

6:10 a.m. she answered the phone to the voice of a concerned friend, "... are you okay?" "Yes, why?" she replied. Her friend was on her way to work a few blocks from her house and explained the roads were flooded. "I'm fine" came the reply. She then went back to sleep. 6:25 a.m. her phone rings again. It is her neighbor on the street behind her. He asks her if she knows there is water in her garage. Since he lives in a two story home and hers is a one story home, he invites her to come over and wait out the flood at his house. She grabs her phone, keys, shoes etc. and heads out the door. The water is ankle deep in the street as she starts across but it begins to rise rapidly. Then all of a sudden a wall of water picks her up and slams her into a stop sign. She clings to the stop sign as she watches complete trees, trash cans, cars etc. float past her. Her neighbor is frantic but can't get to her. He calls 911. She was rescued by helicopter at 11 a.m.

Years before the stop sign on that corner disappeared. This 70 year old single woman petitioned the city to replace it. The replacement stop sign again disappeared. She once again petitioned the city to replace the stop sign for safety reasons. She kept calling the city. She was given various reasons why it was taking so long. She kept calling and calling and calling until the city did finally replace the stop sign. The city also informed her they were going to reinforce it to make sure it did not disappear again this time. At that time she had no idea that that reinforced stop sign would be what saved her life.

She told me with tears streaming down her face that as she clung to that stop sign for 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours, she learned what the Bible meant by a peace that passes all understanding. Though she knew she could lose her life, she had no fear. She was at peace as she watched her world float by her in the raging waters. She also decided that if she lived through this experience she would tell everyone, God is real. She said, before this I thought I knew He was real but now I really know. I really know.

When I asked her if she had ever felt like this before, I was floored by her response. In the 60's while she was in college in the south she got to meet Martin Luther King Jr., shake his hand and hear him speak before a civil rights march in which she participated. It was a proud moment for this young African American woman. During the speech, Martin Luther King Jr. told the crowd they should have

their families' permission to participate because their participation may cost them their life. During the march all of a sudden shots fired out. The crowd began to panic and scatter. Not being familiar with the town, she took off in a dead sprint. She doesn't remember how she got back to her dorm room. She only remembers finding herself in her dorm bed in a fetal position thinking, she could have lost her life today. This brush with death during the flood brought back all the emotion of that march and her brush with death back in the 60's.