

# A Vision in Tower 1

New York Port Authority Police Department officers Will Jimeno and John McLoughlin were the last two people rescued from the World Trade Center after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

For Jimeno, that tragic day represents a defining moment in his Christian faith.

Jimeno, McLoughlin, and three other officers entered Tower 1 to rescue civilians. But when they got inside, the building collapsed. McLoughlin and Jimeno were pinned under large blocks of concrete rubble and twisted steel. The other three officers were killed.

For the next 10 hours, Jimeno and his partner fought pain and thirst inside a concrete tomb swirling with dust and smoke. At times, ruptured gas lines would hurl fireballs into the ruins, threatening to burn the two men to death. In another terrifying moment, heat from the fireballs “cooked off” the ammunition inside the firearm of a fallen officer, sending 15 bullets ricocheting around the chamber.

Jimeno’s hope began to falter. “I was exhausted. I had done everything as a police officer that I could do, and everything as a human being,” he said. “I just knew I was going to die.”

Just then, Jimeno saw a figure coming toward him through the rubble. “He wore a glowing white robe and a rope belt,” Jimeno said. “I couldn’t see His face, but I knew it was Jesus.”

The vision filled Jimeno with hope. “I had this resurgence of the will to fight,” he said. Turning toward McLoughlin, he yelled, “We’re going to get out of this hellhole!”

Several hours later, U.S. Marines and NYPD rescue workers lifted the men out of their concrete prison.

The events of that day have given Jimeno a new perspective on the brevity of life. He noted that, even if a person lives to be 90 years old, that’s only a little over 32,000 days. “It’s not that many,” Jimeno said. “You have to do good and do right with the small period you have in between.”

Whether we are faced with a life-ending threat or not, we must recognize the truth of Jimeno’s conclusion. Whatever the number of our days on this earth, our time is relatively short. How we spend every day, every hour is important.

*For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away (James 4:14 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter

*(more)*

## *Whoops!*

*It's nice to know there are folks willing to challenge what they read and keep me honest!*

*Wednesday's Perspective was about the Bridger Wilderness, located in Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming. It is one of the most scenic areas of the United States.*

*Because of sloppy proofreading on my part, the article said that the 428-acre region was designated as a wilderness in 1964 and expanded to the current size in 1984. That would make it a pretty small piece of nature's handiwork.*

*Dr. Thomas Cooper, the nursing home specialist at Life Care Center of Kennewick, Washington, noticed the error immediately. He wrote by email: "I have hiked numerous times in the Bridger Wilderness and the surrounding national forest. It truly is an amazing place. I do believe, however, that it is a WHOLE lot bigger than 428 acres – oops!"*

*And he is right. The wilderness is 428,169 acres. And that is a sizeable difference! It's good to keep the record straight. Thanks, Dr. Cooper.*

*– Beecher Hunter*