**These Perilous Times**

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**“God Hears Our Prayers”**

**(Miracle at Oshkosh)**

“And whatsoever you ask in My name, that I will do, *that the Father may be glorified in the Son*. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

John 14:13, 14 (Italics supplied)

**What does this mean for us?**

**Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season**

 During the many years as a member of Glen Burnie SDA Church, (Now, “Living Word”) I’ve had the honor and privilege of serving in many different ministries. One of the most fulfilling was that of Pathfinder Director for the Glen Burnie Rangers Pathfinder Club.

 My wife Patricia and I have been on numerous Pathfinder sponsored camping trips, and events, including the first ever North American Camporee held at “Camp Hale” Colorado, in 1985. It’s always a joy to witness our young people grow holistically while engaged in Pathfinder educational activities and honors.

 One of the most memorable Camporees we had the privilege of attending was, “Discover the Power,” International Camporee held at Oshkosh Wisconsin’s Air & Space Museum in 1999.

 Thousands of Pathfinders and staff were there interacting with one another for the sake of true Christian fellowship and growth. As one walked to and from the daily activities and nightly programs that were provided, there was nothing but tents as far as the eye could see. Perhaps a modern-day microcosm of what the Israelites experienced while camping on their sojourn to the promised land.

 However, one evening the spiritual tranquility of the Camporee was abruptly interrupted by the blasts of loud, ear-piercing warning sirens!

**Seek shelter at once!**

 We had no clue what was happening. Finally, it was announced over the P/A system that a tornado was heading directly toward the campground! There was a major degree of panic as nylon dome-tents are no protection against a powerful tornado… Some of our young people asked, Mr. Harmon, “what are we going to do?” I said, “Let’s Pray Now for God’s protection.” Then, as advised by the Camporee officials, we proceeded double time toward the airplane hangars for some sort of shelter. Our club was not the only one praying for God’s safety, thousands of youths and staff were petitioning God for His protection. Then it happened: “The Miracle at Oshkosh,” the sirens suddenly stopped. The tornado had split in two, and went completely outside the perimeters of the campground and quickly dissipated!

**Counsel from God’s inspired messenger**

 “…Travelers by sea and land when threatened by some great danger can thus commit themselves to Heaven’s protection. In times of sudden difficulty or peril, the heart may send up its cry for help to One who has pledged Himself to come to the aid of His faithful believing ones when they call upon Him.” [[1]](#footnote-1)

**Before we ask, God will answer**

“It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.” Isaiah 65:24

“Then you shall call, and the Lord shall answer; you shall cry, and He will say, here I am…” Isaiah 58:9

 Friends, we can trust God’s promises. He is always right on time! “…Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me…” [[2]](#footnote-2)

**Praise God for His Faithfulness**

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1. E. G. White. Prophets and Kings, p. 631. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ps. 23:4. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)