

- This astonishing submarine rescue story reminds me of some very wise information passed onto a group of us by Bruce Lindsay, an extraordinary aircraft structural engineer, who served for decades in PNG with MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship). Bruce mentioned “*When in a fix remember Philippians 4: 6*” – a Bible reference which states .. *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God (plus an additional verse) 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* Philippians 4:6,7.
- Tex and his crew presented a request to God and there was a miraculous rescue. When we are in a “fix” our Lord welcomes us to talk to Him in prayer. The answer may not always be as stunning as in this story and sometimes it may seem God is not answering at all. God’s answer will be a “yes”, “no” or “not yet”. Sometimes we have to listen and wait. You never know what might happen when an individual or a group of people, or even a whole nation genuinely reach out to our Creator in prayer.
- Humble ourselves and pray, turn from our evil ways, commit our lives to Jesus and see what amazing things can happen when we seek Him. Of course we don’t just pray for our needs but it is good to express our thanks to our Heavenly Father for the good things that happening in our lives too. This can be as simple as saying a prayer of thanks for the food and as we sit down and eat a meal together. .
- ◆ Australian, Dr Graeme Clarke—inventor of the cochlear implant went off for a prayer weekend retreat before implanting his first “cochlear implant” ... he had massive opposition from many quarters—the Lord answered—now more than 125,000 profoundly deaf people benefit!!!
- ◆ In the journey of life all of us will face desperate situations at some stage... 2 Chronicles 7:14..



*If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

## Our Eyes are upon You Lord! .. 2 Chronicles 20:1-30

- Exhausted after fishing all night Tex went below deck to sleep. Just hours later he was woken by panicking friends. The boat was sinking. By the time Tex got to the deck there was nothing they he could do except abandon ship. They only had life jackets & inner tubes to keep them afloat.
- The men were in trouble and currents were sweeping them out to sea. Night was coming and two men swam towards what they thought were boat lights in the distance. They drowned. By morning the situation had worsened. A tube was losing air. There was no food and water. Overhead planes did not see them. It was then that Tex decided to call a prayer meeting

### Now a different location and 2800+ years earlier..

- Jehoshaphat King of Judah, heard bad news, a huge enemy army was at En Gedi. (not far from Jerusalem) This was a catastrophic threat for the nation. Jehoshaphat called a prayer meeting.

1. An \_\_\_\_\_ Situation.. 2 Chronicles 20:1,2.

*After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat. Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Dead Sea. It is already in Hazezon Tamar” (that is, En Gedi).*

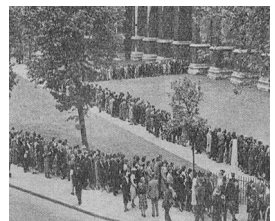
- Today, En Gedi, with its lush vegetation, springs and waterfalls, is a nature reserve in Israel—on our visit there we observed wildlife like the Nubian Ibex and the Rock Hyrax... located west of the Dead Sea, near Masada and the Qumran Caves—roughly 60 klm from Jerusalem. It was here that the Moabites and Ammonites camped and prepared to attack Israel.—more than 800 years BC. Out of the beauty and tranquility of En Gedi a huge enemy force was preparing for battle...



2. Seeking \_\_\_\_\_ from the LORD.. (Yahweh) Vs 3-4.

*Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. <sup>4</sup> The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek Him*

- Overwhelming threat—totally “outgunned” vs 2.. A vast army. There are times when we may hear terrifying news —eg threats from dangerous people, COVID-19 pandemic (horrific in Europe and the US at the moment), accidents, illnesses, traumatic events.. There are wonderful principles we can be reminded of as we read of the response of Jehoshaphat to this huge threat to the people of Judah.
- What would *you* do if you heard some threatening news that affected your future, the future of your family, the future of your nation.. This godly king did the right thing —firstly he inquired of the Lord and proclaimed a fast.. He called a national prayer meeting and encouraged the people to trust God in the face of this overwhelming crisis..
- In more recent times when hundreds of thousands of soldiers were under threat at Dunkirk during the 2nd World War King George VI did an amazing thing—resulting in the “The Miracle of Dunkirk”...



3. Acknowledge our Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ ... vs 5-6

Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem in the house of the LORD, in front of the new courtyard and said, "O LORD, God of our fathers, are You not the God who is in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand, and no one can stand against You" 2 Chronicles 20:5-6.

- Jehoshaphat acknowledges our Lord's Power...Where his hope comes from.. The God who spoke the Creation into existence has incomprehensible power... Louie Giglio..

4. We are \_\_\_\_\_, but our eyes are upon You (Lord) vs 12.

*Our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this vast army that comes against us.* 2 Chronicles 20:12a..

- King Jehoshaphat confesses our inadequacies in his prayer but not without hope: We are weak but You, our God, are strong. There are many circumstances in life where we can't manage, we can't handle...It can be sickness, or financial problems... or the school bully...

*We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon You* 2 Chronicles 20:12.

- It is too easy for us to focus on the circumstances and not on the Lord Himself...Remember Peter

*Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. "You of little faith," He said, "why did you doubt?"* Matthew 14.



- Peter had stepped out in faith and good on him for doing that - but then he took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the wind and the waves.. If we take our eyes off Jesus and look at the circumstances we can despair and sink. Keep our eyes upon Jesus—rather than focussing on our weaknesses

Our Eyes are on You Lord...

*My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for He will pluck my feet out of the net* Psalm 25:15

*I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth* Psalm 121:1-2.

*...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God* Hebrews 12:2



*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.*

5. Our Lord \_\_\_\_\_ Himself.. Vs 13-17..

*Meanwhile all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. And the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel... And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's.' Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you"* 2 Chronicles 20:13-17.

- Wait on Him ..stand firm, the people stood waiting (their wait was short, but the wait could be long) and then the Lord revealed Himself.. God spoke through Jahaziel: the battle is not yours but God's...



6. Humble \_\_\_\_\_ and worship... Vs 20-22.

- Even before victory, they believed, worshipped, and sang. The good news is we know that Christ has won the ultimate victory, but we often have to fight for the right perspective during our darkest hours ... we can begin to think negatively if we take our eyes off Jesus

*Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshipping the LORD* (2 Chronicles 20:18).

*....And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the LORD and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, "Give thanks to the LORD, for His steadfast love endures forever."* vs 21...

7. The Lord \_\_\_\_\_...

*And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed* 2 Chronicles 20:22

- Everyone of the enemy was destroyed - they destroyed one another....It was an incredible victory... and the Israelite soldiers did not have to raise a hand..

8. A wonderful \_\_\_\_\_... vs 29,30..

*The fear of God came on all the surrounding kingdoms when they heard how the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel. 30 And the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.* 2 Chronicles 20: 29,30.

- Tex decided to call a prayer meeting. No one objected. With all hope gone this group of tough, self sufficient sailors had only one place to turn. They pleaded for God to intervene. The moment the last man finished his prayer Tex looked up. "A stick" he cried out. ...

