



Bethany Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Ministry

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Viewpoints

Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.

A Rescuer Like No Other ~ September 21, 2017

What if a hurricane and an earthquake both happen simultaneously?

[Online Version & Archive](#)

God be praised for the Moles and AST's who've been risking their lives to rescue people, saving many from certain death. Yes, thank God for all the first responders, and for all the law enforcement and military personnel, engaged against the ravages of

- Hurricane Harvey that struck Texas on Aug 25th;
- Hurricane Irma that struck Florida on Sept 9th;
- The earthquake that struck central Mexico on Sept 19th;
- Hurricane Maria that struck Puerto Rico on Sept 20th.

Do you know who a Mole is? And what makes a Mole different from an AST? A Mole is usually a person of smaller stature who has special training to climb into the rubble of collapsed buildings to rescue trapped people. The group was formally founded in Mexico after the infamous 1985 Mexican earthquake that killed 5,000 (when groups of youth spontaneously tunneled like moles into collapsed buildings to dig out survivors). These volunteers have worked at disaster sites across the world, including at Ground Zero of the World Trade Center in 2001.

While a Mole risks being buried, an AST risks being drowned. AST stands for Aviation Survival Technician, the Coast Guard's term for its elite rescue team deployed by helicopters. These include the Rescue Swimmers that you may have recently seen in news video.



These natural disasters have happened in such quick succession, it makes a person wonder if there could ever be the unthinkable: a hurricane and an earthquake happening at the same time in the same place. As unearthly as that would be, it's what's described in Psalm 46 on behalf of everyone who has tried to "climb" to "higher ground" to escape the "storms of life" only to find that an earthquake crashes the higher ground into the "hurricane's storm surge." The Spirit of God described this kind of unearthly catastrophe – can we use the word "hellish"? – for any situation where there's no place of protection, and when no rescue is possible.

Have you been in such a hellish place, trapped in a desperation that swallows any and every Mole or Rescue Swimmer alike? Or perhaps you're there right now, and you can't think straight because the roar and tumult swallows you? Even in such an unthinkable catastrophe, there's an unearthly rescuer at hand: the One and Only* who conquered hell itself! Read for yourself the Spirit's saving promise:

¹God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, ³though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging... ⁷The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. [Psalm 46](#)

David calls the LORD "the God of Jacob" to remind us

- how God mercifully saved Jacob from the unearthly catastrophes Jacob created by his own sins;
- how God saved Jacob in order to keep his promises alive to send the Messiah-Savior from Jacob's family, to be born into the land God promised that Jacob's descendents would possess;
- how God's Son became Jacob's virgin-born descendent, the cross-conquering Christ of the world.

Because of our sins, each of us has already earned (like Jacob did) a hell's death—for damnation is a state of no protection and no rescue. Yet the virgin-born, cross-conquering God of Jacob rescued us from sin, death and hell. And if you understand how he did this all on his own at the cross, without any of your effort or worthiness, then you have confidence even in the midst of any unearthly catastrophe. Yes, even if a hurricane and an earthquake simultaneously strike you, there is one who comes to your rescue.

Moles can rescue from earthquakes. AST's can rescue from hurricanes. But Jesus is the One and Only* rescuer whose compassionate cross and empty tomb declares that the LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress! ✠

[Source Material \(Links may become inactive over time.\)](#)

[Mexico's "Moles" Dig Out Earthquake Victims @ The Wall Street Journal](#)

[U.S. Coast Guard plays major role in rescue operations \(CBS Evening News\) @ YouTube](#)

* Jesus is referred to as the one and only Son of God, and the one and only Savior, in places like [John 1:14-18](#).

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Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz

