

Mysterious Ways

True Stories
of the Miraculous

Editors of GUIDEPOSTS



a division of Baker Publishing Group
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Editors of Guideposts, Mysterious Ways
Revell Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, © 2016. Used by permission.

(Unpublished manuscript—copyright protected Baker Publishing Group)

© 2016 by Guideposts

Published by Revell
a division of Baker Publishing Group
P.O. Box 6287, Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6287
www.revellbooks.com

Printed in the United States of America

Previously published by Guideposts

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—for example, electronic, photocopy, recording—without the prior written permission of the publisher. The only exception is brief quotations in printed reviews.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is on file at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

ISBN 978-0-8007-2876-2

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations labeled ESV are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. ESV Text Edition: 2011

Scripture quotations labeled KJV are from the King James Version of the Bible.

Scripture quotations labeled NIV are from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

In keeping with biblical principles of creation stewardship, Baker Publishing Group advocates the responsible use of our natural resources. As a member of the Green Press Initiative, our company uses recycled paper when possible. The text paper of this book is composed in part of post-consumer waste.



Editors of Guideposts, *Mysterious Ways*
Revell Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, © 2016. Used by permission.

(Unpublished manuscript—copyright protected Baker Publishing Group)

Contents

Introduction 9

Part 1: A Very Present Help

The Bilge Pump *by Aline Alexander Newman* 13

About That G in GPS . . . *by Shari Severini* 15

Someone's in Trouble! *by John and Elizabeth Sherrill* 18

The Billboard in the Snow *by Ruth Schenk* 22

Bulletproof *by Evan Miller* 24

The Cross in the Water *by Eros M. Savage* 29

False Alarm *by Dennis O'Keefe* 31

Protected by the Word *by Adam Hunter* 33

A Cry of Help *by Karin Asbrand* 36

Last Leap *by Kevin Hines* 38

911 at the Parsonage *by Nancy Brooks* 43

Protected *by Henry Mungle* 45

The Embankment *by Carole Murphy* 49

Part 2: Heaven's Healing

A Bloom in the Dark *by Dawn Burns* 53

Walking Miracle *by Evan Miller* 56

Contents

- I Saw the Hand of God Move *by Joe Stevenson* 60
A History of Violence *by Vikki Burke* 66
Someone Else's Reunion *by Mary Cantell* 70
Reconnected *by Francine Baldwin-Billingslea* 74
The Cure *by Vivienne L. George* 77
The Rest of Her Life *by Evan Miller* 82
Healed *by Sam Vaught* 86
The Yellow Kite *by Beverly Newman* 89
Wide Awake *by Robert E. Lohstroh Jr.* 93
Miracle Baby *by Paula Lenneman* 97
A Glimpse of Evil *by Linda Stevens* 100

Part 3: The Writing on the Wall

- Mission Boulevard *by Dorothy Frisby* 107
Maternal Instincts? *by Ann Elizabeth Robertson* 112
Pray for Lisa *by Kimberly Wood* 117
A Peaceful Presence *by Susan Fawcett* 119
Sunflower Promise *by Barbara Jackson* 123
The Dream That Wouldn't Go Away *by George Hunt* 125
A Sign *by Nita Talbot* 130
"Forgive" *by Dorinda Axne* 135
Prompting in the Night *by Patricia Joseph-Lyle* 139
A Poem for the Pain *by Lori Cohen* 141
The Picture in Aunt Lana's Mind *by Robert J. Foss* 145
What's in a Name? *by Katha Bardel* 151
If You Can't Be in Vancouver . . . *by Sharon Wallace* 154

Part 4: Right Place, Right Time

- How Booth Saved Lincoln *by Rick Hamlin* 161
The Earthmover *by Les Brown* 164
The Baby in the Backseat *by Daniel Kessel* 168
A Husband at My Door *by Bonda Owens* 174

Contents

- Long Lost *by Diana Aydin* 178
Danger in the Night *by Irma Dewaters* 183
Family Ties *by Meg Belviso* 187

Part 5: Sure and Steadfast

- RTD-17 *by Jackie Clements-Marenda* 193
Those Fish! *by Peggy Wood Stewart* 196
Comfort in the Drive-Through *by Peggy Frezon* 202
A Calendar for Courage *by Margaret Hillis* 204
Luke 1:37 *by Margaret Terry* 210
A Soldier's Story *by Hillary Carnegie* 213
Crash Landing *by Barbara Walker* 217
Mrs. Joseph's Angel *by Charlotte Hale Allen* 220
A Survivor's Song *by Danielle Eliska Lyle* 225

Part 6: Divine Consolation

- The Smile *by Lorraine Standish* 231
Pat's Cards *by Peggy Hartman* 234
The Shepherd's Touch *by Angelica Spraker Van Wie* 236
Grandma Anita *by Debbie Badano* 240
Number 75 *by Riki Lambright* 242
The Image on the Mirror *by Janis Heaphy Durham* 244
Buxtehude *by Donna Swonke* 249

Part 7: Ask and You Shall Receive

- Not Tomorrow, Today! *by Christy Caldwell* 253
The Wrong Turn *by Mark Andrews* 255
An Apartment for Rent *by Ginger Lloyd* 259
Surprise at Sunrise *by Betty Head* 261
My Hidden History *by Diane Gosheff* 264
The Only Brother I've Got *by Linda Silfies* 268
The Problem of the Barn *by Kathie Kania* 270

- The One I Prayed For *by Terrie Bradstreet* 276
All Our Needs *by Pauline Smith* 279

Part 8: The Hidden Hand of God

- Block 11 *by Daniel Kessel* 285
Missing? *by Ellie Vetter* 291
The Case of the Flying Quilt *by Daniel Kessel* 293
Fleeing for Our Lives *by Marta Gabre-Tsadick* 297
Love Note *by Paul Grachan* 303
Nineteen Bibles *by John Keith* 306
One More Day *by Roberta Messner* 308
The Ryndam *by Wilhelmina Feddema* 312
Who Was the Woman in the Picture? *by Nancy Burgett* 314
The Case of the Stained-Glass Windows *by Evan Miller* 317
Out of the Ruins *by Jim Hinch* 321
The Surprising Saga of the Chained Prince *by Rick Hamlin* 326
#149 DTG *by Cindy Holland* 330

Part 9: Animals—God’s Special Messengers

- Shadow *by Diana Aydin* 335
The Leopard *by Erica Kaggwa, as told to Danielle Eliska Lyle* 339
Guard Cat *by Linda Kennedy-Blanton* 343
Intruder *by Katie White* 345
The Disappearance *by Evan Miller* 349
The Moth *by Charlene Russo* 353
Homage to Mkhulu *by Françoise Malby Anthony* 357
Kash *by Doris Richardson* 361

A Note from the Editors 363

Introduction

For years, *Guideposts* magazine readers have been sharing stories of those unexpected and miraculous moments when a loving power reaches into their lives, moments that are surely more than coincidence. We call these stories “Mysterious Ways.” When we began publishing these startling and unforgettable accounts thirty-five years ago, we immediately knew we had struck a spiritual sweet spot with our readers, and nothing was more convincing than the thousands of stories sent in, which left them—and us—breathless with wonder at the goodness of God. “Mysterious Ways” soon became the most popular feature in *Guideposts*, so popular that it eventually became a magazine itself, packed with stories that send shivers down your spine and bring tears to your eyes.

This book is a collection of the absolute best stories we’ve published over the last five years, plus more than fifteen classics from our archives—the most wondrous Mysterious Ways that have come across our desks. These true, personal experiences prove what our hearts know: everything happens for a reason, and that reason is often made clear to us in amazing and life-changing

ways—ways that fill us with awe and gratitude and deepen our trust in the Almighty.

I like to say, “Mysterious Ways are the intersections in life where God is directing traffic.”

You’re in for a treat: more than ninety unforgettable moments when the curtain of heaven was drawn back for a shining instant. Each will remind you that we do not pass through this world unaided. This is a book you’ll experience in your soul. It will inspire, nourish, and even, I believe, change you.

Edward Grinnan
Editorial Director, *Guideposts* magazine

PART 1

A Very Present Help

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

PSALM 46:1

The Bilge Pump

ALINE ALEXANDER NEWMAN

The sun sparkled on the water, the fragrance of pines filled the air, the sky was a vibrant blue. My husband, Neil, and I had just opened our summer cabin in the Adirondacks, and it was the perfect day for the one chore that remained—retrieving our old motorboat from winter storage.

I loved taking the boat out, and every year for the past fifteen years, I'd piloted it the fourteen miles through a picturesque chain of lakes to our cabin, while Neil drove our car. It was virtually a tradition. Now, though, as we got close to the boat launch, I suddenly got nervous.

“What’s wrong, honey?” Neil asked.

“I don’t know,” I said. “I just feel so apprehensive.” I looked over our boat, a six-seater built for water-skiing with a seventy-five-horsepower outboard motor. It had served us well over the years, though the turquoise-and-white paint job was worn away near the waterline. Still, it had cruised fine last summer. It was just how we’d left it. So why was I feeling so skittish?

“Want me to drive the boat this time?” Neil offered. “I’ll meet you at the cabin.”

“Deal,” I said, relieved.

Neil climbed in, fired up the motor, and putt-putted away. I got into the car and headed for our cabin. The boat couldn’t go as fast as the car—too many waves and narrow channels. So I was the first to arrive. Then the minutes ticked away. After waiting for almost half an hour for Neil, I panicked. *Oh, Lord, what if something went wrong?* I ran out on our dock and looked out over the water.

Finally, the boat appeared around the bend. *Whew*, I thought. Then I noticed . . . the boat didn’t look right. It rode way too low in the water. Neil was at the helm, waving frantically. He barely made it to the dock.

“What happened?” I asked, helping him out. His pant legs were soaked.

“The boat sprung a leak,” Neil said. “I wouldn’t have made it at all if it weren’t for that battery-operated bilge pump.”

“What bilge pump?”

“I got it on a whim last summer. Guess I forgot to tell you about it. Good thing it was me driving the boat today. You wouldn’t have even known the pump was there.”

Or known how to operate it if I had.

About That G in GPS . . .

SHARI SEVERINI

Four hours from our destination—that’s what the GPS said. At least that’s what it said before we smelled a caustic odor and pulled our forty-foot RV off the highway in Chicago. The whole family—my husband, V.J., our four kids, and I—were traveling from our home in Michigan to an annual family reunion in Wisconsin Dells, an outdoorsy vacation area. We’d left a week early to camp out and sightsee. Now it seemed we’d never get there. “I think it’s the back brakes,” V.J. said, checking out the left rear wheel.

“Now what do we do?” I asked.

“We need to find a Freightliner garage. We can’t take her just anywhere,” V.J. answered. Our RV was a Winnebago with a custom Freightliner chassis—one solid piece of forged steel that gave us enough power and stability to tow our Chevy behind us. A selling point had been the four hundred locations nationwide that could service us on the road. We weren’t far from O’Hare Airport. “There might be a Freightliner garage nearby,” I said.

“Open on a Sunday?” V.J. said. “We’ll probably be stuck here. Maybe even for days if they have to order parts.”

Ugh. This would ruin our vacation.

“I’ll type Freightliner into the GPS,” V.J. said. “See what it comes up with.”

V.J. located a Freightliner garage only ten miles away. *Thank God for that GPS*, I thought. How on earth did we ever get along without it?

We followed the prompts. Left turn here. Go 1.5 miles. Make a right. Our RV limped along. Something about the route, however, didn’t seem right. We left the busy highway, turning down a traffic-free road through an industrial complex seemingly devoid of people. *Is this really the way to the garage?* The GPS indicated that we’d arrived at our destination. We were at an anonymous-looking building. No garage in sight.

The kids were restless. V.J. and I were confused. “Guess we can’t trust the GPS after all,” V.J. said. “I don’t want to take the RV back out on the road unless we know where we’re going.”

I scanned the area. Not far from us, a lone man stood by a car. What was he doing there so late on a Sunday evening? We told the kids to stay in the RV while V.J. and I asked the stranger for directions. As we walked over, I saw the man grab something from his trunk—a toolbox.

“Hello,” I said. “We’re looking for a Freightliner garage. Is there one around here?”

“Miles away,” he said. “What’s your trouble?”

V.J. explained the situation, and the man went over to our RV. He rolled up his sleeves and opened his toolbox. Kneeling down near the back tire, he quickly diagnosed the problem. “One of your S-cam brakes is frozen,” he said. “That’s what caused the burning smell. I’m going to take it off. That still leaves you with three good brakes. You’ll be fine for now. Just make sure to have this replaced when you get home.”

How did he know all this? He must have seen the astonishment on my face. “Trust me,” he added. “I’m just here doing a side job. Monday to Saturday, I’m a Freightliner mechanic.”

Our GPS still had a perfect track record. But this location couldn’t have been programmed in. A different GPS must have taken over. My family calls it God’s Protection Service.