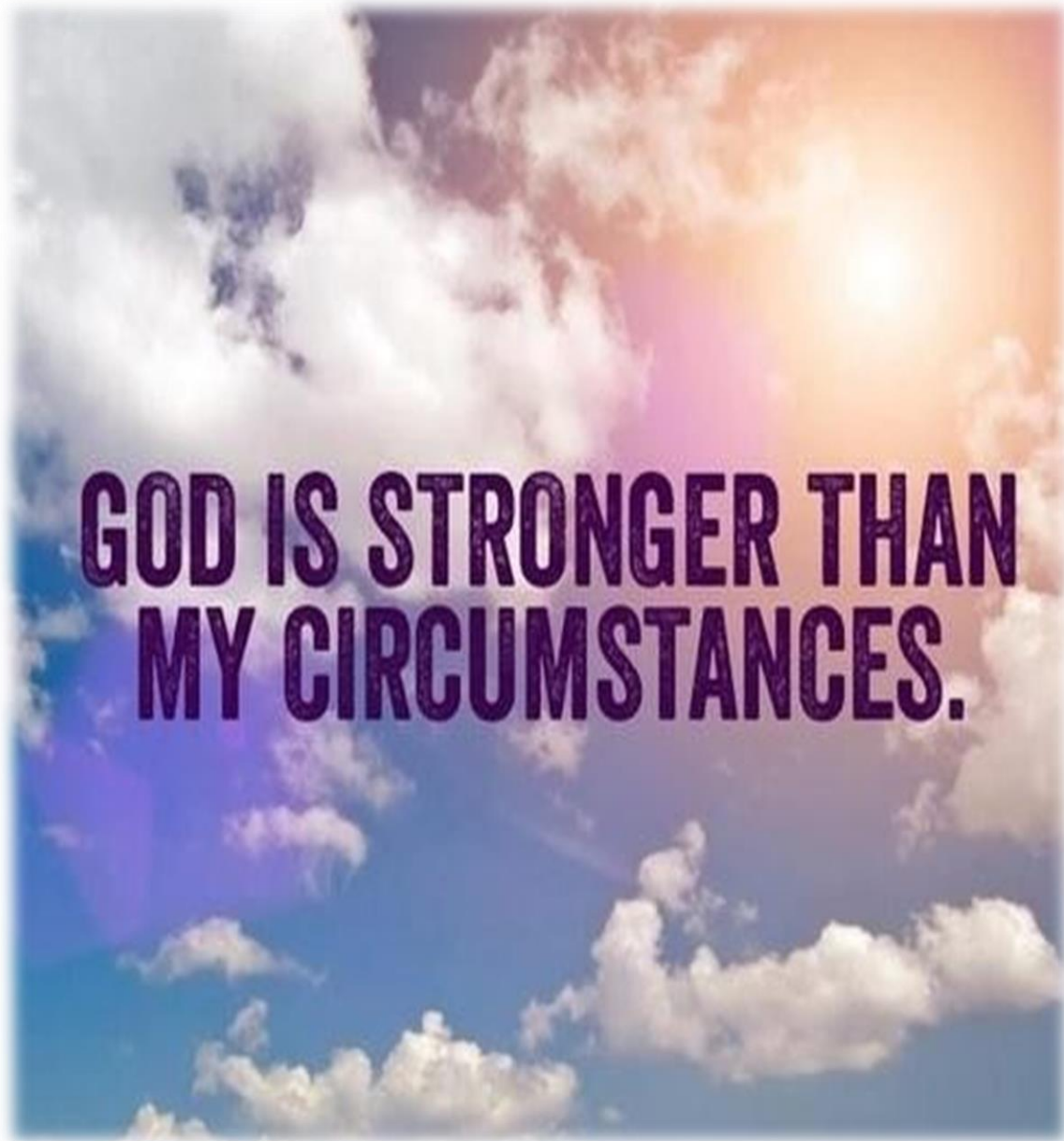


Then the song, *"Because He Lives!"*  
arose within me (by gospel music legends  
Bill & Gloria Gaither):

### **Because He Lives!**

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives, all fear is gone  
Because I know, He holds the future  
Life is worth the living, just because He lives*







## *A Prayer to Overcome*

**by Kim Bond**

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### *O Heavenly Father,*

*We delight in Your Presence and feel so honored that You care for us. Thank You that Your eye is upon us. You have not abandoned us. We come before You today to request Your undeserved grace. We ask You to intervene in the many trials and difficulties that the United States and other countries are facing.*

*Where there is disaster, let there be calm. Where there is injury, let there be healing. Where there is hate, let there be love. Sanctify us in these times of testing. Use this present darkness to rise up heroic deeds, kind acts, and salvation. Lift up testimonies of the miracles You have worked in the face of adversity. Bring about change in our minds, hearts, and attitudes.*

*Whether it is wildfires, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, discrimination, hostility, or terrorism, we ask that You would be our refuge. I pray we would not cower in fear, but we would rise up to the challenge and overcome in Christ's love.*

*Every time disaster strikes, I pray we would hone rescue skills, operations, protection, and preparedness so that less suffering would occur and fewer lives would be lost in the future. Give us the resources to rebuild. Supply us with ample provision, hope, and strength. Renew our strength so we can soar among eagles. Restore more than our ruined buildings and shattered lives — restore our faith in humanity, hope in God, love for godliness, and respect for You. Make our cities better than before.*

*Help these events to remind us that Your return is near. You are welcome here. We long for that blessed day. Help us to act unselfishly and reach everyone with the hope of a glorious eternity that is free from this kind of despair, through the salvation of our Lord Jesus.*

*In Christ's Name, Amen.*



**Note:** We are honored to have this anointed prayer written by Mrs. Kim Bond featured and published in The Lamp Newsletter. We thank the Lord for these powerful prayerful words because they are extremely needed. All around us, here and around the world, there are various storms and tribulations that have taken aim at everyone. This prayer is a tremendous prayer covering.

In 2016, Mrs. Bond released a book of prayers for nations around the world. Her collection of prayers came from writers across the globe. The staff of The Lamp Newsletter wrote a prayer for one or two countries of their choice. It is a great blessing that my prayers along with the staff of The Lamp Newsletter writers' prayers are in Mrs. Bond's book, **"Beseeching Grace: An International Prayer Journal."** The book is available for purchase.

**Kim Bond** loves to share her faith through writing. Her short fiction and poetry appear in over thirty publications. She resides in Saint Louis, Missouri with her husband and two children. She currently writes and edits literature for **Draw Near Christian Ministry**. Draw Near exists to glorify God and help others draw near to Christ by providing resources like free e-books, blogs, and images. You can visit Kim at [www.drawneartochrist.com](http://www.drawneartochrist.com).



## ***For Texas and Florida...***

### **THE LAMP NEWSLETTER**

#### **SPECIAL EDITION #2 - October Issue**

Words of Encouragement and Inspiration  
are coming from our ministry leaders:



**Minister Sandra Hickman  
of Australia**

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**Christine V Mitchell  
of the UK, London**

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### **Also featured in the October's Issue...**



*Special testimonies  
and reports from our  
guest writer,*

***Mrs. Carolyn Toussaint  
of Florida.***

*As a resident of Florida,  
she has firsthand reports about  
Hurricane IRMA!*

**JESUS is with You**  
**in every storm and difficulty!**



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Tribe Family Network-RESTORE! RESTORE!,

**Mrs. Wanda J. Burnside, Founder and President**