

# Revival Stories

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In the summer of 2018, New Life Church in Corpus Christi, Texas, began to experience an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that continues to this day. As the testimonies have increased both in volume and magnitude, “Revival Stories” serves to give you a window into what God is doing in the lives of His people.

## FOOTBALL WATCH PARTY TURNS INTO NIGHT OF SALVATION

On the 10th of September, two very important events coincided: Nolan and Amanda Sweeney’s Bible study and the first Dallas Cowboys game of the season. Instead of competing with the game, Nolan told everyone to come to their house to watch it and bring their unsaved friends with them. In an act of faith, Nolan borrowed a horse trough for potential water baptisms. That night, over ninety people packed in the home, eventually spilling into the backyard. During halftime, Nolan preached the Gospel, and several people shared their personal testimonies. Seven people responded to the call that night, gave their lives to Christ, and were baptized in water right there in their backyard.

## MATTHEW’S HEALING PROMISE FULFILLED

In September at the end of Heaven Come, a monthly worship service, a man in attendance named Matthew Minkler gave a testimony of a miracle that God did during that same gathering. Several years ago, Matthew had a brain surgery which caused him to be paralyzed on the entire right side of his body. While his health improved somewhat after, he still felt the repercussions of the surgery. For many years, he had a drop foot, couldn’t wiggle his right toes, and only had partial vision in his eyes. Years later, Matthew rededicated his life to God and got baptized. As he emerged from the waters of baptism, God restored movement to his toes and he was able to move them for the first time in twelve years. However, God wasn’t done there.

Shortly after his baptism, Matthew experienced a dream where God told him that if he kept seeking after Him, He would then remove the bandages from his body. In continuing to go after the Lord, he attended a Heaven Come service where Pastor Mike preached on healing spiritual blindness that came from offense, but God used the message for more than that. Matthew began to pray and asked the Lord to take away his spiritual blindness, as he opened his eyes to end the prayer he realized the inside of his left eye was healed. In his words, “it was like seeing everything new for the first time.”

## TEENS LEAD REVIVAL IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

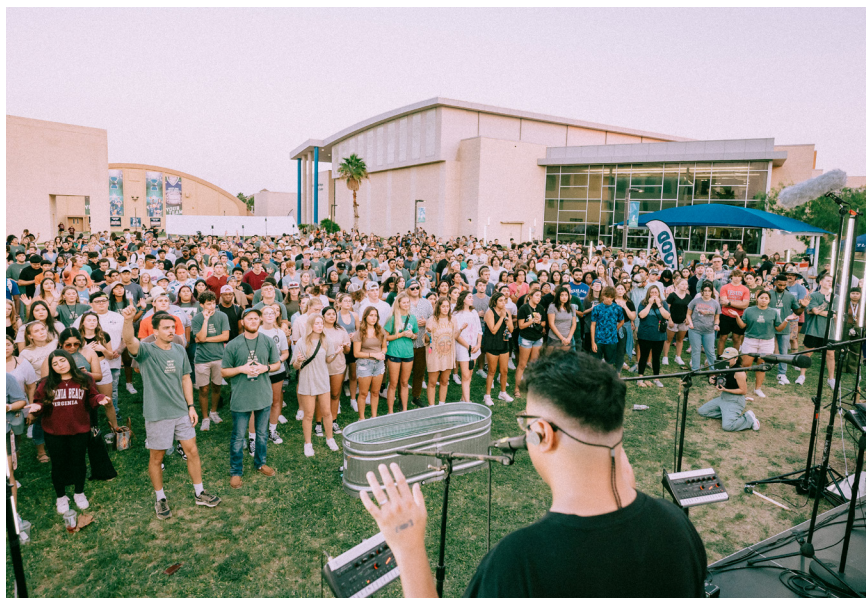
Starting in early spring of 2021, Mario Carrete, the Youth Pastor at New Life, was burdened by the national percentage of young people leaving their faith when going into college. The Lord revealed to him that the reason for this was because so many of them were spiritually out of shape. They'd been simply taught the scriptures but had been given no way to put into practice what they learned. After talking with other leaders, they came up with the idea to give the kids a challenge during a youth service: to go start a Bible study at their schools. By the end of the week 12 different groups of students started Bible clubs in their schools. However, there aren't any adult leaders leading these clubs, they're entirely led by teens preaching and ministering to their peers. It has only been a couple years, but these Bible clubs have grown at an exponential rate. Clubs that originally had 20 in attendance in the first year have doubled to 40 and those that had 50 now regularly have over 100. The importance of these clubs can not be stressed enough. For some kids, they've said that this is the only church they get since their parents don't take them on Sundays. The schools themselves are different, too. Teachers talk about how there are less fights, suicide rates are dropping, and more. If these Bible clubs show anything, it is that there's no junior Holy Spirit but only the Holy Spirit, and He can and will use anyone.



**VMHS Bible club.** Having outgrown several classrooms and meeting spaces, the Veterans Memorial Bible Club meets in the school library. It is one of the only places on campus that can hold the growing number of students in attendance.

# REPENTANCE, SALVATIONS, & BAPTISMS ON SECULAR COLLEGE CAMPUS

At the end of August, New Life Young Adults, the college ministry of New Life Church, held their annual “One Night” worship gathering at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. This night came with a promise: If you bring a friend, they will hear the Gospel. With nearly 1,100 people in attendance gathered on the university’s East Lawn, it was clear that the Holy Spirit was about to move. There was a time of worship before everyone settled into the grass to listen to a message of repentance shared by Young Adults Pastor, Tarik Whitmore. At the end, he gave an altar call for people to make the most important decision of their life. 124 college students gave their lives to Christ and were baptized! Leaders laid hands on and prayed for them while these young men and women waited for up to an hour and a half for their turn to pass through the waters. There were countless lives changed and testimonies of repentance, the following is one such story.



**Worship on the East Lawn.** Just as the sun began to set on August 31st 1,100 college students amassed on the TAMUCC campus to worship God together and respond to his call.

## WORSHIP DRAWING PEOPLE TO CHRIST

TAMUCC Senior Megan DePew was leaving a softball meeting on campus when she heard music coming from the East Lawn. She and her teammates were hungry and figured if they heard music it was probably an on-campus event with food. They walked across campus and quickly realized it was NLYA One Night. While she hadn't gone to church many times, what began to draw her closer to Christ again after being agnostic was worship music. As Megan and her teammates attended the event they began to experience an overwhelming feeling of the Holy Spirit on each of them individually. She knew she didn't know much about the Bible, but she couldn't deny the presence of God on her. At that moment, she decided to commit everything to Christ and get baptized. While waiting in line she looked around and realized there were some of her teammates responding to the call as well. Six in total on her softball team were baptized that night. Since then, she speaks of how much more joy she feels and how she and her team will never forget that night for the rest of their lives.



**Capturing a moment of life change.** Just having emerged from the baptism tank Megan and some of her teammates posed for a photo after accepting Jesus and being baptized at One Night.

# **STUDENT'S TESTIMONY LEADS TO 43 SPONTANEOUS BAPTISMS**

On August 22nd, Jarrod Harris, a Junior and baseball player at TAMUCC, had a late night conversation with a couple of his teammates where he shared his testimony about getting baptized at One Night the year before. His friends strongly identified with his story and were convicted by the Holy Spirit, feeling that they were living only halfheartedly for God. Deciding that they were done living in compromise, first thing the next morning they contacted one of the pastors and asked to come to the church at 7 a.m. so they could be baptized. The following Sunday, they shared with the congregation what had happened. Senior Pastor Mike Fehlauer followed up with a simple call that if anyone felt like they identified with what these young men just shared, this could be the time for them to give their lives completely to God. Young and old across the church immediately began to respond and made their way to the baptism area. Baptisms continued through the duration of the service and even into the next service. That Sunday a total of 43 baptisms occurred. Alongside the water baptisms, the altar was crowded with people receiving prayer and ministry, with many being delivered from a spirit of suicide.