

# Miracle on Mount Everest

In his book, *You Changed My Life*, Max Lucado tells the story of Dan Mazur and Lincoln Hall and the miracle atop Mount Everest.

Mazur stood within a two-hour hike of the summit of Mount Everest, 1,000 feet from realizing a lifelong dream. Every year, the fittest adventurers on earth set their sights on the 29,000-foot peak. Each year, some die in the effort. Temperatures hover below zero.



Now, Mazur and two colleagues were within eyesight of the top. Years of planning and six weeks of climbing, and they were now close. It was 7:30 a.m. on May 25, 2006.

That's when a flash of color caught Mazur's eye – a bit of yellow fabric on the ridgetop. He soon saw it was a person, a man precariously perched on an 8,000-foot, razor-edge rock. His gloves were off, jacket unzipped, hands exposed, chest bare. Mazur knew this man had no idea where he was, so he walked toward him and called out, "Can you tell me your name?"

"Yes," the man answered, sounding pleased. "I can. My name is Lincoln Hall."

Mazur was shocked. He recognized the name. Twelve hours earlier, he had heard the news on the radio: "Lincoln Hall is dead on the mountain. His team has left his body on the slope."

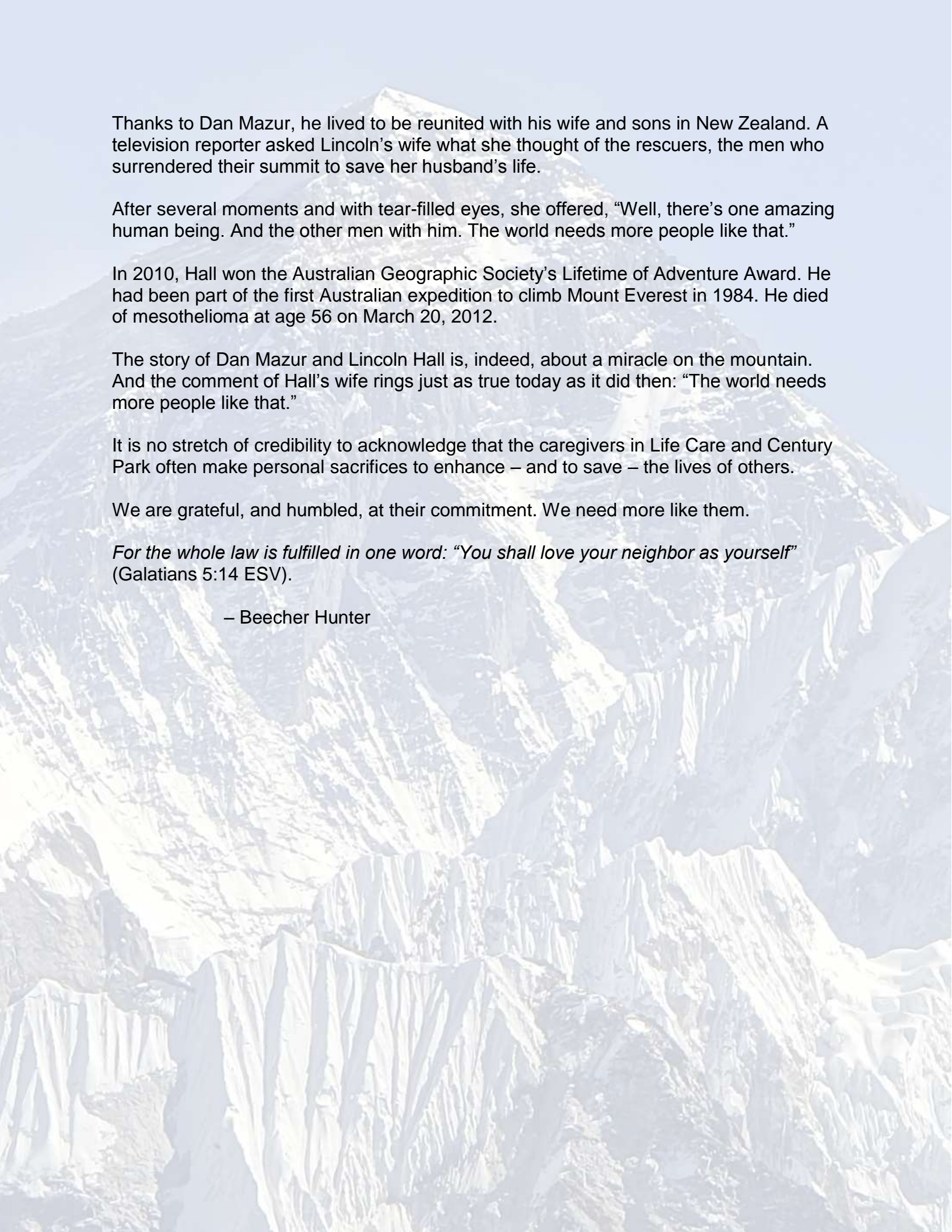


And yet, after spending the night in 20-below chill and oxygen-stingy air, Hall was still alive. Mazur was face-to-face with a miracle. He was also face-to-face with a choice. A rescue attempt had profound risks. The descent was already treacherous, even more so with the dead weight of a dying man.

Besides, how long would Hall survive? No one knew. The three climbers might sacrifice their Everest for naught. They had to choose: abandon their dream or abandon Lincoln Hall.

They chose to abandon their dream. The three turned their backs on the peak and inched their way down the mountain. Lincoln Hall survived the trip down Mount Everest.

(more)



Thanks to Dan Mazur, he lived to be reunited with his wife and sons in New Zealand. A television reporter asked Lincoln's wife what she thought of the rescuers, the men who surrendered their summit to save her husband's life.

After several moments and with tear-filled eyes, she offered, "Well, there's one amazing human being. And the other men with him. The world needs more people like that."

In 2010, Hall won the Australian Geographic Society's Lifetime of Adventure Award. He had been part of the first Australian expedition to climb Mount Everest in 1984. He died of mesothelioma at age 56 on March 20, 2012.

The story of Dan Mazur and Lincoln Hall is, indeed, about a miracle on the mountain. And the comment of Hall's wife rings just as true today as it did then: "The world needs more people like that."

It is no stretch of credibility to acknowledge that the caregivers in Life Care and Century Park often make personal sacrifices to enhance – and to save – the lives of others.

We are grateful, and humbled, at their commitment. We need more like them.

*For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Galatians 5:14 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter