

Just Hold On

On a commuter flight from Portland, Maine, to Boston, Henry Dempsey, the pilot, heard an unusual noise near the rear of the small aircraft. He turned the controls over to his co-pilot and went back to check it out.

As he reached the tail section, the plane hit an air pocket, and Dempsey was tossed against the rear door. He quickly discovered the source of the mysterious noise. The rear door had not been properly latched prior to takeoff, and it flew open. He was instantly sucked out of the jet.

The co-pilot, seeing the red light that indicated an open door, radioed the nearest airport, requesting permission to make an emergency landing. He reported that the pilot had fallen out of the plane, and he requested a helicopter search of that area of the ocean.

After the plane landed, however, they found Henry Dempsey -- holding on to the outdoor ladder of the aircraft. Somehow, he had miraculously caught the ladder, held on for 10 minutes as the plane flew 200 miles per hour at an altitude of 4,000 feet, and then, at landing, kept his head from hitting the runway, which was a mere 12 inches away. It took airport personnel several minutes to pry Dempsey's fingers from the ladder.

Circumstances and events in your life ever get turbulent? Grab on to something -- my suggestion is faith in God and the love and support of friends -- and hold on. Miracles still do occur.

--Beecher Hunter