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Dear <name>,

An old man lived in a valley beneath a great reservoir. One day, engineers noticed a weakening in the face of the dam and declared the residents would need to evacuate.

As the police spread the news of the evacuation, they came to the home of the old man and warned him that he needed to leave. "I've lived here 50 years," he replied. "My parents lived here before me. I'm not going to leave. Besides, the Lord will take care of me!"

Sure enough the water began to slip through the weakened dam and began filling the valley. Boats were sent to rescue those who had ignored the warnings. They came to the old man's house (where the water was over the front porch) and called out, "The dam will soon break! Climb in the boat!" But the old man yelled back, "I won't leave. The Lord's gonna take care of me!"

The next day the dam broke wide open and water flooded the valley. A helicopter was sent to rescue the old man, who was hanging to shingles on his roof when they arrived. "We'll lower you a rope and haul you up," came the voice from the copter. But again, the old man responded (although more feebly than before), "I won't leave. I told you, the Lord's gonna take care of me!"

The next thing the old man knew, he was in heaven. The first thing he did was find God to discuss his death. "Where were You?" he complained. "I told everyone You were gonna take care of me. You really let me down."

"What do you mean let you down?" God chided. "I sent you a warning, a boat, and a helicopter!"

The old man trusted God to care for him, but he wanted to dictate the terms of that trust. He wanted to be in control so badly he never saw God's attempts to reach him. It's a problem most of us encounter from time to time.

Over the next four weeks, we're going to examine *The Cycle of Victorious Giving*. This week we'll begin with the theme of Trust to Live. We're talking about real trust based on faith and commitment. Join us as we look at ownership, management, and supply of the great gifts God has blessed us with.

In God's Service,

<Pastor's Name>

Insert Church Name, Address, & Phone Here