

## A Dad Who Wouldn't Quit

The 1989 Armenian earthquake needed only four minutes to flatten the nation and kill 30,000 people.

Author and minister Max Lucado, in his book *You Changed My Life: Stories of Real People with Remarkable Hearts*, writes about one emotional story of that tragedy.

Moments after the deadly tremor ceased, a father raced to an elementary school to save his son.

When he arrived, he saw that the building had been leveled. Looking at the mass of stones and rubble, he remembered a promise he had made to his child: "No matter what happens, I'll always be there for you."

Driven by his own promise, he found the area closest to his son's room and began to pull back the rocks. Other parents arrived and began sobbing for their children.

"It's too late," they told the man. "You know they are dead. You can't help." Even a police officer encouraged him to give up

But the father refused. For 8 hours, then 16, then 32, 36 hours he dug. His hands were raw and his energy gone, but he refused to give up.

Finally, after 38 wrenching hours, he pulled back a boulder and heard his son's voice. He called his boy's name, "Arman! Arman!"

And a voice answered him. "Dad, it's me!"

Then the boy added these priceless words: "I told the other kids not to worry. I told them if you were alive, you'd save me, and when you saved me, they'd be saved, too. Because you promised, 'No matter what, I'll always be there for you.'"

As believers in Christ, whatever adverse situation, whatever difficulty, whatever tragedy we may face, we can always count on the promise our Lord made to us: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20 NKJ).

– Beecher Hunter