

# SUPPORT

Magazine for Elder's Spouses of Dutch Caribbean Union — Second Semester 2021



## When Calamity Hits

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## SUPPORT

is a magazine made especially to nourish and strengthen all Elder's Spouses to press forward and be a support for their spouse, male or female, and for their other colleagues in the ministry.

Aware that God is everything for them, prayer will sustain them, and without discriminating, they will serve joyfully. With eyes focused on eternity, let all honour and glory be given to God!

**NOTE:** All unnamed article is contribution of the editor.

**“Let us hold fast the confession of our HOPE without wavering,  
for He who promised is faithful.” ( Hebrews 10:23 )**

**A**

**s our older folks used to say:  
*s long as we have life, there is hope!***

**HOW WILL KEEPING HOPE ALIVE HELP US  
PASS THROUGH TOUGH TIMES?**

When everything else crumbles, hold fast to the fact that God keeps His word. And one of the things which He promised is that in Heaven all our problems and sufferings will be over, and you will never feel discouraged and sad again.

Jesus has said: *"Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me"* John 14:1. *"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."* Juan 16:33.

Times of trials teach us to endure— and strengthen our character. You'll become stronger and more devoted as you learn to put up with your trials, with God's help.

Keep on hoping, and let's draw closer and still closer to the Lord, as His coming draws near, with our eyes fixed on **HEADING HOME!**

With Christian appreciation,

*Anna Maria Manuela Cree's*

*Gen Page*

# WHEN

# CALAMITY

# HITS



*Helping you put back the pieces.*

"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history" (9T 10)

"Thou wilt call, and I will answer thee" Job 14:15



**Catastrophes are realities of life.** The problems that result from most of them and the emergencies have a common core. Early preparation for a certain kind of emergency can greatly increase your chances of surviving in other catastrophical situations.

## GENERAL INFORMATION <sup>1</sup>

There are a lot of preparations that one can make in order to be forewarned and know how to cope with virtually any type of emergency.

Probably the most urgent rule is: *stay calm*. This could mean the difference between life and death. In many disasters, people get hurt and even lose their lives unnecessarily for simply acting without thinking, or worse, for doing nothing.

In times of emergency, knowing what needs to be done and carrying it out can save your life. Take a moment to think, and then take whatever action the situation warrants. Generally, this will consist of what you have planned in advance, or what the authorities suggest to do.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL PREPARATION

1. Most importantly: *Stay calm*.
2. Frame of reality: A catastrophe is a natural phenomenon; it is not the end of the world.
3. The psychological impact of people temporarily affected by a disaster can be:
  - \* *Psychosomatic disorder* (vomiting, headaches, exhaustion, etc.)
  - \* *Mental disorder* (state of confusion, rambling, difficulty remembering, etc.)
  - \* *Conduct disorder* (inefficiency, withdrawal, crying, obsessive insecurity, etc.)
  - \* *Relationship disorder* (difficulties of social interaction).
4. Psychological preparation involves mental preparation for a crisis.
5. Preparation measures that will help you minimize the preceding psychological effects:
  - Stay in good physical condition (*exercise, eat well, get enough sleep*).
  - Know how to react to a catastrophe (*have an updated family plan at hand, create a mutual support system, know your emotions and know how to react appropriately*).
  - Educate children for emergencies (*make plans, study them, reassure children, don't neglect them, and give them courage*).

## EMERGENCY PROVISIONS

- Water (in plastic bottles)
- Food (canned or sealed that requires neither refrigeration nor cooking).
- Medicines (for family members)
- First Aid Kit.
- Blankets or sleeping bags.
- Flashlight or hand lamp.
- A portable radio (with additional batteries)
- A container with a lid to use as a toilet.
- A car in good condition (with enough gasoline).

## HURRICANE WARNING:

After a hurricane alert, a warning is issued when the hurricane is expected to strike a certain area within 24 hours.

1. Keep your radio or television on to follow the news and prompting local authorities.
2. Plan your time before the storm arrives and avoid last-minute rushes.
3. Abandon low-lying areas that may be washed away by the storm's tides or gigantic waves.
4. Leave mobile homes to take refuge in a more solid and safe place. They are prone to flip over because of strong winds during the storm.
5. Secure your boat or change it to a location designated as a security area. Return until the storm has passed.

6. Cover your windows with wood or with special diurex storm tape. The danger to small windows is mainly caused by flying objects carried by the wind. Larger windows are endangered by the pressure of air against glass.

7. Secure well all the patio objects that can be carried by the wind.

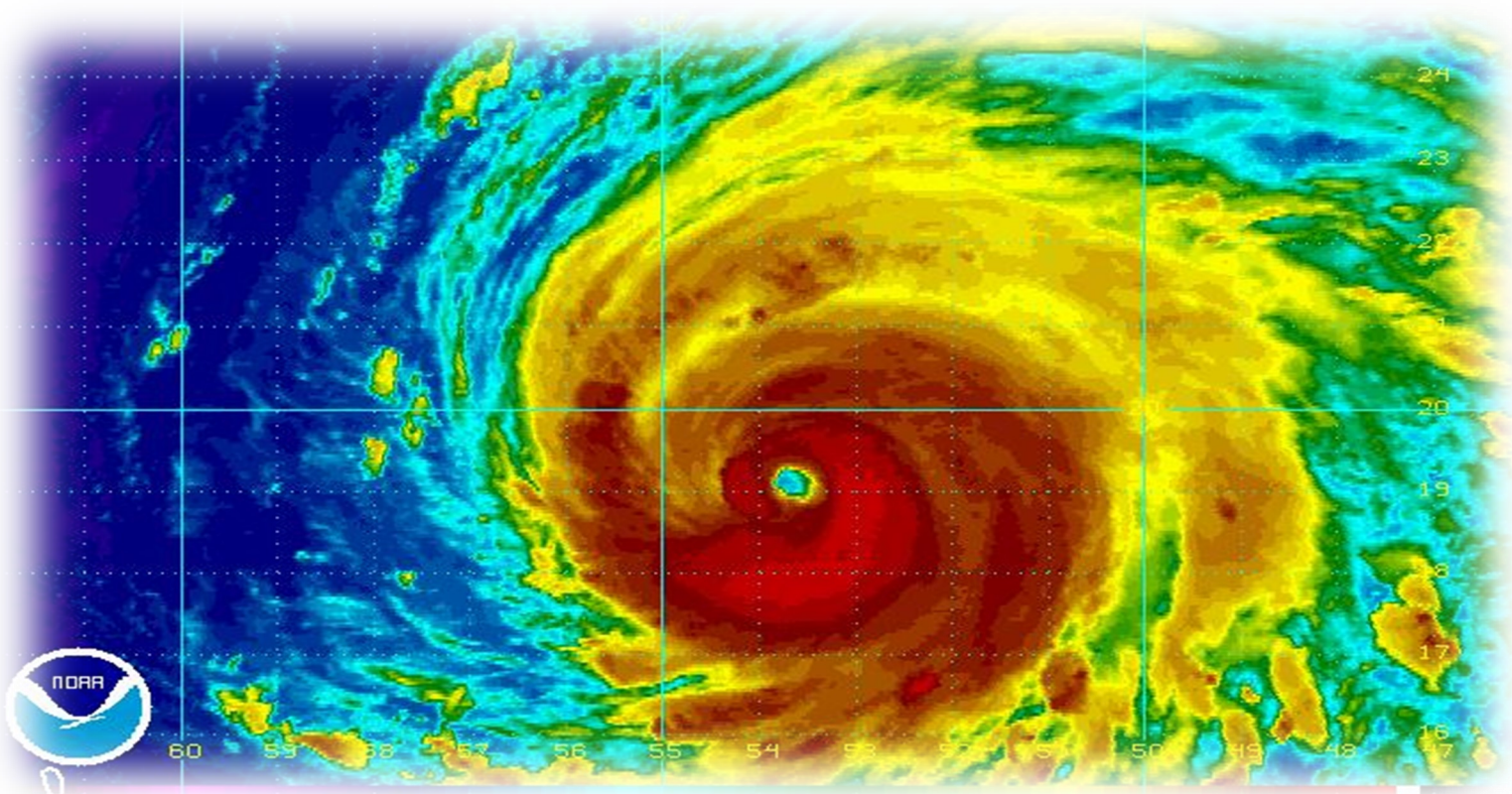
8. Store drinking water in clean tubs, in bottles or pots. Your community's water system could become contaminated or damaged by the storm.

9. Check your battery-operated equipment: radio (might be the only connection to the outside world during the hurricane; your emergency kitchen equipment; your hand lamp that would be essential if utilities are disrupted).

10. Keep your car's fuel tank full. Gas stations could remain closed for a few days because of flooding, or lack of electricity.

11. Stay at home if you are on high, firm ground. If not—especially if the authorities order an evacuation in your area, follow instructions from the authorities.

12. Stay inside your home during the storm. It is extremely dangerous to travel while the winds and currents whim your area. Do not be fooled by the "eye" of the hurricane. The winds will temporarily cease for a few minutes up to half an hour or more. Remember, on the other side of the "eye" the winds will increase rapidly at hurricane rapids and forces and will come in the opposite direction.



## EVACUATION

If you are advised to evacuate, remember:

Follow the instructions and advice of the local authorities. Do it right away. If you are instructed about going to a certain location or shelter, go there – not somewhere else. If certain routes to follow are recommended, use them and do not look for shortcuts on your own. If they are instructed to cut off water, gas, and electricity in your home before leaving, obey the directions. In addition, make sure via radio or television about the location of housing shelters and food supply stations if needed.

Travel carefully. If the authorities are the ones providing transportation for evacuation, they will take the necessary precautions to keep you safe. But if you have to walk or drive your own vehicle, remember the following:

- Get out with enough time not to get stranded because of flooding, trees, or downed wires on the roads.
- Make sure you have enough fuel in your vehicle.
- Follow the recommended routes.
- When traveling, listen to the news on the radio to get the latest reports from the local authorities.

## AFTER THE HURRICANE

When the storm is over:

1. Stay in the shelter until you are informed that it is safe to leave.
2. Keep your radio or TV tuned to the local station for information and instructions from the authorities:
  - \* Where to get medical care in your area.
  - \* Where to go for lodging, clothing and emergency food.
  - \* The different ways in which you could help yourself and your community recover from the damage and damage of the storm.
3. Stay away from damaged areas. Being an observer can interfere with essential rescue and recovery work, as well as be dangerous.
4. Drive carefully on the debris-filled streets. Roads could be undermined and, with the weight of the car, collapse.

5. Avoid loose and hanging wires and report them immediately to the electric company, local police, or fire department.
6. Report broken pipes or water pipes to the competent authorities.
7. Avoid fire. Low pressures in the water could make it difficult to fight the fire.
8. Check carefully that your refrigerated foods are not spoiled, if the electric current has been cut off.

**REMEMBER: Hurricanes heading inland can cause severe flooding. Stay away from rivers and streams until any chance of flooding is eliminated.**



## MAKING CHRIST YOUR CONSTANT DEPENDENCE <sup>2</sup>

“If we make Christ our dependence, we shall not sink under trial. When all seems dark and unexplainable we are to trust in His love.” “All experiences and circumstances are God’s workmen whereby good is brought to us.”

Lord, “Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.”

“Trials are medicines which our gracious and wise Physician prescribes, because we need them; and He proportions the frequency and weight of them to what the case requires. Let us trust His skills and thank Him for His prescription.”—*Newton*

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<sup>1</sup> Que hacer en caso de emergencias, accidentes, p. 207-210, 218-220

<sup>2</sup> Hope, p. 19

## "Surely there is a future, And your HOPE will not be cut off" (Proverbs 23:18)

**P**EOPLE LOSE HOPE when they are discouraged by their present circumstances, disappointed by their past and unsure about their future. If you are bemoaning your present circumstances and feel as though it is not going to change, then that perception could paint a bleak picture of your future—if you let it.

However, the scripture in Proverbs 23:18 challenges the mindset bent on hopelessness. In an attempt to change the worldview of those looking at life through the spectacles of despondency, the writer of Proverbs 23:18 makes a poignant declaration filled with certainty: "Surely there is a future..." Then as if to reinforce the underlying foundational principle on which he makes the statement he concludes: "...and your hope will not be cut off..." Holding on to hope prevents us from becoming hopeless.

When you experience hardship, know that GOD still cares for you and will supply everything you need even in difficult times. Philippians 4:19 brings much assurance. The New Living Translation reads: "And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."

Are you currently experiencing 'hard times' and wondering how you are going to cope if the situation does not change? **Take heart, your situation has not gone unnoticed.** The scripture above assures us that because God gave Jesus as His gift to us, He will continue to take care of every need that we have. We have a living hope because Jesus is a resourceful supplier.

When you are concerned for the future another scripture which instills hope is found in Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV) "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

God promises to make our future better than our present and the things He is planning for us will outweigh what we could have planned for ourselves.

The difficulty for most of us is that although we know that God is there to help us, the 'when' and 'how' creates a tension because waiting is not always easy. Being impatient about a potential change can bring anxiety. However we can take heart from the encouraging words in Psalms 27:14 which reads:

*"Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord."*

Having a right perspective about what happens to us in life helps us to face the future positively and enables us to deal with the present circumstances regardless of how difficult they are. Whenever I am confronted with situations where it appears there is no positive resolution, I bear the following three factors in mind:

- 1) **Keep things in perspective.** What we think are huge challenges are small in heaven's eyes.
- 2) **Don't lose hope because your season will change.** Remembering the transitory nature of life and its varied seasons enables us to realise that what we are going through will NOT last for ever. This too shall pass.
- 3) **God is working things out** on our behalf. No matter what we are currently facing, God will work out everything to our advantage—in the end. (Romans 8:28)

Some scriptures to commit to memory to prevent from becoming hopeless are:

- Psalm 31:24 "Be of good courage..."
- Psalm 119:114 "You are my hiding place..."
- Psalm 42:11 "... hope in God"

Take heart and look to the future with hope.

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Taken from Sharon Platt-McDonald and Pilira Zapita's book *OVERCOMING WITH GOD*, p. 80, 81

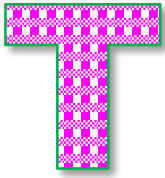


WHEN I FALL



Good

Good



herefore, do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise” (Hebrews 10:35, 36).

**AS LONG AS WE ARE BORN INTO THIS WORLD, we will fail and have to learn to deal with it constructively.** As children, we fuss, cry and throw a tantrum when we fail, and as we get older, though we express our frustrations differently, how we react to failure becomes instrumental in making or breaking us, in making us weaker or stronger.

We can fail in so many areas of life, and for a variety of reasons. For example, sometimes it is because we set unrealistic goals and expectations on ourselves, and other times because we just did not apply the effort, commitment and determination required to succeed.

Whatever the cause of our failure, it is important to accept that we have failed and not live in denial or blaming others. Forgiveness and taking responsibility for our part in our lack of success, including repentance where it is required, is a step to handling failure constructively so it does not cripple us. If mishandled, the fear to fail can come in and prevent us from attempting anything again, or limit our ability to reach and realise our full potential in Christ. We need to remember, as God understands us, that “we are flesh” (Psalm 103:14), and thus have limitations—no one can do everything.

Similarly, it is important to remember that, ‘Failure is a detour, not a dead-end street’ (Zig Ziglar). Sometimes it is the very thing we need to refocus us, make us try new approaches and challenge us to think differently. Persistence in pursuing our goals will produce results—just ask Thomas Edison and his light bulb experience! However, we need to pray to know the difference between persistence and the pursuit of what is not in our path to do.

Interestingly, sometimes the very reason that God has called us to do something does not necessarily mean we will not fail. The journey towards fulfilling it may be just as necessary as the destination, for in it we learn to distrust our wisdom and ourselves, and instead learn to fully lean on God to accomplish what needs doing.

What is God’s remedy for dejection at apparent failure in our labours? This—the assurance that God’s purpose cannot fail, that God’s plans cannot miscarry, that God’s will must be done. Our labours are not intended to

bring about that which God has not decreed.’<sup>1</sup>

## REPENTANCE<sup>2</sup>

A few years ago a woman tried to kill her husband. Five times! She ground glass in his drink. She put rat poison in his food. She put a black widow spider in his bed. She hit him on the head with a hammer while he was sleeping. She hired some friends to shoot him. Nothing worked.

Finally the wife wept and asked her husband to forgive her. He responded, “I still love you and I forgive you. I want us to go back together as husband and wife.”

When we ask God to forgive us, whatever we have done, He responds by telling us, “I still love you.” He releases us from the prison of our heavy conscience. He brings us back into His world, into His family, into His heart. He treats us as if we had never done anything bad to him.

The prayer of David after his fall, illustrates the nature of true sorrow for sin. His repentance was sincere and deep. There was no effort to palliate his guilt; no desire to escape the judgment threatened, inspired his prayer. David saw the enormity of his transgression; he saw the defilement of his soul; he loathed his sin. It was not for pardon only that he prayed, but for purity of heart. He longed for the joy of holiness—to be restored to harmony and communion with God. This was the language of his soul.

*“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away. Through my groaning all day long. For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to Thee, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord”; And Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin. Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to Thee in a time when Thou mayest be found” (Psalm 32:1-6).*

<sup>1</sup> Overcoming With God, p. 64, 65

<sup>2</sup> Youth Edition Steps to Christ, p. 23, 22

# When The Home is



# Broken up

# 10 Things I Learned While Growing up in a Broken Home



rowing up in a broken home can be a difficult experience to go through in life, especially if you are forced to at a young age. Those that have grown up in a broken home understand the difficulties and everyday challenges that you have faced in the past.

Although toxic environments aren't easy to be around, there are also important lessons to be learned from it. Here I will share with you the ten lessons that I have learned personally from growing up in a broken home:

## 1. Vulnerability

When you come from a broken home, you can understand the vulnerability in which you saw weakness in your family that you never wanted to see in the first place. From the constant fighting, screaming, and door slamming, you've witnessed broken hearts from a young age. It's almost like you were forced to grow up and be the strong one in the family and you were there so much for others that you were never there for yourself.

## 2. "Home"

People that have grown up in a broken home understand the feeling of never wanting to go home. We find the comfort of home in other places, so we try our hardest to stall going home as much as possible. Running away is the closest thing to us that feels like home.

## 3. Compassion

If anyone knows pain, it's us. We know what it's like to hurt so when we come across other's that are hurting, we do our best to be there for them. We show the empathetic side of ourselves because when we were at home hurting, we wanted the people that weren't for us which makes us give out the things that we've always wanted, but weren't able to have.

## 4. Love

When you grow up in a broken home, you can understand the feeling of wanting to be loved. It's something that you will always want in life because it's something that you didn't have growing up. You tend to have a big heart for people, and continuously wish that you could have the same love in return. Even if you don't receive the same love from others, you still go out of your way to give because you understand what it feels like to not feel real love, and you don't want anyone else to ever have to feel the same.

## 5. Emotions

Many people will unintentionally bottle-up their emotions. We tend to guard our emotions, simply because of the fear that we have. We fear that the emotions that we have, will be used against us later on, which leads us to remain quiet about how we truly feel. We have a difficult time expressing our emotions because anytime that we have, it has been at the wrong times.

## 6. People

When you grow up in a toxic environment, you are already aware of the different traits of a toxic person. This is why we have the abilities to differentiate those who are a threat to our lives and those who are not. It is also why we distance ourselves from other people because we have already gone through intense chaos at home, and don't want to relive the pain.

## 7. Overprotection

Some of us have had to protect our siblings, or even our own parent's from physical and emotional pain. If you had to act as a protector at a young age, of course you will carry the same trait with you as you get older. It is completely normal and the reason behind it is because we sense that we need to act as the protector to those that mean the most to us.

## 8. Bullies

We become our own bullies because it felt like anything that we did, wasn't good enough for anyone. It always feels like there is something wrong with us. It becomes so persistent that over time, we begin to become our own self-critic. We become so self-aware so that others can't.

## 9. Tension

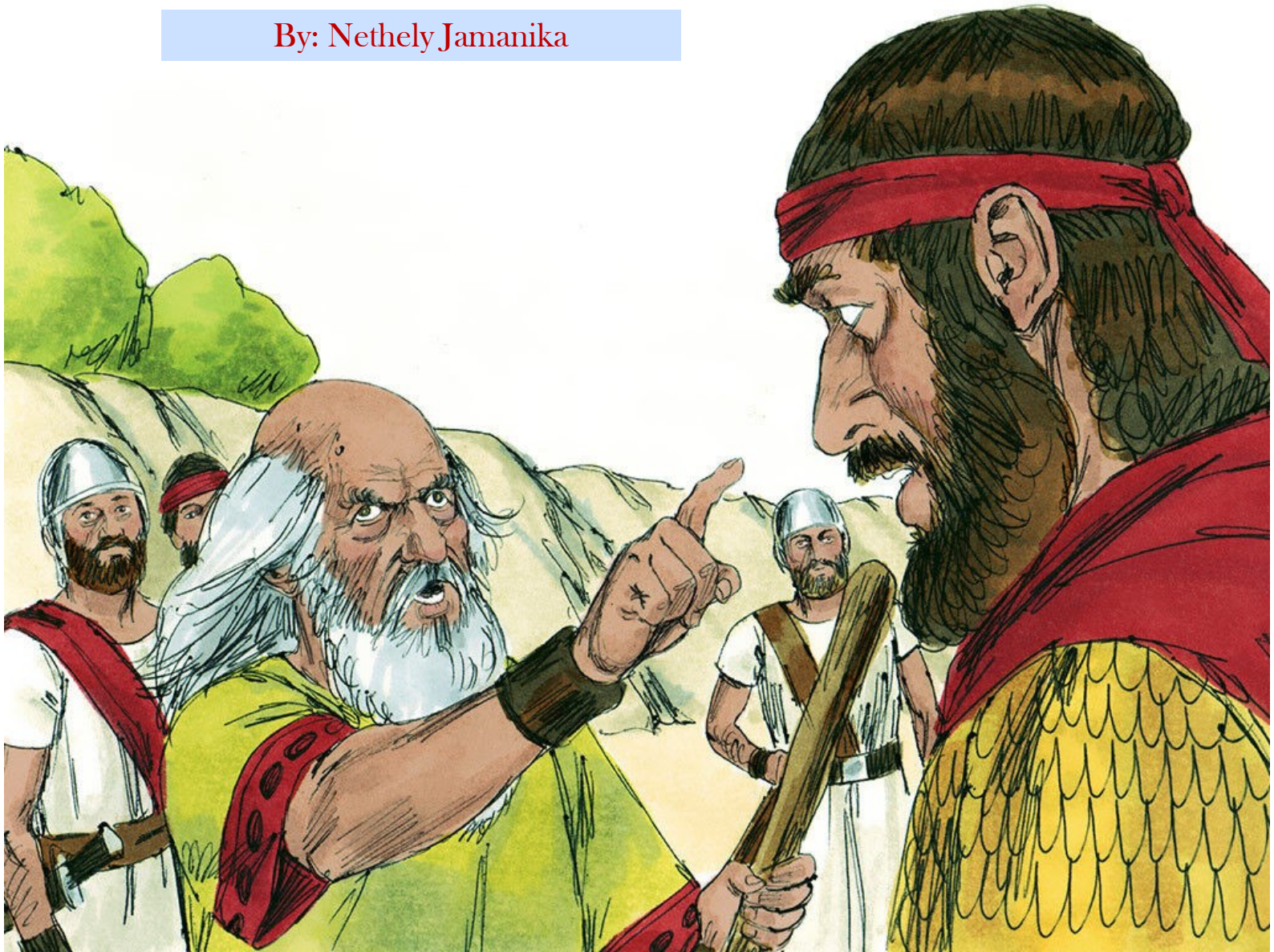
When you grow up in a toxic home, you begin to resent the tension. Tension for us is almost like a ticking time bomb and we do everything we can to try to avoid it. We would rather communicate and try to resolve problems before they manifest. That is why you will find yourself wanting to run out the door when you are in an argument with someone and that is your first instant reaction.

## 10. Success

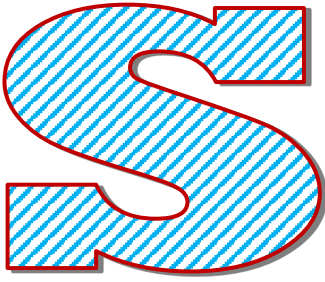
As we get older, life assures us that things will get better and that we as humans matter. We have this inner desire of wanting to succeed in life because we want to have a better future rather than dwelling on the past. We want to succeed so that one day we can have a family of our very own and give them the life we never had as children.

# WHEN FAITH

By: Nethely Jamanika



# FAILS YOU



AUL was a king chosen by God. That didn't hinder him to put his faith in God aside and disobey God's instructions.

Faith and obedience go together. James 2:17 says: "Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself." (NIV)

## WHAT IS FAITH THEN?

- Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."
- Faith in greek is: "pistis," that indicates "faith"; "hope"; "trust"; also "fidelity", "trust-worthiness".
- Pistis can mean a mental attitude or a faithful conduct that is product of an attitude of faith.
- Faith and fidelity are intimately connected together in the chapter of Hebrew 11 (Bible Commenatry, volume 7)
- When Saul's faith failed him, he went over to a life of disobedience, of infidelity to God. In 1 Samuel 28:6 he inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him.
- 1 Samuel 28:5 it says that he was afraid. Lack of faith brings fear 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, and incapacity to act (obey) according to God's will. The relationship with God weakens, because if you don't believe, you don't approach God anymore (*prayer*). Consequently, you don't feel the joy to spent time anymore with God (*study of his Word*), and you won't have a personal experience with God (*action*) so you can have a testimony to encourage yourself and others. Finally, how can you depend on a God you have no contact with?
- Saul's lack of faith dragged him to the very bottom (1 Samuel 28:7) and finally he died a tragic death, because his faith failed him.

**What can we do so our faith won't fail us and how can we regain our faith when it fails us? Here are some facts to hold unto so we can have a living, growing and strong faith:**

**PRAYER:** A life of constant prayer to Him. Dedicate yourselves to prayer. Stay alert in it

with an attitude of thanksgiving (Colossians 4:2). There is no improper place to pray to God. Nothing can hinder us to lift up our hearts in a fervent prayer (E.G.W. La Oración, p. 12)

**Spent time with God studying his Word.** Seek a similar experience to yours in the Bible. Let your thought be on things from above. "If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things from above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth." (Colossians 3:1, 2)

**Take action.** "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16). Share your personal testimony. Write down what God has done for you. Help others and practice evangelism..

**Depend on God for everything.** "Casting all your anxiety upon him, because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). No matter how you may see the situation, keep trusting, depending and obeying God still. Abraham is an example for us. "Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." (Romans 4:3).

"FAITH means trusting in God, believe that He loves us and He knows what is best for us. That's why He asks us to choose His way and not our own. Instead of our ignorance, accept His wisdom; instead of our weakness, His strength; instead of our sinfulness, His justice. Our lives, ourselves, we are His already; by faith we recognize His right of property, and accept His blessings. Truth, justice and purity are signs as success secrets in life. Faith makes us possess these principles." (E.G.White, La Oración, p. 371)

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Nethely Jamanika is an elder's wife at the Ebenezer Church in Curaçao



WHEN GOD'S CAUSE  
IS HIT



**T**he gospel is a message of peace. Christianity is a system which, received and obeyed, would spread peace, harmony, and happiness throughout the earth. The religion of Christ will unite in close brotherhood all who accept its teachings. It was the mission of Jesus to reconcile men to God, and thus to one another.

BUT the world at large are under the control of Satan, Christ's bitterest foe. **The gospel presents to them principles of life which are wholly at variance with their habits and desires, and they rise in rebellion against it. They hate the purity which reveals and condemns their sins, and they persecute and destroy those who would urge upon them its just and holy claims.** It is in this sense—because the exalted truths it brings occasion hatred and strife—that the gospel is called a sword.

**The mysterious providence which permits the righteous to suffer persecution at the hand of the wicked has been a cause of great perplexity to many who are weak in faith.** Some are even ready to cast away their confidence in God because He suffers the basest of men to prosper, while the best and purest are afflicted and tormented by their cruel power.

How, it is asked, can One who is just and merciful, and who is also infinite in power, tolerate such injustice and oppression? This is a question with which we have nothing to do.

**God has given sufficient evidence of His love, and we are not to doubt His goodness because we cannot understand the workings of His providence.** Said the Saviour to His disciples, foreseeing the doubts that would press upon their souls in days of trial and darkness: "Remember the word that I said unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you." John 15:20.

Jesus suffered for us more than any of His followers can be made to suffer through the cruelty of wicked men. Those who are called to endure torture and martyrdom are but following in the steps of God's dear Son.

**"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise" 2 Peter 3:9. He does not forget or neglect His children;** but He permits the wicked to reveal their true character, that none who desire to do His will may be deceived concerning them.

Again, the righteous are placed in the furnace of affliction, that they themselves may be purified; that their example may convince others of the reality of faith and godliness; and also that their consistent course may condemn the ungodly and unbelieving.

God permits the wicked to prosper and to

reveal their enmity against Him, that when they shall have filled up the measure of their iniquity all may see His justice and mercy in their utter destruction. The day of His vengeance hastens, when all who have transgressed His law and oppressed His people will meet the just recompense of their deeds; when every act of cruelty or injustice toward God's faithful ones will be punished as though done to Christ Himself.

There is another and more important question that should engage the attention of the churches today. The apostle Paul declares that "*all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*" 2 Timothy 3:12. **Why is it, then, that persecution seems in a great degree to slumber?**

The only reason is that the church has conformed to the world's standard and therefore awakens no opposition. The religion which is current in our day is not of the pure and holy character that marked the Christian faith in the days of Christ and His apostles.

It is only because of the spirit of compromise with sin, because the great truths of the word of God are so indifferently regarded, because there is so little vital godliness in the church, that Christianity is apparently so popular with the world.

Let there be a revival of the faith and power of the early church, and the spirit of persecution will be revived, and the fires will be rekindled.

*"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him" (Jm. 1:12).*

*"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).*

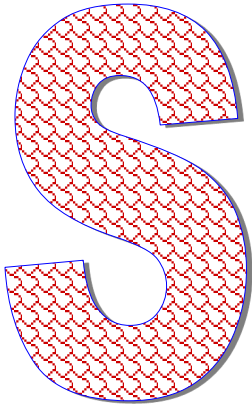
Taken from: The Great Controversy, p. 47, 48.



# RESURRECTION ANCHOR



Written by: Jeanette A.C. Grigorijs- Hooker



ome years ago, The Heritage Singers performed a song entitled: "Little Flowers". Ever since I heard that song I have been intrigued by its simplicity and profundity. The composer identified a quality that flowers have to never worry, cry or complaint no matter their circumstances. Now you may be wondering what that has to do with anything since flowers technically can't complaint.

**However, the lesson is that flowers rely on a power outside of themselves for their existence and continual survival.** They understand that the one who placed them where they are is able also to keep them.

As human beings we tend to look to ourselves for everything. We seem to believe that God has created us with talents and abilities to handle whatever issues we may have and have left us on our own to get ourselves through life the best way we can. So, when life's storms threaten to wash us away, we begin to complaint and blame. I believe we can learn something from those little flowers. They seem to have found a sure anchor to keep them from harm and so can we.

#### **What is your sure anchor today?**

What keeps you grounded when life's many, sometimes sudden storms arise in your life? **Everyone's storm may be different but they are all storms in their own right and if we don't find a sure anchor we will be swept away.** So where can we find that sure and tried anchor? What is the secret that those little flowers seem to know? I want to suggest that it is the same one we have always known but that we seem to take for granted until we have no where else to turn. We worry ourselves to pieces and we accuse and blame everyone instead of going to our anchor which is our only hope.

The psalmist David in Psalm 138:2 teaches us that God has magnified His word above all His name. We all know how great God's name is so if He has magnified his word above His name there must be a very good reason for that. Why would God do that? I would like to suggest that it is because He communicates with us through His word.

**Have you ever asked yourself how God speaks to us? Most of the time we focus on how we speak to God. We have come up with all kinds of formulas on how to pray. We have the ABCs of prayer and many other self-help techniques so that we have prayer down to a science.**

We have cliches like: Prayer is the breath of the soul and He is only a prayer away. Prayer is the opening of the heart as to a friend. This is how we talk to God. **But how does God speak to us?**



Have you ever considered this? Most of the time we are happy if we take time to talk to God since we don't always set aside time for prayer. But what kind of friend would we be if we only ever talked and never listened to our friend? What kind of communication would there be between two friends who only spoke whenever they got together but never listened to each other? Of course, that would be total madness besides impossible.

Sadly, this is the reality for most of us. We pray out of need and or despair and sometimes out of habit but we rarely ever stop to listen to His response. How sad. When you think about it you realize how senseless it is nevertheless, we have become so used to it that we never really analyze our actions or lack thereof. Maybe this is the reason why we don't have the sure tried anchor little flowers have.

*Ellen White* in her book *The Desire of Ages* p. 697-698 says:

***"He is close beside them, but their tear-blinded eyes do not discern Him. He speaks to them but they do not understand. Oh, that the bowed head might be lifted, that the eyes might be opened to behold Him, that the ears might listen to His voice!"***

It is time for us to start listening to God speak to us through His word. As Seventh Day Adventists we have no shortage of material to help us through any and every storm of life.

All we have to do is make use of the resources God has left us and we will find our sure tried anchor just like the little flowers of that old song.

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Jeanette A.C. Grigorijs-Hooker is the Pathfinder Leader, Assistant Leader of Adventist Youth, and in charge of Junior Sabbath School class at the San Nicolas church in Aruba





**ADRA**

**to the rescue!**



## 8 THINGS THAT SHOULD BE IN YOUR **EMERGENCY DISASTER KIT**

BY 8LIST



**HAVE  
YOUR  
KIT  
EVER  
READY!**

