

# Family Attacked by Pirates

The van Tuijls are a Dutch family who began leisurely sailing around the world in 1995. Life was quite pleasant until they were attacked in March of 2000 about 50 miles from Honduras.

They had anchored their steel, 44-foot yacht near Half Moon Reef in the Atlantic Ocean. Jacco van Tuijl launched an inflatable dinghy with his son, Willem, to fish a few hundred yards from their boat. While they were gone, modern-day pirates pulled alongside their yacht and boarded.

Sensing something was not right, the two family members headed back toward the yacht. The pirates opened fire on them and young Willem was instantly paralyzed from the waist down. Jacob desperately swam to the ship with his wounded son, and the attackers quickly departed without hurting his wife, Jannie.

She sent out a distress signal, but five hours passed before any help arrived. She held her son and kept assuring him that he would be all right.

While she kept continual pressure on her son's bleeding wound, Willem said, "I'm so happy they shot me, Mom."

She quickly asked, "How can you say that?"

He replied, "Because if they had shot one of you, I would have died from sadness."

Twenty-four hours would elapse before Willem received medical attention in a hospital in Honduras, but he survived the experience.

News accounts said he may never walk or stand again. But his parents will always remember the words that made him stand taller than he ever would with healthy legs.



The power of selfless love, you see, is amazing.

We know it happened in the ultimate way when Jesus Christ came to earth on a mission from His Father. He was beaten, put on a cross to bear our sins, and died to redeem us. Praise God, He arose from the grave and ascended to heaven where He intercedes with God on our behalf.

That is an incredible love!

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16 NKJV).*