



A Hurricane Prayer

With Hurricane Frances churning toward the Florida coastline, I am reminded of a story told by James David Ford, former chaplain of the United States House of Representatives. Here it is:

"In the spring of 1976, I sailed the Atlantic Ocean with a couple of friends. In a 31-foot vessel, we sailed from Plymouth, England, to New York -- 5,992 miles. During the trip, we hit a real hurricane. Some of the waves were 35 feet high, and frankly, I was scared. My father had said, 'Don't go. You have five children. Wait till they're grown.'

"The hurricane went into its third day, and I thought of my father's words about the children. I thought, 'Why am I out here? Was this thing that I thought was courage and adventure really just foolhardy?'

"The skies were black, and clouds were scudding by. I wanted to pray for God to stop the storm, but I felt guilty 'cause I'd voluntarily gotten into this. I didn't have to go across the ocean.

"Finally, I came up with a marvelous prayer, seven words: 'O God, I have had enough. Amen.'

"Within half an hour of that simple prayer, the sky in the west lifted like a screen in a theater, and there was blue sky.

"Was my prayer tied to the opening of the sky? I don't worry about it."

Ford was convinced -- and so am I -- that simple, sincere prayers are sufficient.

With Hurricane Charley striking three weeks ago, the residents of Florida -- and Life Care -- can pray, as did Chaplain Ford: "O God, we have had enough. Please send Frances back into the Atlantic. Amen."

--Beecher Hunter