



DAY 37

A Chance to Help

Joshua 1-9: Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

It was 2:00 AM. I was driving alone on a thirty mile stretch where the road is six feet above the sea,

resting on a manmade elevated plateau. I was passing an area of mangrove swamps that lay in complete seclusion and silence. I approached a long right hand curve suspended above the deepest section of the mangroves.

I saw the taillights of a car about a quarter mile ahead, approaching the curve. Suddenly, the car increased in speed. Its taillights quickly disappeared into the blackness. A sudden burst of speed! Did something frighten the driver?

Another car's headlights was coming toward me now. When it reached the curve it also increased its speed and roared past me. What was going on?

I entered this curve, looking carefully at the side of the road. There! There it is! Oh my God, a bloody human hand was reaching out of the swamp slowly waving back and forth. I quickly stopped my car, grabbed a flashlight, and ran toward the bloody hand. I found a woman desperately clinging to the mangrove roots below the roadway. She was half submerged in the water.

The road was above her. She was trying to get help by waving her hand above the road surface. She had lost control of her car on the curve and drove off the road into the swamp. She had managed to get out of her car and crawl to the base of the road.

This was a special occasion. God had given me a chance to help someone in dire need. He trusted and selected me to rescue this woman – what an honor! He gave the same opportunity to the two other drivers – they declined. We will always have free choice.

I bandaged her wounds, called the Florida State Highway Patrol, and waited for their arrival. Her injuries were not serious. She was going to be fine.

Serving and loving God's people is not always easy. Helping others frequently involves personal risk, some danger, uncomfortable decisions, and often fear. Do you want to be a little courageous? Then you must first be a little afraid.

Dear Lord, You have placed us on this earth to continue your work by loving our fellow man. As we represent your goodness to others, we thank you for so many opportunities to show them your love and continue your work. Please keep us safe and alert as we venture into the unknown, ready to serve mankind in your name. Amen.

– Roger Cram