

Houston and South Texas 2017—Our Peacetime “Dunkirk”

It has been amazing amidst the suffering and great need of so many to see the rescue efforts taking place in coastal Texas. While we only lived in Texas for seven years, I am proud to say that all three of our children were born there and Deb’s roots are Texan. We were there in early August just north of Houston to visit a sister-in-law and her family whose home now has had water in it. She is a fighter and by God’s grace she will overcome this with all the trials she and her husband face. My prayers rise heavenward for them and especially for my niece who is a fireman there. Deb has gone back to help them clean and remove debris and prepare for repairs.

As I sit safe and dry on the other side of our nation, I remember driving days ago through the neighborhoods of Kingwood along the San Jacinto River, which is dammed up to form Lake Houston, looking for a way south to Humble but finding none. It is all water. Deb and I walked the beautiful walkway along the water there near a golf course. With more and more rain and no place for it to go quickly, my heart breaks at what now has come for so many of them. And yet what I have seen already in the responses of countless boaters and volunteers across the entire region, to rescue and help those stranded and in dire need—whoever they might be, whatever neighborhood they might live in—is the answer to those promoting racial and economic and religious divisions among us these days. That is not who we are as a nation, though it is what some would like to make of us, to divide and conquer us. This “Dunkirk” type event of citizen volunteers doing what only they can do for their fellow Americans epitomizes the entire nation’s heartfelt reply. Thanks be to God for all of those demonstrating this spirit of unity and selfless service to our neighbors in need. And those who are devastated and find themselves sorely lacking, whose all has been left behind in high waters, I believe they will soon see that—along with those who have helped them—their great nation will uphold and support them.

God bless us all now and forever through His Son Jesus Christ, in whom believing is eternal life.

The rain and more rain that fell from this storm of up to 51.88” cannot but remind us of another storm that did not let up for 40 days, the signs of which are all around us still thousands of years later. But this storm is ending and will soon be gone. The devastation left behind is a terrible reminder that a final day has been set by God when in Jesus’ return the judgment of all will commence. Faith in God’s Son Jesus who died and rose again to take away the sin of the world, whose name is proclaimed throughout the universe, will be the only way of salvation. He is the world’s only Rescuer from sin and death and the devil. Jesus is the Savior from the eternal destruction coming upon all who are Satan’s, who despise the name of Jesus.

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Acts 16:31

“The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, . . . [who] gives to all mankind life and breath and everything; and who made from one every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, . . . now commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man [lit. ‘male, husband’] whom He appointed, and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead.” Acts 17:24-31

With Texas ties,
Pastor Thomas Olson