EASTRIDGE Communicator

Monthly Newsletter of Eastridge Baptist Church

Eastridge in New York By Pastor Andrew Craig

On May 6, I received an email from Bill Mickelson telling me that the Eastridge Greece mission trip was canceled this year, so they were available to come to NY if we could use a team. Bad news for Greece. Great news for NY. With great restraint, I kept from sending an immediate "Yes!" since we didn't know what NY would

look like in July due to COVID19. By God's kindness, I was able to say "Yes!" on June 12. On July 18, ten of my favorite people in the world arrived at Albany airport,

sneaking into NY before WA was placed on the NY quarantine list July 22. God threaded the needle and answered prayers getting the team here.

West Sand Lake Community Church is small, around 30 people on a good Sunday (6 of whom are me and my family). Having ten more people around infused excitement, energy, and life into the church. Pastor John's preaching and the team's leading worship at our services were a boost to all who heard and sang together. After the team left, the church was buzzing about all they accomplished. I am still getting frequent comments about all the team did for us.

Eastridge has an open door here,

propped open by the love they showed us all.

On the conservative side, the team put in

about 560 hours of work into the church and community. I can only scratch the surface of all they did for us. You can't help but notice the lingering difference of their labors: painted doors and trim, cleaned rooms and windows,



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trimmed hedges, weeded parking lot, new garden beds. Little touches that take a lot of work and serve to eliminate the unnecessary distractions of peeling paint on our church. I don't cringe anymore when I walk through the front doors, seeing how badly they need to be painted. Now I rejoice, thank the Lord, and cringe as I see how badly the walls need to be painted! Several times the team of ten went in full force to lend their labors to service projects in the community:

maintenance on a community

Killing Sin

continued on page 2

Eastridge in New York continued from page 1

mountain bike trail, helping the sister of a woman in our church who had much needed yardwork and

housework, and yardwork for a neighbor of the church are a few of the projects. The team descended on each project like locusts, devoured it, and left the beneficiaries of their work with mouths agape at what they accomplished. These projects were not preaching the gospel or evangelism in the



The New York team: back row (l to r) Leon Craig, Andy Craig, Joshua Kerr, Michael Gailey, Joshua Barrios, Johnson Amankrah (church member), Pastor John, Bill Mickelson Front row (l to r) Victor Craig, Emet Craig, Priscilla Craig (holding Evangeline Craig), Emily Swenson, KayLee Groot, Cathy Mickelson, Kimberly Bonar, Ashly Barrios

proper sense. But I am still new to the area. I know very few people. Our church is small with limited resources. These projects and others opened the door for me to meet several people I wouldn't otherwise have access to—including a young man I spoke to about Christ—and becoming acquainted with officials on our town council. The team gave our church a reputation in the small town we live in. It let people know we are here. It let them know we care about the people around us. I pray they come to know that we care about their eternity.

The gentleman we helped with the bike trail was so impressed by the team that he bought them pizza and offered to write any one of them letters of recommendation. While the team worked on the trail in 90-degree heat and through-the-roof humidity, while they swung their pickaxes into stubborn tree stumps and trimmed the thick overgrowth, they were singing, laughing, and cracking jokes. The man we helped commented that if his friends were there helping, they would be complaining. As I keep in touch with the mountain bike trail guy (I was tex-

ting with him just yesterday), I have the testimony of the team's joyful work at my back.

One of the Sundays the team was here, I told them that Priscilla hadn't been to the adult Sunday

School class since we moved here because there is no childcare provided for it. I asked if some of the ladies on the team could watch our kids so Priscilla could attend. I wasn't done asking before there were plenty of volunteers. The team continued to step in and watch our kids

so Priscilla could join the service projects and get to know some of the local people we were serving. They lavished our kids with attention and gifts. My family and I were refreshed and blessed by them all. More than a few tears were shed when they left.

Eastridge has stamped its mark on all of our hearts. How good and kind the Lord is to us! Who else but the Lord could give a gift as big and lavish as sending ten dear brothers and sisters to us to help in ministry? I pray he gives the same gift again next summer.



Pastor John preaching at West Sand Lake Community Church

Eastridge in New York (continued from page 2)



Left: Joshua Barrios scraping paint on the church door in preparation for painting Below: Ashly Barrios, Kimberly Bonar, and Victor Craig staining a church bench Right: Bill Mickelson up the ladder painting the church trim







Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate for the planned community barbecue.



The team maintaining a community mountain bike trail



Pastor Andy and Priscilla praying with a neighbor



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Saturday, September 5 1:00-4:00pm @ EBC

(For kids in grades K–6)

Preregister through your Realm account (Events) or on our website at eastridgebaptist.org/children

Join us for this fun, faith-filled VBS! The kids will go to the "jobsite" to play games, to the "foreman's office" for Bible teaching, to the "workshop" for crafts, to the "food truck" for snacks, and more! For more information, contact Pastor Paul at paulc@eastridgebaptist.org or Pastor Samuel at samuelb@eastridgebaptist.org.

There's an Adult Small Group for Everyone

Our adult small groups are starting in September and October and you're encouraged to get connected at Eastridge by joining one of the groups. Group members study the Bible together, and care and pray for each other and you will be blessed with new and lasting relationships with other believers! You can register now through your Realm account (Events) or on our website at eastridgebaptist.org/small-groups.

Leader	Day & Time	Audience	Start Date	Location	Study Topic	Comments
Jeff Benjamin	2nd & 4th Sundays @ 5-7pm	Co-ed adults	October 11	Benjamin's home	The Truth About Man by Paul Washer	
Hal Busick	3 Sundays/mo @ 6pm	Co-ed adults	September 13	Busick's home	1 Corinthians (Life Change study guide)	
Dean Hazelton	1st & 3rd Wednesdays (5th Wednesday when it occurs)	Co-ed adults	September 30	Online via Zoom	Book of Daniel (videos, discussion)	
Derek Iverson	1st and 3rd Thursdays @ 7pm	Co-ed adults	TBD	Alternate between Moore's & Thompson's	Colossians using MacArthur Bible study series	GROUP IS FULL
Tim Tolonen	1st Friday (@ 7pm) & 3rd Sunday (@ 3pm)	Co-ed adults	October 2	Online via Zoom	"Humility: True Greatness" by C.J. Mahaney	Book fee applies
Anette Busick	Weekly on Tuesdays @ 7pm	Women	September 15	EBC: Large Portable	"Seeking Him" by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth & Tim Grissom	
Cherryl Boston	Weekly on Mondays @ 6:30-8pm	Women	September 21	Online via Zoom & at EBC (Room B3)	"God of Covenant" by Jen Wilkin	
Pat Haylor	Weekly on Thursdays @ 10:00am	Women	September 10	EBC (Main Auditorium)	"Knowing the God of Jonah" by Kristie Gant.	Childcare available
Jeannie Osterman	Weekly on Mondays @ 2-3pm	Women	September 21	Main building foyer	2 Corinthians using Lois Lindley's "Workmen of the Word"	
Susan Rehberg	Weekly on Tuesdays at 9:30- 11:30am	Women	October 6	Rehberg's home	"A Taste of Proverbs" using the Bible	
Mark Yarnold	Weekly on Fridays @ 5:30am	Men	September 25	Youth Center	"Twelve Ordinary Men" using MacArthur workbook	
Chris & Lynnette Morales	Weekly on Thursdays	Co-ed College/ Career	TBD	EBC (Rooms B4/B5)	Apologetics in the church fathers	No childcare
Samuel Blakey/Phil Dudley	Weekly on Tuesdays @ 7pm	Young Marrieds	September 8	Youth Center	Judges & Nehemiah	Childcare available
Pastor Ryan Trzeciak	3rd Saturday of the month @ 5-8pm	Married couples	September 19	Youth Center	Study of biblical marriage. Uses "What Did You Expect?" by Paul Tripp	Dinner provided

Delighting in Redemption from the desk of Pastor Paul

Over the past few months, we have been looking at Colossians 1:13. It has provided helpful truths for understanding the world and our wonderful salvation. We have seen that God the Father is the One who delivered us from the realm of ungodliness where we were guided by our own evil heart and the devil. He then places His people into a better kingdom where they are under the rulership and authority of the Son. We now belong to Jesus. This removal from such a dreadful position is accomplished by God Himself.

In Colossians 1:14, the apostle Paul continues his

train of thought, writing, "in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." This verse tells us by what means the Father brought about such change. Paul gives us the piece of the puzzle that shows how it is even possible for us to enjoy our newfound freedom. Rescue and placement into the kingdom of light comes by Christ's redemptive work.

Because of what Jesus has done in

His death and resurrection, change from darkness to light is a reality for those trusting in Christ. It is in the beloved Son alone that we are redeemed.

What is redemption? Redemption is defined as a "release from a captive condition" (Bauer, et. al., A Greek-English Lexicon, 117). It contains the idea of being brought out of a position of terrible bondage into freedom and life. It often involves a payment being made to purchase someone out of slavery. In Ephesians 1:7, we read "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace." The Father's work through Jesus to save us out of slavery to death and sin is completely by His grace. Christ's death on the

cross paid the fine due to set His people free from the penalty of their sins, as well as their slavery to it (Rom. 3:23–24).

Paul further describes redemption as the forgiveness of sins. The Lord declares in Isaiah 44:22, "I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you." Our redemption is directly linked to the forgiveness of our iniquities against God. This results in freedom. This freedom is from the curse of the Law (Gal. 3:13), sin (Col. 1:14), death (Rom. 6:23), and the devil (Heb. 2:14-15). Christians are no longer slaves to sin (Rom. 6:6-9). Instead, we are slaves to righteousness so that we would live obediently to God (Rom. 6:18) and glorify Him.

Did you notice how the apostle speaks of our rescue? He states, "we have redemption." Previously, Paul had described being delivered and transferred each as a whole, complete event. These were actions that have already taken place for those trusting in Christ. However, in describing our redemption, Paul shifts the tense of the verb indicating a current and on-going possession.

Believers experienced, and continue to experience, the fruits of redemption.

Our freedom in Christ is something that we continually enjoy. The believer's life is now forever impacted by God's rescuing work. This provides us peace and joy for each day. When the burdens of life seem heavy, we can find comfort in knowing our God has taken care of our biggest need—redemption. If He has gone to such great lengths to eternally rescue us, will He not also care for us in our daily lives? Of course He will! God's people can delight at this moment in the work of Jesus. May we remind ourselves daily of the good news that impacts us for all eternity.





WELCOME TO ADVENTURE CLUB!

Eastridge is excited to introduce Adventure Club for children in kindergarten through 6th grade. We believe this new curriculum serves our goals for our Children's Ministry, so we look forward with anticipation to using it this fall.

Adventure Club is a fun, energetic, Bible-centered, discipleship-focused program that faithfully teaches children God's Word. It is a systematic theology study with Scripture memorization designed to complement our children's Sunday School curriculum. Adventure Club was developed by Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, CA and provides us with a great opportunity to glorify God by teaching His Word and striving to make disciples!

Our Adventure Club evenings will include music, a large group message, small group time, and of course, games! We are excited for the small group time which will consist of a discussion of that week's topic, the large group message, reciting of that week's memory verse(s), and prayer. This will be a crucial time for connecting with kids on a spiritual and personal level so that we can point them to Jesus Christ!

For more information on Adventure Club, contact Randy Mayes (ranmayes@outlook.com) or Pastor Paul Cummings (paulc@eastridgebaptist.org).

PREREGISTER NOW!

This program is currently for children entering kindergarten through 6th grade

Register in person at the church on:

- Sunday, August 30
- Wednesday, September 2 (6:30-7:30pm)
- Sunday, September 6

Registration and supplies fees apply. For more information, contact Randy Mayes or Pastor Paul Cummings.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Adventure Club is also designed to minister to preschoolers. However, in order for us to be able to open the program up to preschoolers this year, we will need enough volunteers and classroom space. If you are interested in serving with the preschoolers or the older kids, please contact Pastor Paul Cummings at paulc@eastridgebaptist.org or Pastor Samuel Blakey at samuelb@eastridgebaptist.org.

What Matters Most? from the desk of Pastor Samuel

About six years ago, I read the well-known poem "Only One Life" by C.T. Studd, a missionary to China in the late 19th century. In that poem, Studd repeats these two lines at the end of each stanza: "Only one life, 'twill soon be past; / Only what's done for Christ will last." (Studd lived out those words by leaving a promising career as a cricket player to become a missionary.) Those two lines have stuck with me ever since as a constant motivation and conviction. What matters most to me, according to the way I live my life?

The ideal answer to this question is described in the end of 2 Corinthians 5. In this passage, Paul explains

how our faith in Christ ought to direct the way we live. If we have trusted in Christ's atoning sacrifice on our behalf, then we have work to do: "For the love of Christ controls us. because we have concluded this: that one has died for all. therefore all have died: and he died for all, that those who live

might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised" (vv. 14-15). Our faith in Christ has given us new spiritual life, but it is not our own life: it is Christ's. God has credited us with Christ's perfect life and righteousness. So, if we have Christ's life within us, then the life we live must be lived for Christ. We live to make Him known.

But how does this play out in our lives today? Paul gives two general applications in the rest of this chapter. First, our mindset has to change. Paul makes this clear in verses 16–17: "From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold,

the new has come." We now have an eternal perspective we didn't have before. We need to pay attention to the eternal implications of our actions. We view the people around us not simply as temporal humans but eternal souls. Those souls are destined to an eternity of separation from God unless they come to faith in Christ. Our words and actions may be what God uses to draw someone to saving faith!

Paul also tells us that our message has a new focus: "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.... Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (vv. 18-

> 20). If Christ matters most to us, then this is the message we display with our lives. We express it in our actions, and we explain it with our words. We declare that "for our sake he [God] made him [Christ] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in eousness of God" (v. 21).

him we might become the right-

What matters most in your life? It will be obvious in your words and actions. If we take seriously the call of God to be ambassadors for Christ, His representation in the world, then our lives must reflect that. This means that we shed our selfish, self-honoring tendencies and replace them with Christ-centered, God-honoring, Spirit-filled habits reflecting the character of our Savior. We live our lives with dedication as C.T. Studd declared in his poem:

Only one life; the still, small voice Gently pleads for a better choice, Bidding me selfish aims to leave And to God's holy will to cleave. Only one life, 'twill soon be past; Only what's done for Christ will last.

YONE

what's done for



Make an Impact with Your Purchases

When you purchase items through Amazon, make your purchase count at Eastridge! For every qualifying item purchased through AmazonSmile, Eastridge receives 0.5% of the total purchase.



In this part quarter, Eastridge was blessed with \$57.77 from congregants who selected Eastridge as the charity to support through AmazonSmile.

It's easy to donate! Next time you shop Amazon, go to **smile.amazon.com**. On your first visit, you'll need to select Eastridge as your charitable organization. Amazon will remember your selection so that every time you shop, Eastridge will get a 0.5% donation. You can also bookmark the smile.amazon.com website for easy access!

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Colleen Murphy 9/1 John Skeith 9/1 Andrew Young 9/2 John Gray 9/2 Jennifer Small 9/3 William Kerr 9/3 Kelly Lopez 9/4 Kylan Young 9/5 Linda Mayes 9/6 Audrey Anderson 9/7 Dylan Olson 9/8 Connie Grimstad 9/8 Trisha LeProhon 9/9 Eden Elliott 9/10 Timothy Hunter 9/10 Megan Reisinger 9/13 Raquel Turner 9/13

Lily Brichka 9/13 Paul Cummings 9/13 Louis Hansen 9/14 Ionatan Panfil 9/15 Tom Small 9/15 Naomi Skeith 9/15 David Panfil 9/16 Merilyn Moore 9/16 Fannie Ng 9/18 Amy Meeuwse 9/19 Karen Johnson 9/20 Tammy Jensen 9/21 Paul McCafferty 9/21 Ryan Trzeciak 9/24 Gil Heinle 9/24 Kimberly Brumfield 9/24 Melanie Schrock 9/25

Nate Williams 9/25
Paige Yoder 9/25
Ethan Guevara 9/26
Sebastian Guevara 9/28
Larry Farr 9/29
Amy Hurst 9/29
Sadok Bokungu 9/29
Lilly Pogue 9/29

<u>Anniversaries</u>

Jason and Janelle
McArdel 9/6
Ron and Bev Heusser 9/7
Nathan and Donica
Tibbetts 9/8
Hal and Anette Busick 9/8
Ron and Connie Grimstad
9/9

John and Trisha
LeProhon 9/10

Jeff and Gina Robinson 9/11
Chris and Barbara Bonar
9/12

Colton and Kristin Latta
9/18

Tim and Veronica Aitkins
9/19

Mike and Dana Freeland
9/21

Bill and Cathy Mickelson
9/27

Carl and Merilyn Moore
9/30

Shannon and Suzanne

Kearney 9/30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo	2 6:30–7:30pm Kids' Bible Study (Bldg. B) 6:30–7:30pm Adult Bible Study (Large Portable) 6:30pm Youth Group	3	4	5 1:00–4:00pm Vacation Bible School @ EBC
8:30am & 10:30am Worship Services 8:30–9:45am Children's Church (Bldg B) 10:30 Adult Sunday School (Large Portable) 6:00pm Prayer Meeting	7 Labor Day	8 10:30am Missions Prayer Meeting @ Alaire Irish's 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo 6:30pm Elder Meeting 7:00pm Young Marrieds' Bible Study	9 6:30-8:00pm Adventure Club Begins 6:30-7:30pm Adult Bible Study (Large Portable) 6:30pm Youth Group	10:00–11:30am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	11	12
8:30am & 10:30am Worship Services 8:30–9:45am Children's Church (Bldg B) 10:30 Adult Sunday School	6:30–8:00pm Biblical Worldview Training (Building A Classroom)	5:00–8:30pm Taekwondo 7:00pm Young Marrieds' Bible Study 7:00–8:30pm Ladies' Bible Study	6:30–8:00pm Adventure Club 6:30–7:30pm Adult Bible Study (Large Portable) 6:30pm Youth Group	17 10:00–11:30am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Team Practice 7:00pm College/ Career Bible Study	18	19
8:30am & 10:30am Worship Services 8:30–9:45am Children's Church (Bldg B) 10:30 Adult Sunday School	2:00-3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm Biblical Worldview	5:00–8:30pm Taekwondo 7:00pm Young Marrieds' Bible Study 7:00–8:30pm Ladies' Bible Study	6:30–8:00pm Adventure Club 6:30–7:30pm Adult Bible Study (Large Portable) 6:30pm Youth Group	24 10:00–11:30am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Team Practice 7:00pm College/ Career Bible Study	25	8:00am- 12:00pm Church Work Day
Communion 8:30am & 10:30am Worship Services 8:30–9:45am Children's Church (Bldg B) 10:30 Adult Sunday School	6:30–8:00pm Biblical Worldview Training (Building A Classroom)	5:00–8:30pm Taekwondo 7:00pm Young Marrieds' Bible Study 7:00–8:30pm Ladies' Bible Study	6:30–8:00pm Adventure Club 6:30–7:30pm Adult Bible Study (Large Portable) 6:30pm Youth Group	Se	plem	her

Please reserve seats for the Sunday services through your Realm account (events) or our website at eastridgebaptist.org/registration

October 2020

Sunday, October 4	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Saturday, October 10	Church Work Day	9:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday, October 13	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's

November 2020

Sunday, November 1	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Tuesday, November 10	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Thursday, November 26	Thanksgiving Day	

December 2020

Sunday, December 6	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Tuesday, December 8	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Sunday, December 13	Special Christmas Music	Both services
Thursday, December 24	Christmas Eve Service	6:00pm



The Necessity For Killing Sin

from the desk of Pastor Ryan

I have a strong dislike for weeds. They have plagued my existence ever since I was a kid. As a result, I am a big fan of Roundup; you just spray it on and it kills weeds, roots and all. In the life of a believer, dealing with sin is like dealing with weeds; we must kill it. We have been moving through a series of articles designed to help us grasp the basics of biblical counseling: the fundamentals and the necessary components. Last month we talked about the necessity of repentance and faith. This month we highlight the necessity of killing sin.

The Bible is very clear that we must take radical action when it comes to sin. God took drastic measures to deal with sin amongst His people. In Numbers 16, He caused the ground to open up and swallow rebellious people, and in Acts 5, Ananias and Sapphira dropped dead moments after they lied. When it comes to personal sin, Paul tells us that we

must make no provision for the flesh (Rom 13:14) and that we are to put to death everything that is earthly within us (Col 3:5–9). Jesus says if our eye, hand, or foot cause us to sin we are to cut them off (Mark 9:43 –48), not literally, but He does want us to kill sin by removing any access to it. What is being called for here is repentance, to truly hate our sin as God hates sin and to turn from it completely.

But that is only one part of the process. Not only are we to get rid of sin (i.e. repent), we are to do everything we can to enliven righteousness within us. Though the believer is positionally righteous at salvation, that positional righteousness is to manifest itself through the increase of good works as we exercise faith through obedience. Right after Paul tells us to put to death what is earthly, he calls us to put on Christlike characteristics (Col 3:12–17). Peter says we

are not to be conformed to our former sinful ways but "be holy in all your conduct" (1 Pet 1:14–15). And the book of James exhorts us with this truth: genuine faith is evidenced through good works.

Thus, the Bible calls us to hunt down sin in our lives, kill it, and eradicate it through repentance and faithful obedience. God wants us to take such drastic measures against sin because He took such drastic measures to save us by sending His Son to be crucified for our sin. In its place we are to infuse our lives with righteous activity. That is the process of killing sin (Titus 2:11–14).

How does this work out in real life? Say you have a

problem with viewing pornography on your smartphone. The first thing you need to do is confess that sin to God, asking Him for forgiveness and to grant you repentance (1 John 1:9; 2 Tim 2:25). Second, one way to take radical action is to get rid of your smartphone and buy a phone with no internet capabilities (yes, they do exist), or go without a phone for a time (yes, you can function

without one). Next, memorize passages like Ephesians 5:3–4, which warns us against sexual immorality and instructs us that the best way to fight against it is to be thankful. Then, create a thankfulness list, adding to it and reviewing it each day. I recommend at least five new items, big or small, whether you're thankful for your salvation or your morning cup of coffee. That way, you start thinking about the goodness of God and the things He has provided for you, rather than looking at the things He forbids.

God wants us to be radical in our fight against sin because He has gone to great lengths to save us from our sin. And by God's grace, we can repent of our sin and start to practice those good works He calls us to so that we can live to His glory.

by Samuel Blakey

UNITE

VERSE 1

Your Word is our delight
You give us strength to fight
The powers of this world
The threats and fears we face
You have put them all in place
To lead us to Your Word
To lead us to Your Word

PRE-CHORUS

You are our strength and our shield
In times of trouble
With our eyes fixed upon You
We will not stumble

CHORUS

Lord, unite us in Your call
Let our minds be joined as one
We are Your body, for Your fame
Unite our hearts to fear Your name

VERSE 2

Our call to sacrifice
Has been modeled now in Christ
Who gave Himself away
So through the darkest times
This we can recall to mind
New mercies every day
New mercies every day

PRE-CHORUS

CHORUS

BRIDGE

We are more than conquerors
Through the blessings, fears, and wars
In everything, we will overcome
All our strength, it comes from Christ
For our sake, He came and died
In everything, He has overcome

