

O'Grady's Rescue

In early June 1995, Air Force pilot Captain Scott O'Grady was shot down while helping to enforce the NATO no-fly zone over Bosnia. When the surface-to-air missile struck his F-16, O'Grady parachuted into hostile territory. Serbian forces immediately began searching for the pilot to capture him and use him as a bargaining tool.

O'Grady slept during the day, covered with camouflage netting, and traveled between midnight and 4 a.m. He soaked up rainwater with a sponge and ate grass and bugs. Even though armed Serbs were never far away from him, O'Grady managed to avoid capture for six days, when members of the U.S. Marine Corps carried out a daring rescue mission and plucked the young captain out of enemy territory. The mission was launched from the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Kearsarge, on which Aaron Matthews, son of Doug and Janice Matthews, longtime executive secretary in Life Care's Corporate and Community Relations office, was serving.

Like O'Grady, we have all been in enemy territory. We are born with a sin nature, and we come into a world under the influence of Satan. He is armed with lies, traps and temptations to keep us under his dominion. Satan desperately tries to capture our soul.

But God carried out a daring rescue mission on our behalf. He sent Jesus, His Son, into the middle of hostile territory, where He knew Jesus would be rejected, persecuted and crucified.

But through Christ's sacrificial death, God rescued us from Satan's kingdom of darkness and brought us into Christ's kingdom of light and love. God's plan was carried out before we were born, but we have to make the choice to be rescued. Once we are delivered, and get a taste of the abundant life He offers, we wonder how we ever survived on the spiritual equivalent of grass and bugs.

He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son. (Colossians 1:13)

--Beecher Hunter