

FRIENDSHIP NEWSLETTER

For Thai English Students

Still Alive to Tell the Story!

Would you like to find a quiet place to sit down and read a book? That's what I did several years ago when I had an exciting experience. Let me tell you about it!

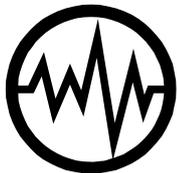
I was born and raised in Washington State, USA. My family and I lived on a mountain with trees surrounding our home. One day I decided to go out for a walk and spend some time alone in the forest. I sat down on a log in an area where the trees had been cut down to read my Bible.



All of a sudden, I heard a noise in the trees about twenty-five feet away. There was someone or something coming towards me, but I could not see anything! I was scared and my heart began beating very fast. My first thought was that it was one of the neighbor boys who was mentally handicapped. I did not want to meet him there in the forest alone.

As I kept looking towards the area where the noise was coming from, my mind quickly tried to think of a plan of action. What should I do? Should I try and get out of the woods and run home? (The noise was coming from the area between the road to home and where I was sitting!) Should I keep real quiet and try and hide from the person or thing that was coming towards me?

The first thing that came to my mind was to pray and ask God for protection! I cried out to God in my heart with a silent prayer. Then I did something that might seem strange to you! I began to sing a song about how great God is! By singing that song I gained courage to face whatever was in the woods. It was God's answer to my prayer, for it seems He put the song in my heart!



I did not have much time to think of or do anything else. I was sure that God was with me, but what I saw next, made my heart beat even faster! From out of the woods, crawling on all fours, came a black bear! It wasn't very big, but it was the biggest bear I had ever met! Although it was about twenty-five feet away, it was close enough for me! To my great relief, the bear took one look at me and then turned around quickly and disappeared into the woods!

My heart was still beating fast and I started running down the road towards my home. But then I realized that I really should not be afraid. The bear was probably more afraid of me than I was of it! So I went back and sat down to think about the experience for a few minutes. God had taken care of me and I was alive to tell the story! What if it had been a mother bear with baby cubs? It might have been different story! When I went home, my family believed my bear story! You can believe it too, because it really happened!

God has helped me so many times in my life and He is ready to help you too! A verse from the Bible helps us understand what He is like: "God is our refuge (place of safety) and strength. He is always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear." Psalm 46.

By Arlene Sorenson
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