

A dramatic background image of a dark, stormy sky with multiple bright, jagged lightning bolts striking down. The lighting is high-contrast, with the lightning providing the main source of illumination against the dark clouds.

Discovery

JULY 2010

**When
things
go
Wrong**

Stories, Puzzles, Jokes, Readers' Response, Serial and more...



Hi There!

We all have hopes and expectations, but what if things go wrong? What if your plans don't work out, or something bad happens that you don't expect? Do you blame God when things go wrong or do you look to him for help? God is with you no matter what happens, and He is there in the good times and the bad. Don't forget to praise Him no matter what, and trust Him even when things go wrong. As you can see in the story of Joseph - it might be the start of something great that He has for you...

When things go Wrong

When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden, God's perfect creation was never the same again. People continued to make the wrong choices, they sinned against God and each other.

The Bible is full of verses that tell us what sin is and encourage us when things go wrong.

Unscramble the following words to find out what the Bible says:

"lal rwnog igdon si nsi"
(1 John 5:17a)

"ovle, pkees on croerd fo grows"
(1 Cor 13:5b)

"sttur ni eht rlod tihw lal oyru
rhaet nda nlae ton no ouyr won
gindnatsrednu ni lla rouy sway
egdelwonkea mhi nad eh liwl
kema rouy sptha tghriast"
(Proverbs 3:5)

Wendy 

Answers:
"All wrong doing is sin." 1 John 5:17a
"Love, keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Corinthians 13:5b
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5



*Making the timeless truths
and values of the Bible come alive!*

info@biblediscovery.org.nz
www.biblediscovery.org.nz

Discovery is a publication of the PSSM Bible Discovery Trust (formerly the Postal Sunday School Movement of NZ Inc.) This is an evangelical, non-denominational, Christian trust. We depend on God to supply our financial needs through the donations of interested individuals and groups. All donations are receipted and tax-deductible.

As well as *Discovery* we produce 5 different levels of FREE Bible lessons. These are posted monthly to all who would like them. If you would like to join please ask your parent or guardian for permission, then send your name, address and age to:



PSSM Bible Discovery, 888 New North Road, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 Ph: 09 846 1776 Issue 11 Volume 72 July 2010
Director & Treasurer: Mr A.Simpson Discovery Editor: Wendy Reid Permission must be sought before reproducing anything.

‘How can a day that started off so good... go so wrong?’ Dan wondered briefly as he

sprinted down the street and around the corner. He slammed into Jeremy, and Jason slammed into them both, as they came to a sudden and rather suspicious stop and hugged the wall of the arcade ally. Behind them the car alarm pierced through the other sounds of the street, the shrill pulses almost matching the rhythm of his pounding heart.

The question really was easy to answer. The afternoon had begun to go downhill when the boys had all piled into Jason’s car. They all had their learners licences’, which meant that none of them, let alone all three, should have been in the car and cruised into town.

The afternoon’s downhill slide had become even slipperier when Jeremy had dared Jas to steal a packet of lollies. If Dan had known what he knew now- out of breath, slightly bruised from Jason’s elbow and huddling in a dirty ally- he might have walked out of the supermarket and taken a bus home.

But he had watched Jas shove two packets of lollies into his hoodie, and he had even scoffed down half the stolen packet of Jet Planes that was handed to him by a guilty looking Jason. Now he felt like throwing up. The lollies, mixed with the panic of getting caught, were making him nauseous. Extremely nauseous. He put his hands on his knees and bent over, breathing hard.

Beside him Jeremy, went into a hysterical bout of laughter. “Oh, eh! Didn’t know that old Subaru would have a car alarm” he said. Dan looked up at him and then at Jason. Jason looked a little pale but Jeremy’s eyes, and whole face were shining with...was it excitement? Across in the car park the alarm finally stopped. “Let’s go and check out what we can find in the arcade” Jeremy said as he glanced around the corner, and then back at them. “What, don’t tell me you guys are scared?” His voice dripped with scorn.

Jas looked at him for a second. “I’m going home” he said in a determined voice, although it still had a slight edge of panic in it. He reached into his pocket and threw

the remaining packet of lollies at Jeremy. “Coming?” he asked Dan. Dan just nodded, barely looking at Jeremy.

As they walked away Jeremy threw the lollies back at their retreating backs, along with a few words and descriptions of what he now thought of them.

When they got to the car park Dan kept walking. “I’m taking the bus. I’ll see you tomorrow”. Jas nodded. “Good. Good choice. Probably the first good choice we’ve made all afternoon”.

“Probably” There really wasn’t much else to add to that. Jas was right.

Dan had to wait 40 minutes to catch the next bus, and then it was another 55 minutes till he got home. He did a lot of thinking in that time. He also got a text from Jas that read: ‘James 4 v 4 - ‘Don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred towards God’- We better chose our friends better eh’. Dan smiled slightly as he texted back ‘Bad company corrupts good character’. He couldn’t remember the reference, but it didn’t matter right now. The lesson that they had both learnt was the importance of picking your friends and standing up for what you know is important. Because when you don’t, things go wrong. And it can be a long ride home to try and get things right again.

Friends that make you Slide



When things go Wrong

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh
When care is pressing you down a bit
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns
As every one of us sometimes learns
And many a fellow turns about
When he might have won, had he stuck it out.
Don't give up though the pace seems slow
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a faint and faltering man;
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup;
And he learned too late when the night came down
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt
And you never can tell how close you are
It may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

Author Unknown

‘Successful people aren’t people without problems, they are people who learn to solve problems.’ Sean P. Hayes

Everyone will have something go wrong at some point in their life. It may be little, like failing a spelling test, or it may be something huge, like an accident that changes your life. Here is a list of things that ‘went wrong’ for some people. Problems, accidents, or mistakes are God’s opportunity to show up. The only thing that limits Him is our attitude. Here are some examples of good triumphing. Be inspired!

MATCHING

Match List A with the right answer in List B.

LIST A

1. This person was a great athlete until a bad knee injury. They were also dyslexic and didn’t do well at school.
2. This person was called dumb, and had the disease ALS. Was expected to die by the age of 23. Is now 68 and a world famous Professor of Physics.
3. This invention only became successful when the inventor got fired from their day job and could spend time developing it. What is it?
4. This inventor was annoyed when the experiment went wrong, and sent the results to other scientists to look at. The results became something most of us use daily. What is it?
5. This person was told, “You’re wasting your time.” “You’ll never be any good.” Who was it?
6. A diving accident left this person paralysed from the neck down. But this person paints, sings, writes, hosts a radio show and speaks publicly.
7. This person took 1 1/2 years to invent something we use every day. They also lost all their money in a failed experiment to mine iron.
8. This right-hander lost their right hand to a grenade in 1938 but learned how to shoot with the left hand and won Olympic Gold in 1948 and 1952.
9. This person was trying to cook special bread for his patients but left the pot on the oven too long. This lead to something we probably all have used. What is it?
10. It took 10 years and lots of failures to invent this, but now we all use it. What is it?

LIST B

- Joni Eareckson Tada
- Velcro
- Karoly Takacs
- Stephen Hawking
- Tom Cruise
- Thomas Edison
- Cornflakes
- Teflon
- Liquid Paper (like Twink)
- Elvis Presley

ANSWERS:
 1 = Tom Cruise
 2 = Stephen Hawking
 3 = Liquid Paper
 4 = Teflon
 5 = Elvis Presley
 6 = Joni Eareckson
 7 = Thomas Edison
 8 = Karoly Takacs
 9 = Cornflakes
 10 = Velcro

word find

You can find words in this wordfinder which will fill the spaces to make a verse from the Bible.

T	H	G	I	E	A
W	O	R	K	S	N
E	S	R	E	V	D
N	N	D	O	O	G
T	A	O	W	F	W
Y	M	G	E	O	H
E	O	F	N	T	O
I	R	K	O	A	T
G	M	N	X	H	H
H	I	E	H	T	O
T	H	I	N	G	S
A	L	L	O	V	E

HIT-and-RUN

"Smart Alec!" I shouted, waving my fist at the driver of the BMW car as it surged past, spraying puddles all over me. To think that I used to own a car like that. I shook the dirty water off my tatty overcoat and headed towards the park bench that was my resting place for the night.

As I stowed the knapsack containing all my worldly goods under the bench, I discovered a book lying there. Unbeknown to its owner, it must have fallen through the wooden slats. The book was a Bible. The last time I'd handled one was at my uncle's funeral. How my life had changed since those days.

It all went wrong one fateful night when I was persuaded to stay on at work for a staff celebration. After a few drinks and laughs, I forgot the time and the fact that my wife was expecting me home for an important dinner date.

When my cell phone rang, I had come to my senses, raced to the car park and decided to take a short cut home. Speeding along a poorly-lit back street, I failed to notice a pedestrian - until it was too late.

Oh no! I don't need this. If the cops come, I'm bound to be over the limit.

At that crucial moment, I made a shocking decision. Instead of aiding my victim, I looked around and sped off home.

The guests were waiting in the lounge and my wife was furious. "You've been drinking,"

she hissed as I pecked her cheek. "How could you? You knew these people were important for my career."

The entire evening was a blur. All I could see was the terrified image of the woman as my car knocked her down.

Did anyone see me? How bad was she hurt? What if she died?

The next morning the hit-and-run incident was headline news everywhere.

From that day on, my life began to unravel. I couldn't eat, sleep, or concentrate at work. I started drinking and taking drugs to get through each day. Eventually I lost my job and the strain on my family reached breaking point and they asked me to leave.

As I sat on the park bench—homeless, unemployed and burdened with guilt—the Bible in my hands fell open at a psalm:

***Then I confessed my sins to you;
I did not conceal my wrongdoings.
I decided to confess them to you,
and you forgave all my sins.***

Psalms 32:5

Wow! That was written for me. I could hide no more. The floodgates of my soul opened and I fell down on my knees and cried out to God for mercy and forgiveness.

The next morning I entered the police station, and in a trembling voice declared, "Sir, I have a crime to report."

AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

For years completed

1 Esther Afa
Aidan Dalglish
Jade Gerrard-Smith
Carlos Hanlon
Rosie Janssen
Sarah Knight
Georgia Martin
Lucy Martin
Sandra McInnes
Garta Ndapana
Eileen Osi
Justina Puana
Mikayla Russell
Josiah Seniloli
Nasara Zavanza

2 Ellena Black
Josh Brown
Aarti Gayaneshwar
Rebekah Little
Patricia Pasingan
Imelda Pasingan
Olaoye Simisola

3 Rebecca Barnhill
Rachel Barnhill
Brooke Fairweather
Grace Francis
Caitlin Lameko
Virginia Mitchell
Julia Spurgeon
Cody Thompson

4 James Duncan
Chontelle Jenkins
Kate Jenkins
Sophie Jenkins
Emma Jenkins
Nicole Jenkins
Hazel Jenkins
Shania Jenkins
Jonathan Yiu
Abigail Yiu

5 Sereana
Sigadromucala
Ariana Snook

6 Esther Devanesan
Jared Tyler

7 Josiah Peach
Joshua Thompson
Rebekah Thompson

8 Caleb Allan
June Morris

9 Raymond Geuze
Tamzin Read

10 Joan Wichman

12 Allan Anthony

25 Kenneth Pearce

"We can remember to read these."



BIBLE READINGS

JULY

	DATE	BOOK	REFERENCE	
1	Thu	Romans	1:1-7	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Fri	Romans	1:16-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Sat	Romans	3:9-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Sun	Romans	5:1-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Mon	Romans	5:6-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Tue	Romans	5:9-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Wed	Romans	8:1-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Thu	Romans	8:12-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Fri	Romans	12:1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Sat	Romans	12:3-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Sun	Romans	12:9-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Mon	John	1:1-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Tue	John	1:6-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Wed	John	1:14-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Thu	John	1:29-31	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Fri	John	1:32-34	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Sat	John	2:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Sun	John	2:13-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Mon	John	2:18-25	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Tue	John	3:1-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Wed	John	3:9-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Thu	John	3:18-21	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Fri	John	3:31-36	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Sat	John	4:46-54	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Sun	John	5:1-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Mon	John	5:19-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Tue	John	6:1-21	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	Wed	John	6:22-40	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Thu	John	8:12-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Fri	John	9:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Sat	John	9:13-23	<input type="checkbox"/>



When 1 Things go Wrong!

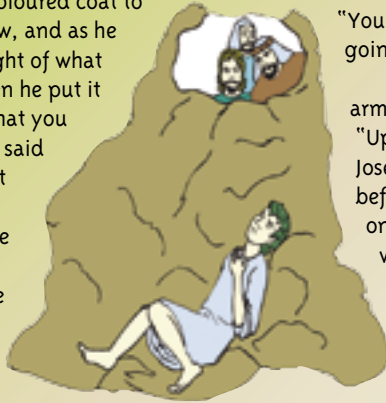
Joseph sat glumly in the bottom of the pit.

He had called and called out to his brothers at the top, but they wouldn't take any notice. They had purposely put him in there when he finally caught up with them. Their father had told him to go and see what they were up to as they had been away longer with the sheep than he expected.

At last Joseph had found them, and now this was what had happened. He knew they didn't like him much, especially since their father had given him this coloured coat to wear. He was wearing it now, and as he looked down at it, he thought of what his father had told him when he put it on him. "This coat means that you are special Joseph", he had said lovingly, "I know I can trust you to always do the right thing. One day you will take the lead in this family, and I want you to remember the God of your fathers, no matter what happens!"

He thought again about his brothers. They were all older than he was and much bigger and stronger. What were they going to do with him? he wondered. There was no way he could climb out of this horrible place. It was quite dark down in this pit, and although there was no water in it, the walls were slimy and slippery. He wondered what his father would think if he didn't turn up back home when he was expected.

Joseph slumped down again. He thought about God. He often thought about Him and wondered if God knew what was happening to him! There was no-one else who could help



him. "Please help me get out of this place, O God", he whispered.

Suddenly he heard a commotion at the top of the pit, and his brothers talking to someone with a strange sounding voice. "Yes", he heard his brother Judah say, "We'll pull him up and you can take him away once we get the money!"

A rope came slithering down the sides of the pit. Judah put his head in and called out, "Tie this around you. We're going to pull you up!" Joseph hastily tied the rope around under his armpits, and as they started to pull, he helped himself up the sides of the pit with his feet.

He blinked in the sunlight as he came up onto the ground. "Come on you!" snarled Levi, "We'll fix you and your dreams that you've been having!" He found himself being pushed along towards a group of men with their camels that looked like traders. Judah pulled his coloured coat off him roughly and said, "You won't be needing this where you're going!"

One of the traders took him by the arm to where the camels were waiting. "Up!" he said nodding to the camel. Joseph had never been on a camel before, and he scrambled up, holding on tightly as the camel got to its feet with its ungainly movements. Where was he going to be taken? Would he ever see his brothers and his father again? He blinked his eyes as he felt the tears not far away, then thought to himself, "Well, God has taken me out of that awful pit, and He will look after me wherever I'm going!"

Joseph felt better at that thought, and straightened himself up. He would do his very best, no matter how bad things got, he thought. If God could help him this time, he was sure He would help him in the days ahead!

Joseph felt better at that thought, and straightened himself up. He would do his very best, no matter how bad things got, he thought. If God could help him this time, he was sure He would help him in the days ahead!

This Dramatised Story of Joseph is Continued on P11

MATCH-UP

Match the name in the left column with the correct statement in the right column.

Slave Girl

(2 Kings 5:2)

Esther

(Ester 7:3)

Job

(Job 2:7 - 10)

Daniel

(Daniel 6:16)

Paul

(Acts 14:19 & 20)

Martha

(John 11:21)

Joseph

(Genesis 37:28)

Jeremiah

(Jeremiah 38:6)

Nehemiah

(Nehemiah 4:7 - 9)

David

(1 Samuel 30:6)

Moses

(Exodus 17:4)

Naomi

(Ruth 1:3 - 5)

She pleaded for her people

Her husband and 2 sons died

He was sold by his brothers

He was put in a cistern

He was thrown into a lion's den

She was a prisoner of war

The people were going to stone him

He found strength in God

He was stoned

He was covered in sores

Some enemies tried to stop the work

Her brother died

When ² Things go Wrong!

Joseph found himself on the back of a camel, rolling along as the camel swayed from side to side. The countryside had been like a desert for several days, and now it was starting to look a bit different. Joseph could see lines of palm trees in the distance, and the peaks of strange buildings rising up above the flat land. As they got closer, more buildings could be seen. The camels were now going through the gates of a big town, and they seemed to be hurrying towards a central place with a big platform in the middle.

Joseph was hustled down off the camel, and shoved along to this platform. He was chained to a post there, along with other young people. He couldn't really understand what was going on, as the language was quite different to what he was used to.

It just sounded like a strange gabble, but he soon understood what was going on when each prisoner was taken forward, and made to show off their muscles before the crowd. One man in front called things out and men in the crowd shouted in reply. Surely he wasn't going to be SOLD! He was going to be a SLAVE!

A well dressed man stepped forward when it came to Joseph's turn to be on the platform. He said a few words in a clipped voice, and then Joseph's chain was handed to one of his servants. Joseph found himself taken into a large building, where he was put to work. It wasn't unpleasant work, and he

wanted to please the tall man who was now his master. He was always cheerful, and worked hard. He often thought about God, and how pleased he was that he was still fit and well. He knew God had been looking after him on the trip to Egypt, and that it was God who had given him this good master.

Joseph worked well and his master soon noticed this. He was given more and more responsibility, and was soon in charge of his master's house. As he worked each day, he noticed that his master's wife was always around where he was. She was quite a nice looking lady, he thought, but she seemed quite old to him. One day at work, she came up very close to him. "You're a nice boy Joseph", she said, "Why don't you come to my room later on?" Joseph was startled.

This wasn't right, and he didn't particularly want to. He just knew that it wouldn't be pleasing to God if he did this, or to his master either. So he told her he couldn't. But she wouldn't listen, and kept pestering him every day.

One day, when Joseph was alone, she came and asked him again. Joseph was really alarmed this time, and dodged out of her reach. She grabbed his jacket which he wriggled out of and ran out of the room.

That night she told her husband that Joseph had assaulted her, and showed him Joseph's jacket as proof. Joseph was immediately arrested and taken off to prison and given the worst jobs to do.

How would you feel if this happened to you? Here you are in prison for something that you didn't do! When things just aren't fair! Maybe Joseph did think like this, but it wasn't for long. Somehow, he knew that God was with him, and would never leave him.

This Dramatised Story of Joseph is Continued on P13



How Bible Characters Handled Trouble

When things go wrong people of faith turn to God - in prayer, with praise, knowing God is the One who can do something about it.

The words in this word list come from stories of people who were in trouble. You can read their words in the Bible.

David, 1 Samuel 17:45; Job 1:21; Stephen, Acts 7:59,60; Peter and John, Acts 4:19,20; 5:41; Paul and Silas, Acts 16:25

T S W F S E L V Y R K V L D M
 F A U D A V I D F E E E C N T
 J S K P E N Q H D C B P W K V
 B O A E G S D R A E H O J E A
 R U H L N T I R S I N G I N G
 L T S N I A G A Q V E O P E U
 D E R A C S W Y R E H T T E O
 Y T H G I M L A M P P Y B S Q
 F L Z D O T G A Y D E A M J C
 G U N D I L N Y J W T T P N W
 S U F F E R I N G O S H E R S
 C E C D R V Y A M R B G G R G
 W O U P Z M A V T T T I M I N
 Q H S A W E R G C H H R P O F
 I H O N H X P J N Y B R X R I

WORD LIST

AGAINST
 FIGHT
 HYMNS
 OBEY
 PRAYING
 SCARED
 STEPHEN
 WORTHY

ALMIGHTY
 GAVE
 JOB
 PAUL
 RECEIVE
 SEEN
 STONED

DAVID
 GOLIATH
 JOHN
 PETER
 REJOICING
 SILAS
 SUFFERING

DISGRACE
 HEARD
 NAME
 PRAISED
 RIGHT
 SINGING
 TAKEN AWAY

When³ Things go Wrong!

Joseph sat uneasily in his cell. He heard the heavy door clang shut. Things had been going so well, and then that spiteful woman had told lies about him and he was thrown into prison!

He straightened up. There was no point blaming someone else for this. God was in charge. Joseph was sure of this. He had proved it before, and he knew that God wouldn't leave him now.

He looked around his cell and saw that it was dirty. He picked up a wet rag in the corner, and scrubbed the place out. The warder looked in as he left food for him. "What's the matter with you?" he said as he noticed the place was looking a bit cleaner. "Wasn't it good enough for you?" and he went on to the cell next door.

As time went by, the manager of the prison needed help and the warder told him about Joseph. One morning, Joseph was called out and given work to do around the prison. Joseph worked hard and did his best with whatever job he was given to do. He had many suggestions on how to do things, and soon the prison manager left him to organise the work that needed to be done.

One day, Joseph noticed two new prisoners in a cell nearby. "Hullo", he said cheerfully, "What are you guys in here for?"

One said, "Well, I'm the king's baker, but he didn't like the way the bread turned out yesterday, and sent me off here."

"That's funny", said the other man, "I'm his butler, and he was grumpy yesterday too, and I ended up here".

One morning when Joseph went into their cell, they both looked sad and miserable. "What's wrong with you guys today?" he asked.

"I'm going to be glad in the Lord, no matter what else happens!!"

"We both had vivid dreams last night and don't know what they mean", answered the butler.

"Well, tell me about them", said Joseph, "God knows how to interpret dreams!"

"In my dream, I saw a vine with three branches of grapes on it in front of me, and I squeezed the juice into Pharaoh's cup and gave it to him to drink".

Joseph was silent for a while thinking. "This is what it means", he said slowly, "The three branches are three days and in three days' time, Pharaoh will take you back. When you see him, could you tell him how I was put in here for doing nothing wrong and see if I can get out?"

The baker was listening to this and said, "Tell me what mine means! I dreamed I had three white baskets on my head full of little cakes for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them as I went".

Joseph thought for a bit, and then said, "The three baskets are three days too, and in three days time, Pharaoh will take your head off and string you up for the birds to eat..... sorry".

There was silence for a while and then Joseph quietly

went out to get on with his work. He didn't see the butler or the baker again..... their cell was empty the next time he went there. He waited and waited to hear from the butler, but nothing happened. Surely he couldn't have forgotten him! But he had, and the time began to drag for Joseph.

Two long years went by, and nothing changed. But Joseph knew that God hadn't forgotten him, even if the butler had. He kept saying each day, "I'm going to be glad in the Lord, no matter what else happens!!"

Because of this, he was still able to smile as he cleaned the cells out in the prison.



RESCUE

Last month Tim and John stole a boat to search for hidden treasure only to find themselves in the middle of a storm. Now their boat was smashed up and Tim was injured.

Turning on his side, he stared at his brother on the opposite bunk. John had held his own until the early hours of that morning, but had been unconscious ever since. Tim was convinced he was dying and this scared him. He'd never seen a dead body before. Biting his lip to stop himself from crying, he shook his head. If only he'd listened to his conscience and said no. But he hadn't and now he was lost, lonely and very frightened.

By the end of the ninth day, there was nothing left to do but pray. John was hardly breathing at all now and Tim's tongue was swollen from lack of moisture. He was tempted to drink the sea water but knew he weren't. He'd heard stories of how shipwreck survivors had been driven mad by it and was determined to not fall victim to the same thing. Closing his eyes, he tried to concentrate on God but didn't know how to begin. Not that prayer was strange to him. His parents were devoted Christians but he'd never been serious about it himself. He'd never needed to be - not until now. Would God listen to him? And

Now their boat was smashed up and Tim was injured



what if he didn't? Tim clasped his hands tightly together. He'd never know unless he tried, would he?

"Dear God," he whispered self-consciously. "I'm sorry I didn't think to ask you for help before. You've a right to be angry at me, I suppose. In fact, I know you have. But, please, God, we need your help. John is dying and I'm really scared I will too. Help us Lord. Please!" Tim did not know what else to say and silently left the little cabin that had begun to reek of his brother's festering wounds. How much

longer, Lord? he silently cried as he climbed up onto the littered deck of the yacht.

It was then he saw the dolphin leaping towards him across the water. He could not help but laugh as the magnificent

creature stood on its tail and chattered at him. It had been days since he'd felt so light-hearted.

"Pity I don't have a ball to toss," he shouted across the handrail. "I bet you'd know just what to do with it, too." To his surprise, the dolphin leapt out of the water to catch hold of some of the smashed rigging hanging over the side of the boat. The creature then turned and began to swim away with it. Within seconds, the tangle of rope and canvas

caught against the broken mast and held fast, but the dolphin did not let go. Slowly, steadily, the crippled yacht began to move forward in the water, like a ship being towed by a tugboat. Amazed, Tim could only hope the creature would not take them even further out to sea than they already were. Remembering God, he once again bowed his head.

"Dear Lord," he prayed, "please don't let this be some sick joke. I really want to get home safely. John, too. Please!" His cry was met with silence.

For hour after hour, the dolphin dragged the heavy yacht through the water. Tim was convinced God had sent the creature to save him and he prayed it would succeed. His eyes were now so gugged up that he could hardly see. If only he had some idea of where they were! Hopefully, they'd reach land before nightfall.

His thoughts were suddenly interrupted by the sound of helicopters in the distance.

"Please God, let it be a search party," he prayed as he rose excitedly to his feet and waved his arms. "I'm here!" he cried. "Here!" Within minutes, the planes were directly overhead and he sank to his knees, sobbing and thanking God at the same time. As an afterthought, he turned to thank the dolphin as well. But the creature had already let go of the ropes to dive beneath the waves. Tim

shook his head sadly. He would've liked to have said goodbye.

By the time he was safely home and forgiven, Tim found the incident difficult to discuss. Most people found it hard to believe God had sent a dolphin to save him and he eventually stopped talking about it altogether. It was his secret, his special moment, and he would never be the same again.

It was several weeks before John was well enough to come home from hospital. The ordeal had affected him so badly that he refused to mention the wreck again - even though it had been found exactly where he'd said it would be. The barnacle-encrusted remains were definitely those of The Southern

Bounty, but her rich cargo had been stolen long ago. Disappointed, Tim made a promise to never again do anything deceitful. Not only had their deception nearly cost them their lives, it was also going to take a lot of time and money to fix Mr Herrington's yacht.

Smiling, Tim set out for the jetty where the change in his life had begun. Although he would never want to go through the nightmare again, he was grateful for what it had taught him. He wondered if the crew of The Southern Bounty had believed in God when their ship had gone down. He hoped so. It made a big difference somehow. A difference he prayed his brother would one day understand.



Most people found it hard to believe God had sent a dolphin to save him

*And we know that in all things
God works for the good of those
who love Him, who have been
called according to His purpose.*

Romans 8:28