

Drawn to an Island

Admiral Sir Thomas Williams (1761 – 1841) was a senior British Royal Navy officer who served in numerous theaters of operations during the American Revolutionary War, French Revolutionary Wars and Napoleonic Wars.

He distinguished himself as a young officer in a number of battles in the Caribbean, and as a frigate captain, he was knighted for his actions on June 8, 1776, in which two French frigates were captured without a single man killed or wounded on Williams' ship *HMS Unicorn*.

An interesting incident reveals something about his spiritual life.

Williams was in command of a ship that routinely crossed the Atlantic. His course brought him in sight of Ascension Island, which was uninhabited most of the time. The island was visited only once a year for the purpose of collecting turtles.

The island was barely visible on the horizon during one crossing when Williams felt a great urge to steer his vessel toward it. The closer he came to the island, the greater the urgency he felt.

When he gave the order to head for the island, his lieutenant officer respectfully pointed out that such a course change would greatly delay them. Even so, the admiral remained intent. The inner urging, which he had come to recognize as God's Spirit inside him, was very strong.

As the ship neared the island, his crew spotted a white flag. "It must be a signal!" Williams declared.

Sure enough, as the ship neared the beach, they found 16 men who had wrecked on the coast many days before. They were starving and had nearly given up hope of rescue.

In prayer, we are called upon to yield the rudder of our soul to God so that He might steer us toward His blessings or to opportunities to bless others.

Most of us can remember moments in our lives when that "still small voice within" – the Holy Spirit – was directing us to someone who needed our help or encouragement, or to a change in the course of direction of our lives.

Perhaps that was the case when you answered the call to work for Life Care or Century Park. We need to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Lord God of Israel, there is no God in heaven or on earth like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts (2 Chronicles 6:14 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter