

# 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

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## HUGS From Heaven

I was raised to believe you don't throw anything away that still may be used someday. On the back floor of my walk in closet is where I put the piles of comforters and pillows that might be good for something one day. Unknown to me there was black mold and mildew growing under that pile of bedding. I knew I had suffered a lot of respiratory problems for the past 6 months, but had no idea I had mold growing in my home. My energy was completely drained, my memory was failing and I had been treated for Bronchitis 3 times and Pneumonia once during the last six months. The doctor told me I must have some type of allergy – something I had never had before, but still never thought it was something hidden in my home.

Each month, when I finished the Good News, I wondered if that would be my last issue, because it took all my strength to do it, and that's all I did. I was too weak to deliver the papers anymore and that broke my heart. For the past six months, my daughter, Holly has taken on the entire responsibility of delivering all the papers. I really felt my time here on earth was drawing to a close. But God had other plans.

Many times what we think is a tragedy turns out to really be a blessing from God. April 18, the day God blessed us with so much rain, I was still sick in my bed. The only reason I knew anything was wrong is my socks

got really wet going to the bathroom.

My family came over to check on me and found all the water everywhere. There was about 2 to 3 inches of water throughout my house. They vacuumed out as much water from the house as they could and put the furniture up on paint cans to get them out of the water. It was still raining. I never even woke up to help them. I was out of it from the “allergies”.

Four days later, my daughter Holly rented a commercial carpet shampooer with all the heavy duty cleaners and disinfectants and shampooed all the carpet in the house, hoping that would take care of any problems.

About a week later, my house smelled like a locker room full of smelly, dirty socks and nothing would get rid of the odor. It was evident that all the carpet and padding and wet sheetrock in the house had to be torn out and removed. There was no one we knew that could help with this and was not sure what we would do. Of course, I didn't have flood insurance because I never thought I would need it. It's never flooded here before. But, I was never worried because I knew God was still in charge and He would always take care of me. I was just kind of curious how He would ever work this one out.

My daughter, Heather, works in the advancement department at Brookwood in Brookshire, and when Vivian



*Texas Baptist Men's Disaster Relief Team from Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy, Texas. Pictured from left to right; Katie Hartt, Diana Boring, Phil Morris, Jerry Tebo, Rich Hammond, Don Davis, Trey Davis, Ted Whiteman, Bill Robbins and Monte Vincent.*

Shudde, Executive Director there heard about the problem, she said she thought she knew someone that could help ne. She told Heather about The Texas Baptist Men's Disaster Relief Team from Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy and immediately got us in touch with their ministry.

The very next morning, one of their team leaders, Monte Vincent, was in my home to see what they could do to help. They don't repair the damages but they do remove all the damaged and contaminated material after a disaster. That's when the mold was found in my bedroom, and with the help of the flooding, it had spread all over my home.

Monte gave us new heavy duty boxes and packing paper to box up eve-

rything that day because the team would be back the next day to begin working. My children, grandchildren and my friend, Liz Cockrell came that day and boxed everything up.

At 8 am the following day, this team of “missionaries” and their big tool trailer pulled up to my home. We had prayer together before they began and then the “swarm” of workers got busy.

In just four hours they had completely removed all the carpet, padding, sheetrock and wet furniture out of my home and piled them on the side of the road. They treated the entire house with a commercial hospital grade mold and mildew killer. Then they packed up for their next job.

*(HUGS continued on page 3)*

**The Good News Just Keeps Coming** is a monthly, free, reader publication of positive and uplifting stories submitted by local citizens showing God's works and wonders. With the help of advertising sponsors, it is able to distribute **17,000+ copies** throughout 40+ towns and cities in several areas in Texas and beyond.

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# Innocent Eyes

*A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.*

**Proverbs 17:22**

An Amish man answered a knock on his door one morning. An electric company worker handed him a piece of paper stating that the electric company would like to run a power line through his pasture. The Amish man said, "No."

"Legally, that paper says we can." replied the worker.

As he turned and left returning to his co-workers in the field, the Amish man went to his barn and turned his bull into the pasture.

As the bull rumbled toward the workers in the field, the Amish man hollered, "Show HIM!"

The boss joined a group of his workers at the coffee urn and told a series of jokes he'd heard recently. Everybody laughed loudly. Everybody, that is, except Mike.

When he noticed that he was getting no reaction from Mike, the boss said, "What's the matter, Mike? No sense of humor?"

"My sense of humor is fine," he said. "But I don't have to laugh. I'm quitting tomorrow."

My Dad and I were talking the other night about love and marriage.

He told me that he knew as early as their wedding what marriage to my Mom would be like. It seems the minister asked my Mom, "Do you take this man to be your husband." And she said, "I do."

Then the minister asked my Dad, "Do you take this woman to be your wife," and my Mom said, "He does."

Our pastor, an avid golfer, was once taking part in a local tournament. As he was preparing to tee off, the organizer of the tournament approached him and pointed to the dark, threatening storm clouds which were gathering.

"Preacher," the organizer said, "I trust you'll see to it that the weather won't turn bad on us."

Our pastor shook his head. "Sorry," he replied. "I'm sales, not management!"

An elderly gentleman checked into a New York hotel. The clerk mentioned the phone service the establishment made available for calling guests who wished to rise at an early hour.

"No need for that, young man," snapped

the old timer. "I always wake up at five A.M. sharp without an alarm clock."

"Very good, sir," the clerk replied, then asked, "Would you mind calling me at six?"

When I was a newly commissioned Lieutenant in the Army, I was assigned as a temporary assistant in an administrative office in a Military Intelligence unit. One day a long came around with a cover sheet instructing all assigned officers to read it and initial it as indication of their compliance. I figured it meant me too, so I read and initialed it.

However, a few days later, it came back addressed specifically to me. An attached note read: "You are not permanently assigned to this unit and are thus not an authorized signee. Please erase your initials and initial your erasure."

So I did.

I accompanied my husband when he went to get a haircut. Reading a magazine, I found a hairstyle I liked for myself, and I asked the receptionist if I could take the magazine next door to make a copy of the photo.

"Leave some ID, a driver's license or a credit card," she said.

"But my husband is here getting a haircut," I explained.

"Yes," she replied. "But I need something you'll come back for."

The day I immigrated to the United States, I was given an alien ID card that featured a cute photo of me at age 15. Years later, when I went to the courthouse to become a citizen, a clerk confiscated my card.

"What will you do with it?" my wife asked.

"We burn it" was the answer.

"Could you please cut the photo off and let us keep it?" asked my wife.

"Certainly not," said the clerk. "This card is official U.S. government property. As such it cannot be mutilated before it's destroyed."

Two buddies were out for a Saturday stroll. One had a Doberman and the other had a Chihuahua. As they sauntered down the street, the guy with the Doberman said

to his friend, "Let's go over to that restaurant and get something to drink."

The guy with the Chihuahua said, "We can't go in there. We've got dogs with us." The one with the Doberman said, "Just follow my lead." They walked over to the restaurant and the guy with the Doberman put on a pair of dark glasses and started to walk into the restaurant.

The waiter at the door said, "Sorry, Mac, no pets allowed."

The man with the Doberman said, "You don't understand. This is my Seeing-Eye dog."

The waiter said, "A Doberman pinscher?"

The man said, "Yes, they're using them now. They're very good."

The waiter said, "OK then, come on in."

The buddy with the Chihuahua figured he'd try it too so he put on a pair of dark glasses and started to walk into the restaurant. He knew his story would be a bit more unbelievable. Once again the waiter said, "Sorry, pal, no pets allowed."

The man with the Chihuahua said, "You don't understand. This is my Seeing-Eye dog."

The waiter said, "A Chihuahua?"

The man with the Chihuahua said, "A Chihuahua!? A Chihuahua!? They gave me a Chihuahua!?"

A boy was taking care of his baby sister while his parents went to town shopping. He decided to go fishing and he had to take her along.

"I'll never do that again!" he told his mother that evening. "I didn't catch a thing!"

"Oh, next time I'm sure she'll be quiet and not scare the fish away," his mother said. The boy said, "It wasn't that. She ate all the bait."

"Hello, hello?" shrilled a spinsterish voice over the phone. "Is this the SPCA?"

"Yes."

"I want you to send somebody over right away."

"What's wrong?"

"There's a horrid magazine salesman sitting in a tree teasing my dog."

Shirley and Abe, a retired couple from New York City, living in Miami Beach, are getting ready to go out to dinner.

Shirley says, "Abe, darling, do you want me to wear this Chanel suit or the Gucci?"

Abe says, "Do I care?"

A few minutes later Shirley says, "Abe, should I wear my Cartier watch or my Rolex?"

Abe says, "Who cares?"

"Abe, love, shall I wear my five-carat pear diamond ring or my six-carat round diamond ring with the baguettes?"

Abe says, "Shirley, I really don't care what you wear, but if you don't get moving, we're going to miss the Early Bird Special."

"So, what's the matter?" asked one woman of her friend over coffee. "I thought you just got back from a nice relaxing fishing trip with your husband."

"Oh, everything went wrong," the second woman answered.

"First, he said I talked so loud I would scare the fish.

Then he said I was using the wrong bait; and then that I was reeling in too soon.

All that might have been all right; but to make matters worse, I ended up catching the most fish!"

A tough old cowboy once counseled his grandson that if he wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a little gunpowder on his oatmeal every morning. The grandson did this religiously and he lived to the age of 93.

When he died, he left 14 children, 28 grandchildren, 35 great grandchildren and a fifteen foot hole in the wall of the crematorium.

After watching the movie Cinderella, five-year-old Sarah started using her pinwheel as a magic wand, pretending she was a fairy godmother. "Make three wishes," she told her mother, "and I'll grant them." Her mom first asked for world peace. Sarah swung her wand and proclaimed the request fulfilled.

Next, her mother requested for a cure for all ill children. Again, with a sweep of the pinwheel, Sarah obliged.

The mother, with a glance down at her rather ample curves, made her third wish, "I wish to have a trim figure again."

The miniature fairy godmother started waving her wand madly.

"I'll need more power for this!" she exclaimed.

A counselor was helping his kids put their stuff away on their first morning in Summer Camp.

He was surprised to see one of the youngsters had an umbrella.

The counselor asked, "Why did you bring! an umbrella to camp?"

The kid answered, "Did you ever have a mother?"



*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men. Colossians 3:23*

*(HUGS continued from page 1)*

Before they left, we all held hands and prayed again. They gave me a beautifully written letter thanking me for letting them help me with overwhelming project as a result of the flooding, signed by all the men on this team that worked on my home; a beautiful leather bound Bible; and a beautiful hand drawn card by their children's ministry. The front of the card has a cross drawn in crayon. "God Loves You" is on the inside with hearts and butterflies and green grass. The fact that even the children of the church are involved in this outreach ministry really touched my heart and I will treasure these blessings forever. The card is displayed on the wall of my office. It reminds me that any one at any age can be part of God's ministry, just by doing what they can do.

The Texas Baptist Men Disaster Relief Team has been in ministry 30 years. This particular team was from Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy. They have 100 volunteers just from there and they have been working steady for the last 7 weeks from East Texas to the valley with so many natural disasters here in Texas.

The teams are made up of volunteers. Each member pays his own expenses and many have taken personal valuable time from work in order to help disaster victims. Every member on the team has completed many hours of special training to properly and safely handle the many tools at their disposal to help during your time of need. Each of the team members care deeply about the Lord and their rela-

tionship with Him. Through these services, they are able to be the hands and feet of Jesus and to follow His example of serving others in their time of need. Their prayer is that those they help will see and sense their love for Him as they care for others in practical ways.

Last Saturday was heavy clean up day here in San Felipe and Benny Bolden, a good neighbor asked if I would mind if he hauled off the flood debris from in front of my house. With the help of family and good neighbors, trucks and trailers starting loading all the heavy debris and haled it to the city dumpsters for me.

Had God not sent the flood to reveal the mold in my home, I might not have been able to continue the Good News. I met so many new friends along the way and have never been so deeply touched by all the help God sent me.

How truly blessed I am. In just a few days my energy began to come back, the heaviness I felt on my shoulders had lifted and my continual coughing had stopped. I feel better than I have felt in years and even my brain is improving. I feel like I have a new lease on life! God has promised us in Romans 8:28

***"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."***

God always keeps His promises.

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

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# Hi, I'm Joe!

"Hi, I'm Joe...glad to meet you." Those were the words that stopped me in my tracks on Tuesday afternoon. I was visiting The Brookwood Community in Brookshire, and Joe stopped me on my way out to introduce himself. Joe is a citizen of Brookwood, and his enthusiasm and joy were contagious. After a brief visit, Joe handed me a business card—of sorts. On the front it had a picture of Joe waving and the phrase "Hi, I'm Joe...glad to meet you! Come visit me at Brookwood." Simple yet effective!

Through the Grace of God, The Brookwood Community provides an educational environment that creates meaningful jobs, builds a sense of belonging, and demands dignity and respect for adults with disabilities. Brookwood sees every individual as a unique creation of a wise and loving God, deserving not only of our abiding patience and respect but of boundless awe. What do people remember after a visit to Grace? Do they remember a positive encounter they had with you—perhaps a moment when your enthusiasm and joy stopped them in their tracks? Imagine if every Sunday each of us made it a point to go up to someone we didn't know and simply introduce our-

selves and say "glad to meet you."

We have been set free by God's grace and equipped by His Spirit to use our God-given gifts to participate in His redemptive work in this city and this world—all for His glory! Paul reminds the church in Corinth that our gifts are not "symbols of spiritual power"—they are not to be used to "cause rivalries in the church" but instead, our gifts are to be used to reach others (1 Corinthians 12). Therefore, I think it is important that we remember that none of us is built exactly alike, but all of us are built in the same Likeness. The word says, "God's various gifts

are handed out everywhere." "Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits." That includes you and me!

"Hi, I'm \_\_\_\_\_, glad to meet you."

Make it a point to fill in the blank this Sunday at Grace.

Remember, you are part of the "Grace experience"—in advance, thank you for your faithfulness.

*Peace,*  
*Senior Pastor Trey Little*  
*Grace Presbyterian Church*  
*Houston, Texas*



*Joe, a citizen at Brookwood and Bob McNair, owner of the Houston Texans.*

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## Plant Your Garden

First, you come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses.

For the garden of your daily living, plant three rows of peas :

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
- 4 lettuce really love one another

No garden is without turnips:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

To conclude, our garden we must have thyme:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

## She's Her Father's Daughter

She's so full of love and the sun shines down on her each day,  
She's her Father's daughter and she's always taking time to pray.  
She sees all the good in everyone that she meets,  
She's never in a hurry and listens to the stories of the ones she greets.  
She's always giving hope to the hopeless with her story she tells,  
Yes she's her Father's daughter and she knows Him so well.  
She's so full of joy and her happiness she loves to share,  
It's all because of her Father who truly loves her and cares.  
She's so very rich and her blessings overflow,  
She touches everyone around her no matter where she goes.  
She knows how far she's come and how her life use to be,  
She's always looking up thanking God her Father for setting her free.  
She wakes up every morning knowing she has so much to give,  
She's her Father's daughter and she's so grateful for the life she lives.

Written By Eva Dimel  
Inspired By God ©

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## Learning to Swim

I was a kid trying to balance macho and anxiety that day as my dad taught me to swim in the muddy creek. I stepped in, stiff as a pine log. "Relax, son," my dad said. "I'll put my arms under you, and when you begin to sink, I'll be right there." I started sinking, but felt his sturdy arms holding me up. Everything changed knowing his arms were there. I trusted, relaxed, and luxuriated in the security of the arms holding me up. Remember when you "swim" life's deep holes and muddy waters that your Father's arms are just below the surface.

*The eternal God is a dwelling place, And underneath are the everlasting arms; And He drove out the enemy from before you, And said, 'Destroy!'" - Deuteronomy*



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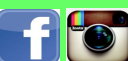
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*"Whatever you do, work at it  
with all your heart as working  
for the Lord."  
Colossians 3:23*



## Grandma's Old Fashioned Buttermilk Pound Cake

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 3 cups white sugar
- 1 cup shortening
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 6 eggs
- 2 tablespoons lemon extract
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon butter-flavored extract



Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Grease and flour a fluted tube pan (such as Bundt).

Sift flour, salt, and baking soda together into a bowl. Repeat sifting process 2 more times.

Beat sugar and shortening together until smooth and creamy. Add flour mixture, buttermilk, eggs, lemon extract, vanilla extract, and butter extract; beat until batter is just combined. Pour batter into prepared tube pan.

Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean, about 75 minutes. Cool in the pan for 15 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.

## FUN WITH GOD'S WORD

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

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

*"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." **Matthew** 6:19-21*

## The Secret of Greatness

Some years ago I ate dinner with a well known author. If I gave his name, many would know it. You've likely read and enjoyed his books, as have I. I anticipated an evening of stirring conversation and great dialogue, but I was disappointed. In fact, I have seldom been so bored. All this very intelligent, successful man did for two hours was talk about himself. On and on and on, story after story. Finally, he took a breath, and I thought we might be getting a break. Then he said, "Enough about me. What do you think of my latest book?"

Whether we admit it or not, we're all guilty to some degree of self-promotion and ego-inflating. But Jesus' teaching showed that these practices are worthless. "If you want to be great," he said, "learn to be a servant

to others." Then He modeled that lesson Himself by serving those closest to Him in the simplest, most ordinary ways. The proud will be humbled in due time. But the reverse is also true. The humble, the quiet workers, the loving servants, will one day be exalted.

How about you? Are you grabbing the spotlight all the time, or are you content to work quietly in the wings while others shine? Servanthood is the secret of true greatness.

**MATTHEW 20:26**

*...but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant.*

*Dr. Ed Young  
Houston, Texas*

**Sylvia Cedillo,  
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Love your neighbor  
as yourself.  
There is no  
commandment  
greater than these.  
-Mark 12:31

# Show God's Love

A doctor entered the hospital in a hurry after being called in for an urgent surgery. He answered the call as soon as possible, changed his clothes and went directly to the surgery block. He found the boy's father going and coming in the hall waiting for the doctor. Once seeing him, the dad yelled, "Why did you take all this time to come? Don't you know that my son's life is in danger? Don't you have the sense of responsibility?"

The doctor smiled and said, "I am sorry, I wasn't in the hospital and I came the fastest I could after receiving the call..... And now, I wish you'd calm down so that I can do my work."

"Calm down?! What if your son was in this room right now, would you calm down? If your

own son dies now what would you do??" said the father angrily.

The doctor smiled again and replied: "I will say what Job said in the Holy Book, "From dust we came and to dust we return, blessed be the name of God". Doctors cannot prolong lives. Go and intercede for your son, we will do our best by God's grace."

"Giving advice when we're not concerned is so easy," murmured the father.

The surgery took some hours, after which the doctor went out happy.

"Thank goodness! Your son is saved!" And without waiting for the father's reply he carried on his way running. "If you have any question, ask the nurse!!!"

"Why is he so arrogant? He could not wait some minutes so that I could ask about my son's state," commented the father when seeing the nurse minutes after the doctor left.

The nurse answered, tears coming down her face: "His son died yesterday in a road accident, he was at the burial when we called him for your son's surgery. And now that he saved your son's life, he left running to finish his son's burial."

Matthew 7:1-2 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

You may never really know what people are going through. So show God's love to all you meet.

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

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Pioneer Club: 4 yrs. - 3rd grade  
Area 456 Club: 4th - 6th grade  
Elevate: Youth; Adult Bible Study  
**Friday** - 10 a.m. - Intercessory Prayer

Where Love Abounds

## I Want To Be Just Like You

He climbs in my lap for a goodnight hug.  
He calls me Dad and I call him Bub.  
With his faded old pillow, a bear named Pooh  
He snuggles up close and says, "I want to be like you."

I tuck him in bed and I kiss him goodnight,  
Trippin' over the toys as I turn out the light.  
I whisper a prayer that someday he'll see,  
He's got a father in God 'cause he's seen Jesus in me

Lord, I want to be just like You  
'Cause he wants to be just like me.  
Want to be a holy example  
For his innocent eyes to see.

Help me be a living Bible, Lord,  
That my little boy can read.  
I want to be just like You  
'Cause he wants to be like me.

Got to admit I've got so far to go,  
Made so many mistakes and I'm sure that You know.  
Sometimes it seems no matter how hard I try,  
With all the pressures in life I just can't get it all right.

But I'm trying so hard to learn from the best,  
Being patient and kind, filled with Your tenderness.  
'Cause I know that he'll learn from the things that he sees,  
And the Jesus he finds will be the Jesus in me

Lord, I want to be just like You  
'Cause he wants to be just like me.  
I want to be a holy example  
For his innocent eyes to see.

Help me be a living Bible, Lord  
That my little boy can read.  
I want to be just like You  
'Cause he wants to be like me.

Right now from where he stands, I may seem mighty tall,  
But it's only 'cause I'm learning from the best Father of them all.

Lord, I want to be just like You  
'Cause he wants to be just like me.  
Want to be a holy example  
For his innocent eyes to see.

Help me be a living Bible, Lord  
That my little boy can read.  
I want to be just like You  
'Cause he wants to be like me.

I want to be just like You  
'Cause he wants to be like me.



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