

## A LIGHTED CARPET IN THE SEA



Jim Lovell, famed astronaut and commander of the failed Apollo 13 mission to the moon (a mission which very nearly cost the lives of Commander Lovell and his crew), was once asked if he had ever faced genuine fear or hopelessness before.

He responded by recounting the events of a particular night mission over the Sea of Japan during World War II.

The fighter jet he was piloting was severely crippled. Both his radar and homing devices failed. He was flying blind, and knew that he wouldn't even be able to see the lights of his aircraft carrier below because they were sailing in blackout mode due to the combat conditions.

As he turned on his map light to try to get his bearings, all of his lights and instrumentation shorted out. Without his altimeter, he had no way of gauging how close he was to crashing into the darkness of the waters below.

Just when he felt all hope was lost, he saw the faint, phosphorescent glow of a long trail of algae. Lovell went on to explain that large ships churn up the algae in their wake as they cut through the ocean seas. He knew his carrier had to be close.

“It was like a long carpet laid out for me, leading me home,” he said.

Had his lights not failed, he would never have been able to see the faint glow below. He wistfully recalled, “You never know what events will transpire to get you home.”

God often sends help from surprising sources; I've discovered that in my life – help when I needed it most – in unexpected, unbelievable ways.

The psalmist asked, “I lift up my eyes to mountains – where does my help come from?” (NIV).

Have you ever looked up to the hills wondering where help for you might come? The means by which God's deliverance might come is impossible to predict. He can use surprising things or circumstances – like the lights shorting out at what seems to be the worst possible moment.



(more)

But while the means may vary, the source of our salvation is always the same. The psalmist gives us that source as he answers his own question in the verse that follows: "My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

You never know what events will transpire to lead you home, but rest assured, God does.

*For this God is our God for ever and ever; He will be our guide even to the end* (Psalm 48:14 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter