



TELL-A-PIC

— *The Book* —

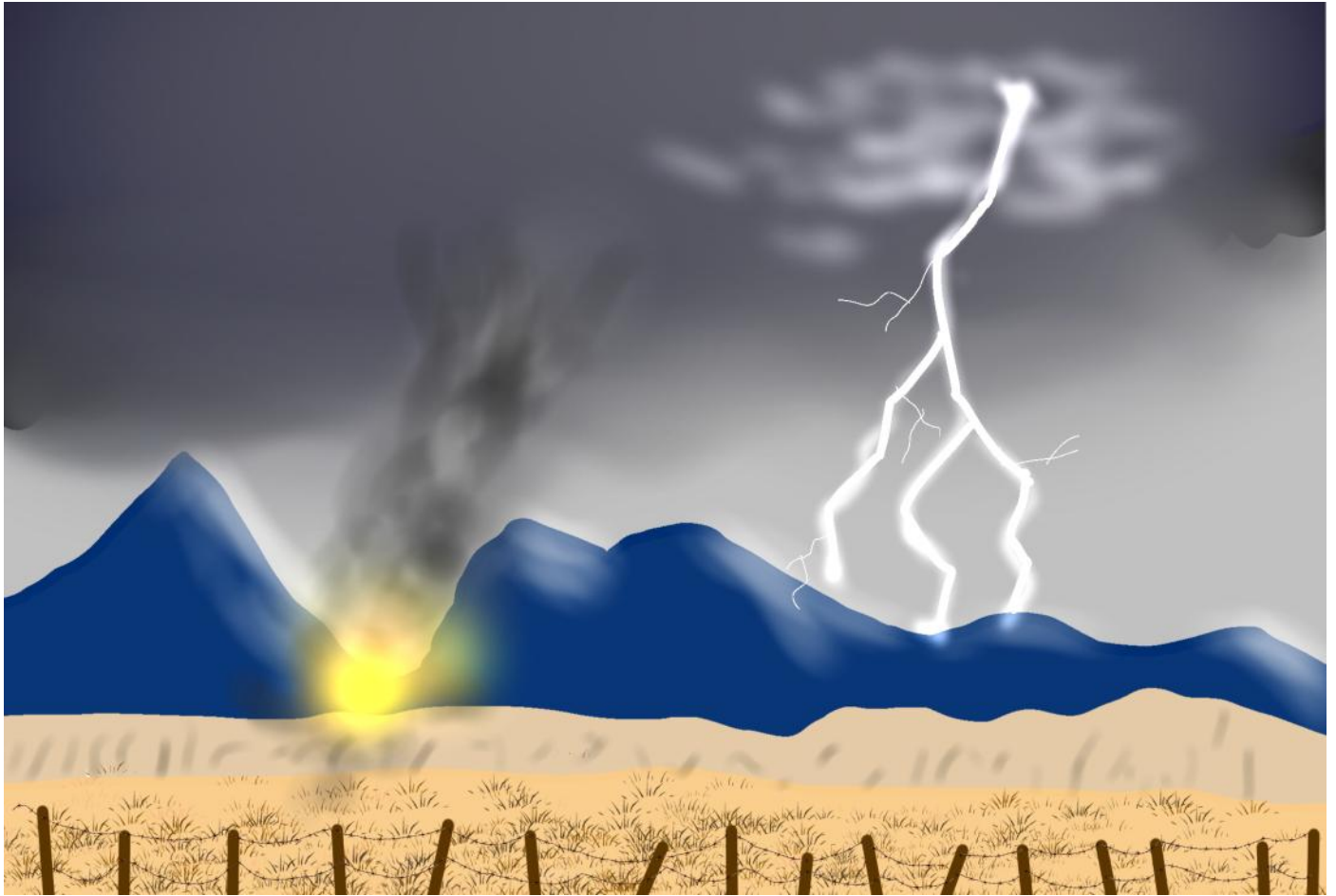
True stories as retold
and illustrated by:
A. Charles

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TELL-A-PIC:

FIRESTORM



Firestorm

Joe was a Christian man was living in the bush.

One day there was a thunderstorm and lightning behind his house. One lightning bolt started a brush fire.

The brush fire was heading in the opposite direction and away from his house. But it was a very hot day, so as a precaution, he gathered a few of his possessions and put them in his car.

He and his neighbour watched the fire.

Then just as things were looking good, the wind changed directions and the fire started heading for his house.

What used to be a small brush fire turned in an inferno burning at an incredible speed. It jumped a 60 feet deep and 100 feet wide canyon, as if it wasn't there.



The fire had almost reached his house when he jumped in the car.

He screamed for his dog, who was nowhere to be seen.

His neighbour jumped in his other car and off they went driving to the highway.

The last thing he said as he fled the fiery scene was,

"Lord, I put my house and everything in it into Your hands. And, Lord, no matter what happens, I thank You for it and praise You."

At the highway he stood out of his car and watched the raging fire for about 10 minutes. Just then a man said,

"Hey, you in the white shirt, I hosed down your roof."

The house owner was sure he was getting it wrong, but anyway, thanked him anyway.



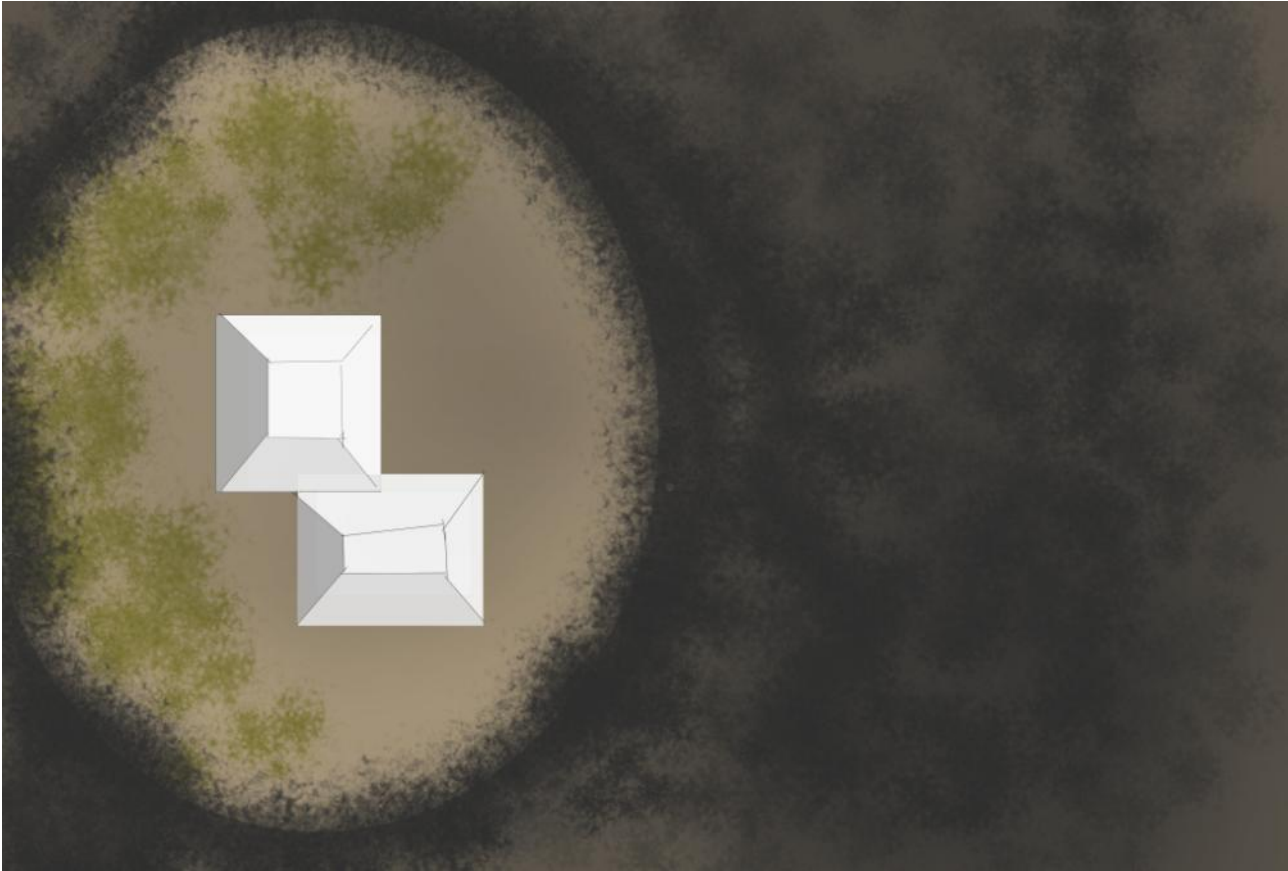
While the fire raged, Joe reminded himself to keep speaking words of praise and trust in the Lord, and this kept him at peace and acting like a Christian should do, who believes in a God that can take care of everything and turn even seemingly bad things for good in the end.

The police told them to move up higher on the mountain, so they did.

That night when Joe got to his friend's house to stay for the night, he got in contact with his wife, who had just left that morning on a trip with their children.

He talked with her and told her that their house had been burned down. All she said was, "Thank God you are all right!"

When this man got back to the house the next dawn he was very amazed at what he saw.



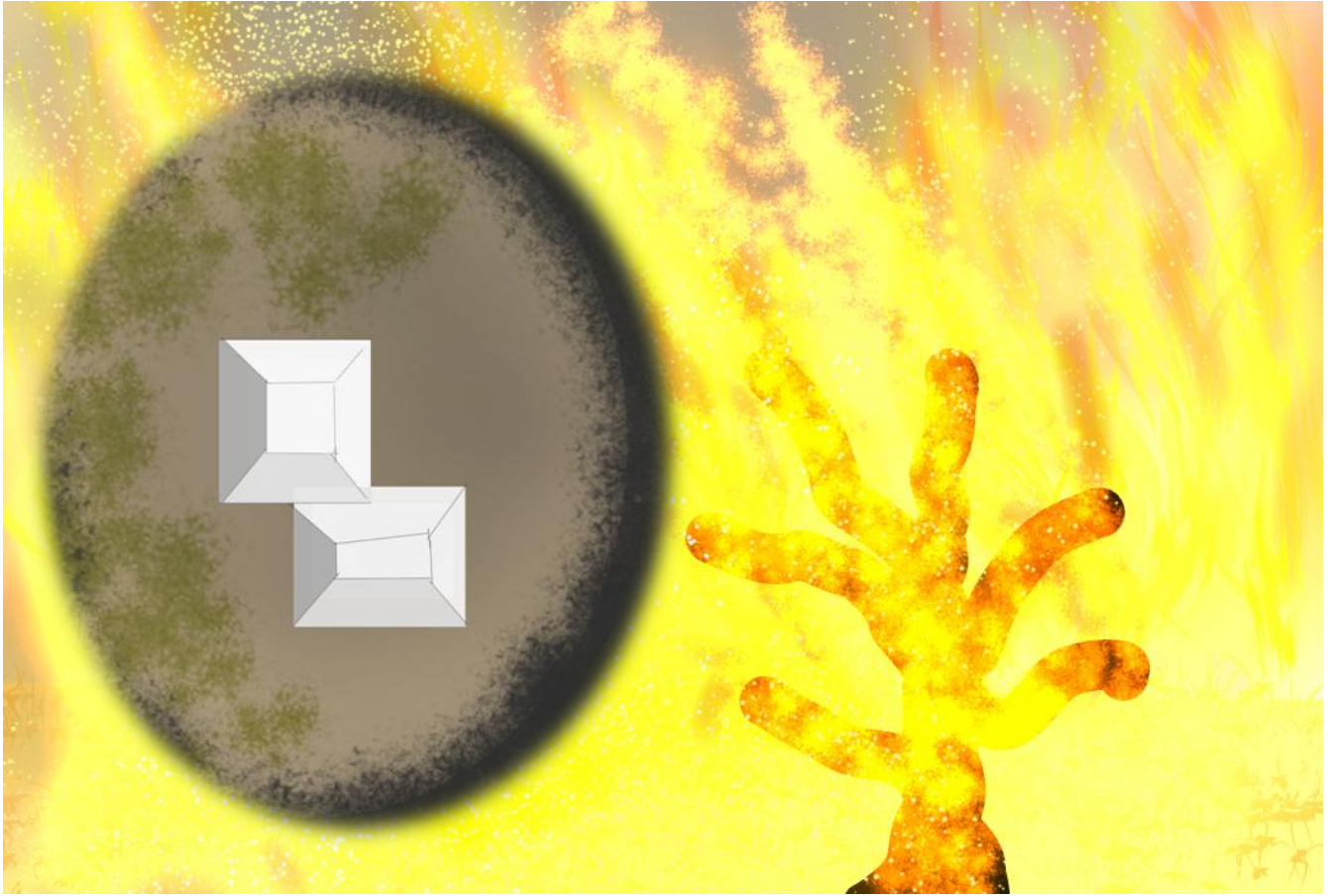
He discovered that the fire had burned within 10 feet of the house and all around it, but no further.

His house and all that was in it was untouched by the fire. However, since the fire had been so hot and intense, the utility lines coming to his house were melted including the telephone lines.

The dogs and cats and chickens were unharmed!

After the experience, Joe said, I'll never be quite so smug or casual about my faith again. He felt God had said in a very clear way,

“I'm here, I'm real, and I care.”



Then there is the enigma of the man who claimed to have hosed off his roof. When he got to his house he discovered that the hose was on his roof, and three witnesses affirmed that they had seen a man on his roof.

But how did he hose off the roof cannot be explained, for the power lines were melted so the electric lines that powered the water pump melted, so the hose would not have worked.

Also there was no way to get on the roof—no ladder, and the overhang on the roof would have prevented climbing up there.



When this man had escaped for his life as the fire was closing in on his property, there was no other way to his property, fire was everywhere, so no one could have come—unless they were a special someone sent from God; someone that fire could not harm.

Could this helpful man have been an angelic helper? Perhaps he was sent to assist and answer the prayers of those who were praying for Joe, and to bless Joe, who was praising the Lord and trusting God to do what was best.

IN EVERY THING GIVE
THANKS: FOR THIS IS THE
WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST
JESUS CONCERNING YOU.

(1 THESSALONIANS 5:18)



TELL-A-PIC:

**SAVED BY
A PSALM**

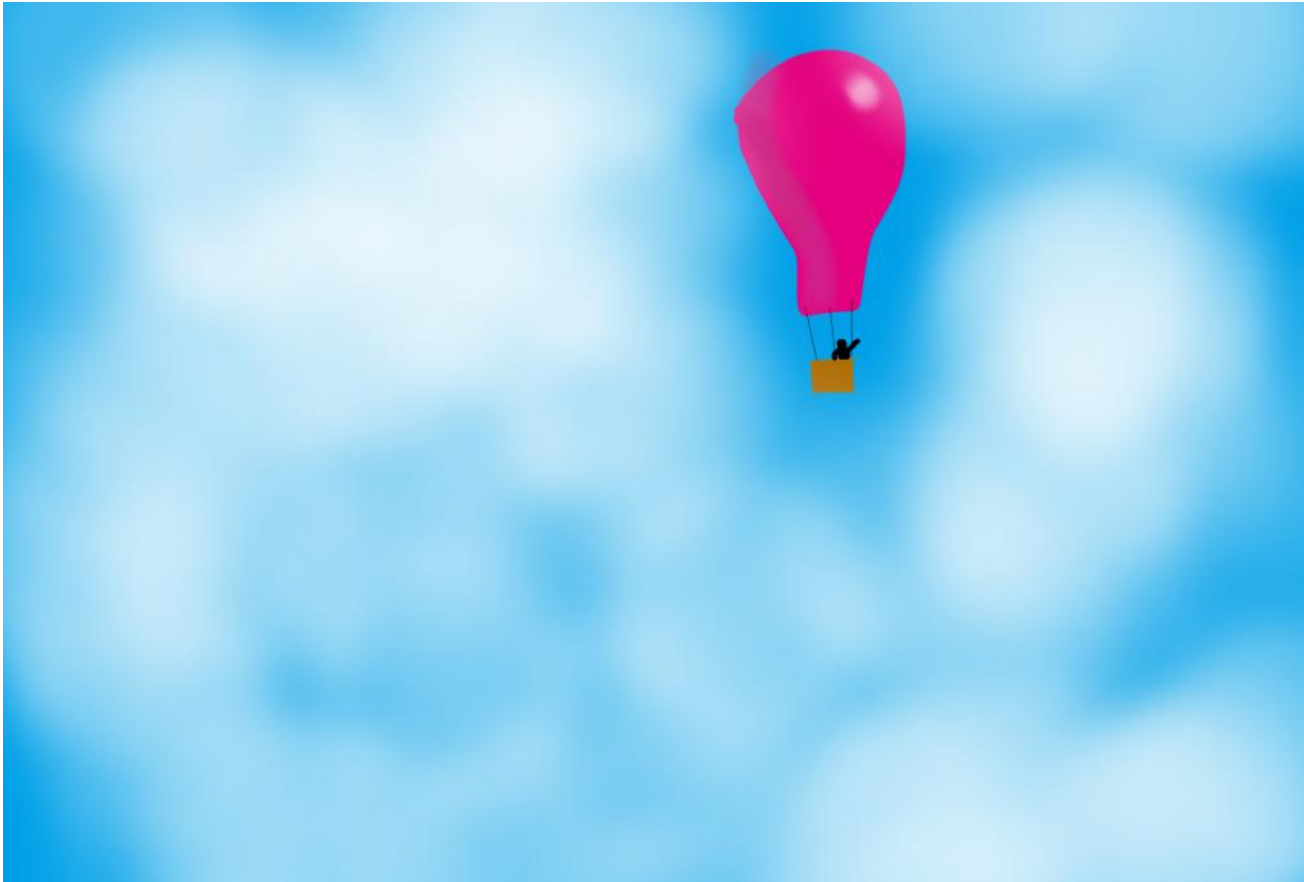


Saved by a Psalm

Once in Albuquerque there was a lady who was learning to fly a hot-air balloon. One day she and some of her friends went to a desert area to fly the balloon.

She would take a solo flight, and her friends would help with the inflation of the balloon, as well as drive to where she was to land to assist her.

After inflating the balloon she took off and floated gently into the air. This had been a girl-hood dream for her, to fly a balloon, and now it was really happening.



She floated up; all her earthly problems seemed less important now. Then, just as things were seeming so nice and peaceful, she spotted a miniature tornado swirling on the desert.

She knew she had to get down; she had to land immediately.

These miniature tornados are a balloonist worst fear. They can swirl balloons around and shoot them out thousands of feet, and at the end give them a fateful crash.

She started descending quickly, but only heard the pick-up truck's horn and the hysterical screams of her friends too late, as they pointed to another miniature tornado.



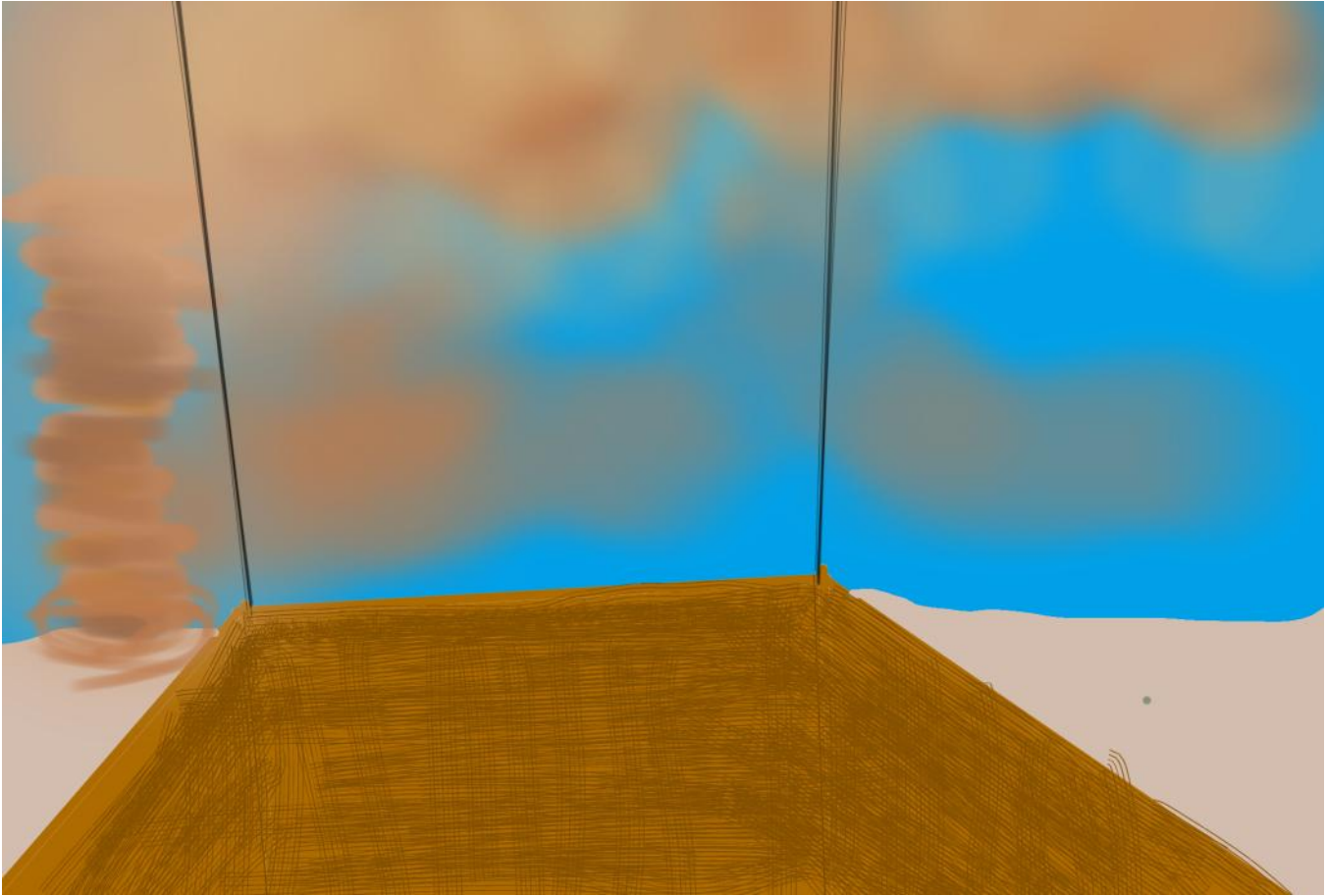
She swirled around and saw a massive miniature tornado heading towards her, from behind. She pulled open the deflation panel at the top of the envelope (the “envelope” is the actual hot-air balloon).

At the top of the envelope there is a hole that can be opened.

This is not used in flight, but can be opened for a fast decent.

Just as things were looking good, and nearly landed and safe, she was hurled and knocked down and pinned to the bottom of the basket with the force as the whirling wind took control of her balloon and its basket.

She struggled to her feet as she found her balloon was being pulled up quickly into the air by the miniature tornado.



Her balloon was being swung around and there was nothing she could do about it, or so she thought.

Then she remembered a Psalm she learned as a child: "And call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee" (Psalm 50:15)

She clung onto that promise for dear life.

Even if it had seemed problems down on earth didn't instantly all vanish the moment she prayed, she knew this was her only hope.

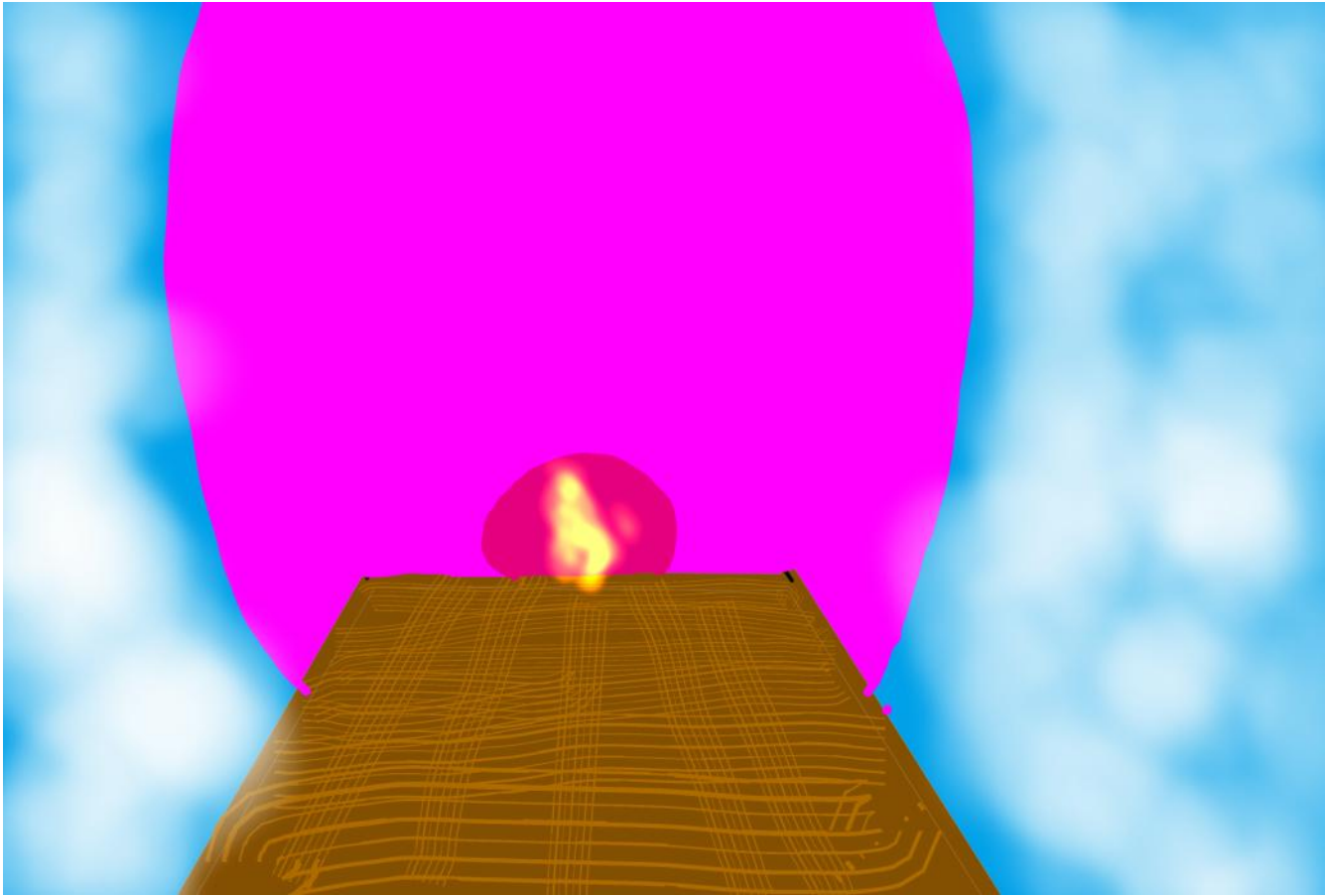
She clung onto that verse, and cried "Help me, God! I don't know what to do!"



Suddenly she felt an urge to open the burner valve to heat up the balloon. It didn't make much sense as she was all ready going up and up with the force of the swirling wind, and there wasn't anything she could do about it. But the urge was so strong she did it anyway.

She pulled the valve and inflated the balloon. Hot air had been leaking out of the top of the balloon at the time, as the deflation panel was partly open, and being pulled open more and more.

This would put her at risk of falling all the way to the ground, as soon as she was free of the whirling wind, if something didn't happen.



But as she followed that leading to inflate the balloon, the tightening of the walls of the balloon cause the valve at the top hold, as it was no longer stressed. Less air was coming out.

Just then, as she was holding her breath, things calmed down. She realised she was coming out of the top of the miniature tornado!

She then was able to float away and then down, and had a bumpy but safe landing on the desert floor—much to the relief of her and her friends.

She still flies the hot-air balloon, but she has a different attitude. It's not to get away from her troubles down on Earth, but to get a little bit closer to God.

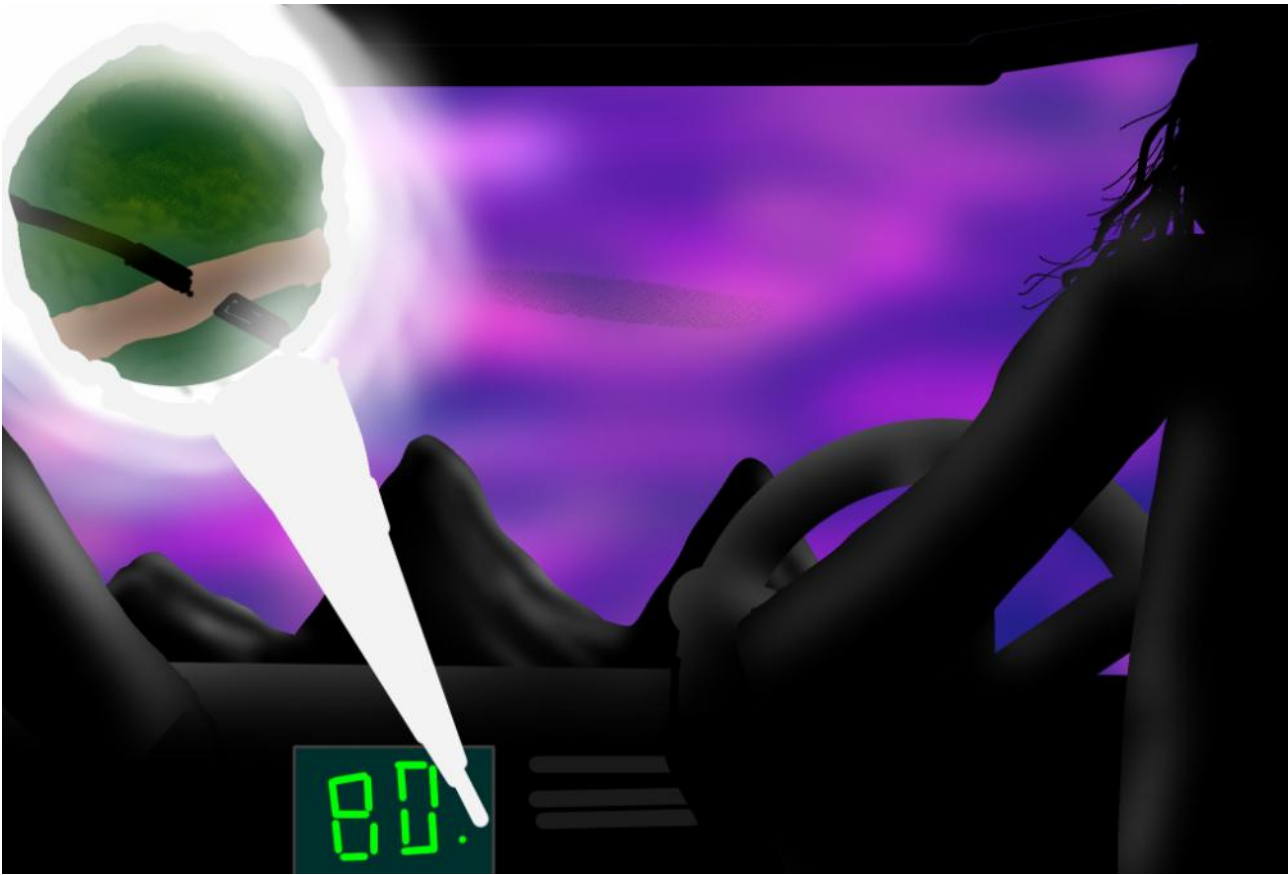
CALL UPON ME IN THE
DAY OF TROUBLE: I WILL
DELIVER THEE, AND THOU
SHALT GLORIFY ME.

(PSALM 50:15)



TELL-A-PIC:

**A GUIDE IN
THE DARK**



Guide in the Dark

A mother and daughter and two St. Bernards dogs were travelling in a flooded area. They heard a news bulletin over the radio:

“Due to extensive flooding in southern Tennessee & Missouri, the bridge in Crithersville, Missouri, has been washed out. We suggest you take the Brown's Ferry crossing instead.”

But where was Brown's Ferry? They drove on and came to a gas station. The attendant at the station gave them directions. Were they correct?



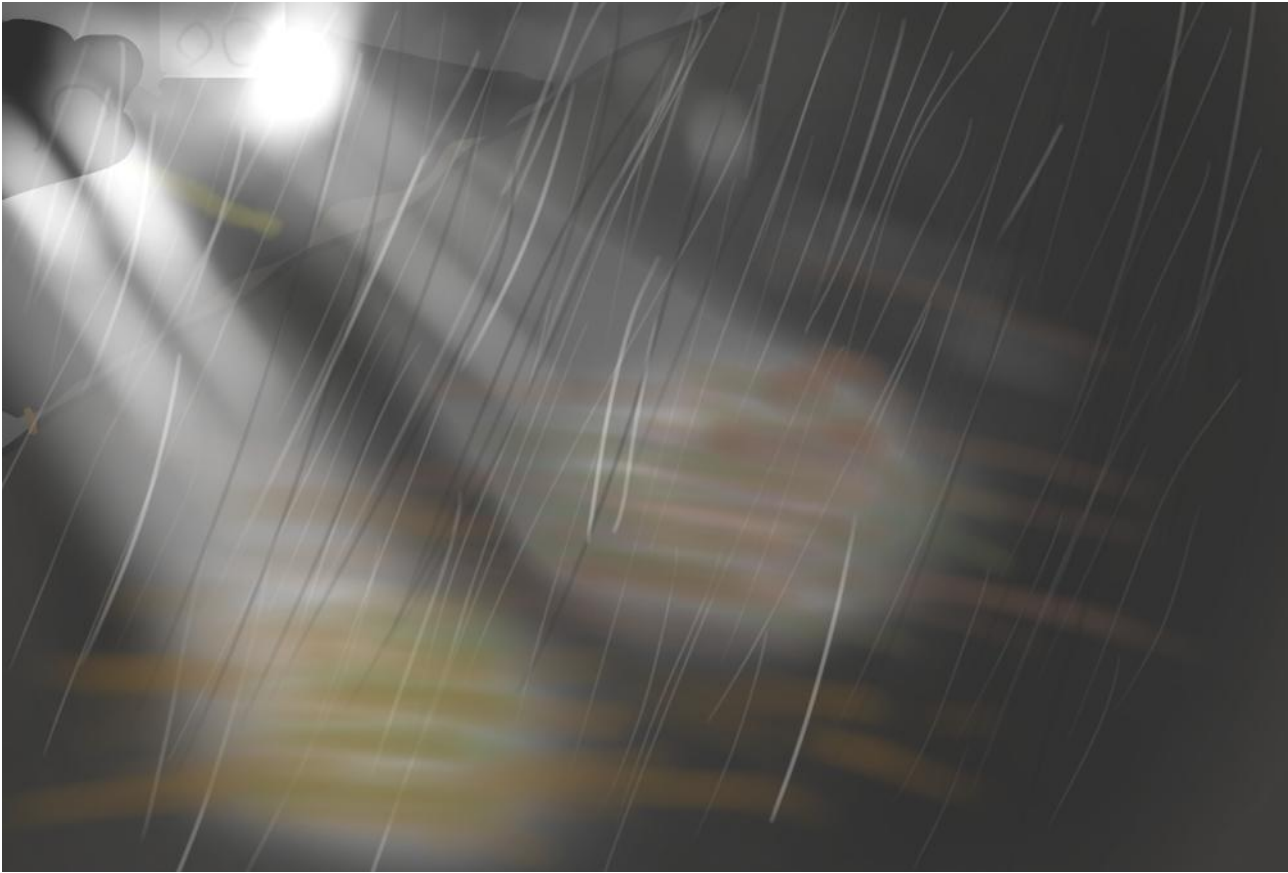
The mother and daughter drove on into the darkness.

It was scary, they didn't know if they were going to get lost.

When the daughter, Debbie started crying, mother said,

“Perhaps we should pray?” so they did.

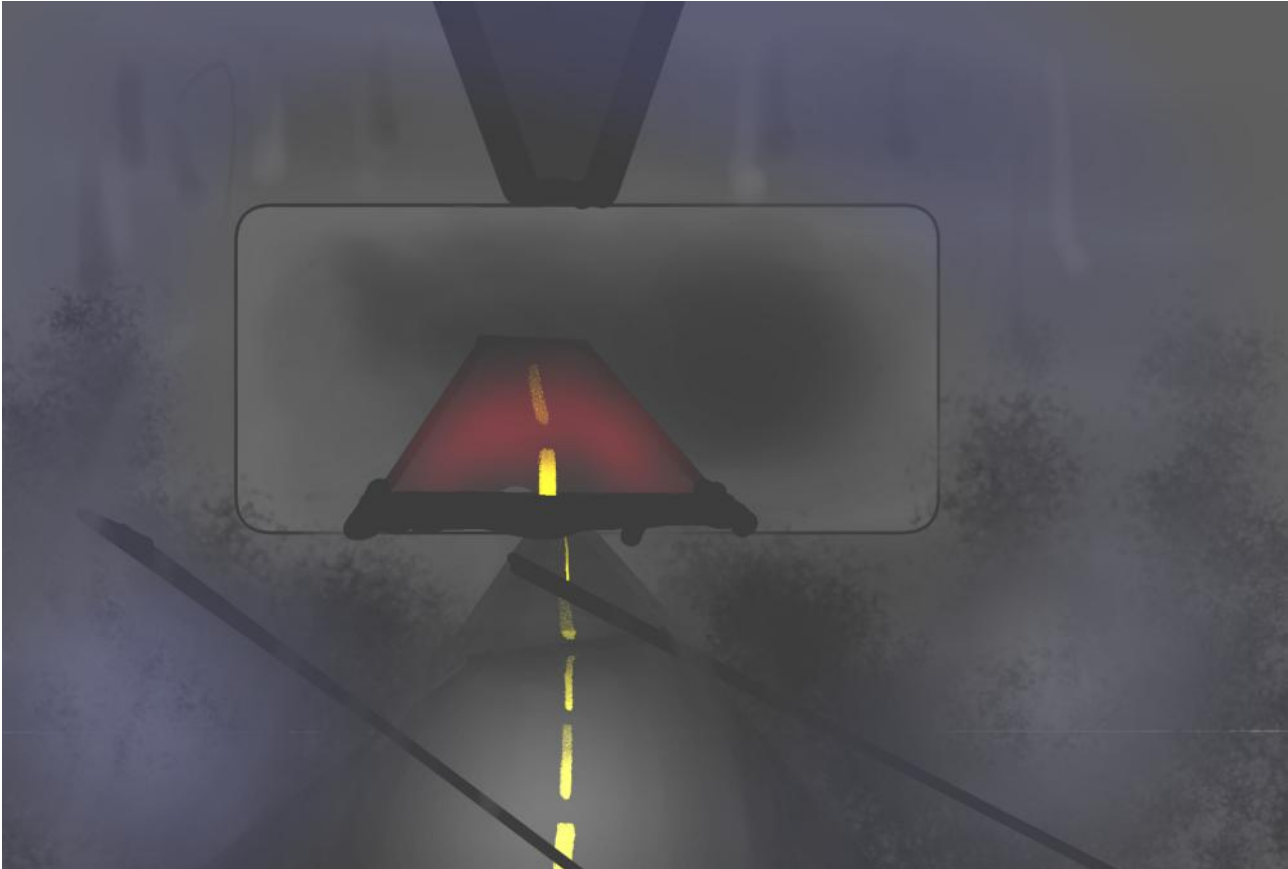
Then they came to a flooded area in the road. Mother got out of the car to see how deep the water was. It had a flowing current.



Just then another set of headlights appeared. It was a man in a cream coloured car. They asked him if he knew the way, he did. With his car he led them through the watery area.

They drove and followed him carefully. When they were safely across he gave them directions where to go next.

The mother extensively thanked the man and started driving.



She looked back in her rear view mirror and there were no headlights, no car, not even houses in sight, and nowhere that he could hide or have gone.

She shouted out,

“Look, back there Debbie! There’s no one there!”

“You’re right!” Debbie said. “It must have been an angel.”

HE SHALL GIVE HIS
ANGELS CHARGE OVER
THEE, TO KEEP THEE IN
ALL THY WAYS.

(PSALM 91:11)