

## Splash & Flash

When you were a child and even a teenager, was a swimming pool a big part of your summers? Whether you had access to a neighbor's pool or even a neighborhood community pool, can you recall those hot summer days cooling off and spending most of the day in the swimming pool?

One of the things I can remember is splashing around with my friends especially in the shallow parts, where we could stand on the bottom and really splash somebody good. I recall splashing my friends, and even splashing kids and some parents outside the pool who happened to be innocent bystanders.

What about those hot, humid summer nights as a major thunderstorm approached. Remember looking off in the distance and seeing lightning bolts cross the sky, creating incredible patterns that seem to flash out in so many random directions? Do you recall seeing those flashes of streaks and background lights, only to be followed by claps of thunder which calculated its distance?

Is it possible that the impact of the Holy Spirit splashes out like water from the swimming pool that hits innocent bystanders? How about God's Spirit reaching out in so many directions like lightening flashing across a summer night sky?

While Operation Andrew is about praying for a specific person in your life that does not know Jesus as their Savior, we find that your prayers end up being much more. Yes, you should think about the lost and unchurched. Yes, you should think about neighbors and friends. Yes, you should think about all the people you meet in your local community, and you should pray for them.

However, your prayers can be even more. Pray for your church family, pray for other churches and the Paluxy Association. Pray for Hood and Somervell County. Pray for the hospitals and first responders in your community. Can you think of more?

Again, the core of Operation Andrew is praying for the lost and unsaved, but just like water splashing outside the swimming pool and lightening flashing across the summer night sky, God's Holy Spirit is not limited in any way. We are called to be obedient people and pray.

**Romans 8: <sup>26</sup> Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with <sup>[a]</sup>groanings too deep for words; <sup>27</sup> and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the <sup>[b]</sup>saints according to the will of God.**

Are you praying for today, and then too praying forward to our work come April 19-25, 2024? How will God's Holy Spirit move throughout the Paluxy Baptist Association? Where will He work? Are your heart and eyes open? Can you see Him splashing? Can you see Him flashing out? We can only pray and imagine the wonderful things God will show us and do in these coming months.

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