

Wonderful Words Of Life

2-2-14

Johnny Bartek grew up in Freehold, New Jersey. He attended one year of high school before flunking out at age 16. For the next several years he worked at various jobs but couldn't find one that he enjoyed.

Dissatisfied with his opportunities at home, he decided to join the Army Air Force soon after turning 18. He became a flight mechanic and was aboard the aircraft carrying Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, that was lost at sea because of bad weather and inadequate navigation equipment.

The crew spent three weeks at sea in a crowded life raft and ~~and~~ all but one survived the horrific, harrowing ordeal once it was over. Very few supplies were on the raft and after three days they ran out of food and water. One of the few items on the raft was a Bible.

The inscription in the Bible read, "A Sacred Token, to John F. Bartek from the First Baptist Church, Freehold, NJ, April 7, 1942." On the eighth day, a few minutes after they read a portion of Scripture from the Bible, a sea gull landed on the head of Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, which became food and fish bait to help keep the men alive until they were rescued.

The men on the raft believed it was a sign from God. Now I know your wondering, "What verse did they read?" Well they read, "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ... for your Heavenly Father knows that you need them.

Many years before those eight men on that raft needed nourishment, the Psalmist wrote, "He sent forth His Word and healed them; He rescued them from the grave."

Rebecca Williams III