

Some Angels Who Visited Me

The Bible has much to say about angels.

In my experiences over the past 27 years of world travel, I've been to 65 different nations. I should be dead, because I have traveled over three million miles. I was in Vietnam during the Vietnam war. I was in Hong Kong during the bombings in 1967. I was in Chile, South America when they had the revolution, and the President was killed. I've been in coups twice in Nigeria, twice in Ghana, and several in Haiti over the past seven years since they deposed their dictator, Baby Doc.

In all these travels God has wonderfully delivered me. I cannot account for it in any other way except to say God has delivered me through the ministry of His angels.

In Genesis 48:16 there is a marvelous verse of scripture. Jacob was an old, old man. He was on his deathbed. He was telling his children and his grandchildren goodbye. He was praying God's blessing upon each member of his family. As he prayed God's blessings upon his family, he made reference in his prayer to the angel, "who has delivered me from all harm."

In Exodus 23:20 God was speaking to the children of Israel, He said, "See, I'm sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared."

In Psalm 34:7, we read, "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and He delivers them."

In Psalm 91:11, "For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. They will lift you up in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against the stone."

In Daniel 3:28, "Then Nebuchadnezzar said, 'Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent His angel and rescued His servants.'"

In Daniel 6:22, Daniel said, "My God sent His angel, and He shut the mouths of the lions."

In Matthew 1:20, "But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.'"

When Jesus, our Lord and Savior, was tempted, Matthew 4:11 says, "Then the devil left him and angels came and attended Him."

In Matthew 18:10, "See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven." From that teaching of Jesus we get the idea that we all must have a guardian angel.

Hebrews 1:14, a beautiful verse of scripture, "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?" What reassurance we should have as Christians to know that all the angels are ministering servants that God has sent to serve us.

Just a Few of the Angels that Have Visited Me

1. I was in Jamaica, the year was 1975. The Gospel Lads were there with me singing. We had set up a tent in downtown Kingston at Half-way Tree. This was a three week revival meeting. There were many, many people coming to Christ. Every service was a spiritual thrill.

This particular night the Gospel Lads had just finished singing and I stepped up to the pulpit to preach. The tent was crowded to

overflow. They were standing all around the edge of the tent, and were even standing in the darkness on the outside. The pulpit was on the far edge of the tent, so I was standing with my back to the outside.

As I began to preach, I suddenly realized that something had gone dreadfully wrong, because I could see a terrible look of fear come upon the faces of the congregation. There was a Rastafarian back in the darkness, and he had a great big knife. He intended to kill me.

He ran directly toward me as I stood at the pulpit preaching. I did not know this, of course, all I saw was the fear in the eyes of the people. One of the Jamaican ministers, Gerald Murphey, was seated to my left. Suddenly, he leaped out of his seat like a shot from a gun and tackled this man in the last split second that remained before he plunged that knife in my back. The man fell right beside my left foot and the knife plunged into the platform beside me.

As I reflect upon this, I know God delivered me from certain death. I've asked myself, "How did Gerald Murphey see that man running out of the darkness in time to leap to his feet and tackle him?" I cannot think of anything else except that God sent one of those ministering angels to my rescue.

2. We go next to Ghana, Africa, 1988. My wife and I had gone to Ghana to hold revival meetings in unreached villages. We traveled back in the jungle where there was no electricity. There was no moonlight, no starlight, it was really black. We were in a very primitive village, where we were trying to start the church.

When we finished our service the African evangelist, Appiah Danquah, said, "The vehicle is broken. And so I sent the driver to find a mechanic to fix it." My spirits fell. I said, "Appiah, why did you do a dumb thing like that. Here we are stranded in this jungle." He said, "We'll get it fixed. They'll come back for us." I said, "There's no mechanic in his jungle and you know there isn't. They won't get it fixed and we'll have to walk out."

We started walking in the darkness. You can imagine the

thoughts that went through our minds because we knew there were plenty of wild animals out there, also snakes. We only had one little flashlight and it was so black that without that flashlight you couldn't even see your hand if you held it in front of your nose. We walked two or three miles before we got to the next village. There was our Volkswagen van.

Some fellow said, "It's broken." I said, "What's wrong?" He said, "The van will only go in high gear and the battery was dead!" I said, "We'll put it in high gear and push to start the engine, then we'll drive home in high gear." We tried that and it worked for a little while. But then we came to a hill.

The van did not have the power to climb the hill in high gear and choked down and died. We jumped out and found some rocks and put them under the tires so it would not roll down hill. We pushed and it wouldn't budge. I pushed so hard that I broke out into perspiration until my clothes were as wet as if I had been in a shower. We could not budge that Volkswagen van no matter how hard we tried. We realized that we were at the end of our resources. There was nothing else we could do.

In that moment of absolute helplessness our Ghanaian evangelist, Appiah Danquah, prayed a simple prayer. At the top of his lungs he prayed, "Jesus, help us." After he prayed that prayer that vehicle started up the hill and we were not pushing it. I realized that somebody was pushing the vehicle, but it was not any of us. We were all stunned and we silently followed. We walked up to the top of the hill and no one spoke a word. We climbed inside and whoever these people were just silently pushed the vehicle and again it started in high gear and we went all the way back to Accra, Ghana; forty miles without any further difficulty.

When my wife and I were all alone I said, "I hesitated to say anything in front of the other people because I don't want anybody to call me crazy. I think God sent angels to rescue us. Am I crazy?" My wife said, "No, you are not crazy. That's exactly what happened."

3. We were in the Ivory Coast, Africa. We had gone to the village of Abengourou, where there was not a church.

Upon arrival in the village of Abengourou, we found a place to stay and attempted to exchange our money. The bank teller said, "We do not exchange U.S. Dollars here." It's the only place on earth that I've been that they didn't want U.S. Dollars. We were stranded. We were helpless. We went back to the hotel and quickly went back to our rooms and had a prayer meeting.

At the close of the prayer meeting, we left our room and went down to the lobby and up walked a stranger. He said, "I heard you were here and so I came." I said, "Who are you?" He said, "I'm an ivory trader. I've come to sell you ivory." I said, "We don't have any money to buy ivory. Even if we had the money, we couldn't, because it's against the law to buy ivory. If we were to try to take ivory into the United States they would put us in prison." He said, "What do you mean you don't have any money?" I said, "Well, we have money, but it's not recognized here in the Ivory Coast." He said, "What kind of money do you have?" I said, "U.S. Dollars." He said, "That's what I want. I will exchange your money." A total stranger solved the problem!!

We were able to start the church at Abengourou with 28 souls being baptized into Christ. That new church had 600 more baptisms in the first year. In the second year, they had 1,000 more baptisms and there are nine churches in the villages around Abengourou. We started with only 28 people. The point is that we never could've started if God hadn't answered prayer and sent an angel to the rescue. We may call him an ivory trader, but how did he know we were there? Why did he say, "I heard you were here and so I came"? Why did he want U.S. Dollars when no one else, not even the bank, would take them? I can't explain it in any way except that God answered prayer and God sent an angel to the rescue.

4. We were in Haiti, December 1989, holding revival meetings. This one particular night we came out of the little, primitive, thatched roof shelter where we had been meeting, got in our car, started the car, and started back to Gonaives. We hadn't traveled more than a half a mile until the car went dead. We had no flashlight and it was pitch black. We had no tools and no way of finding

out what was even wrong with the car. I said, "I guess we'll have to walk."

At that very second, four people appeared out of the blackness. It was so dark we couldn't see anything. I don't know who they were or where they came from, but they appeared. They said, "We heard you needed some bicycles. We'll loan you ours, so you can go to Gonaives."

I couldn't think of anything except "Thank you, Lord for sending these angels, we need them so much."

5. I was in Guyana, South America in January 1991. I was working in a village called Zeelught.

In order to reach the village of Zeelught you must cross a floating bridge. It is built on pontoons and the pontoons are tied together with steel cables. As the tide comes in there is enormous pressure on the bridge and it has to raise up with the tide and when the tide goes out, the bridge has to go down.

We had a wonderful revival at Zeelught. We came to the last day when we were to go to the airport and fly home. We were helping to build a church building at Zeelught and I wanted to get one last picture to see the final work that had been done on the church building.

As we approached the floating bridge, we rolled upon it, and just then there was an outcry from the second car in front of us. The bridge broke and a huge section started floating out in the ocean!

After we got home, we received a letter from the minister, Brother Sateo Persaud, and the letter read something like this, "Dear Brother Reggie, all I can say is that God's angels came to your rescue once again."

6. The day is coming when Jesus will descend and the angels will come with Him to gather all the Christians and take them home. Matthew 24:31 Praise the Lord for the ministry of angels.

Dear friends, you may not realize it but every one of you have been ministered to by the angels. Maybe you don't recognize it, but

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the angels have been there guarding over you, helping you along the way. I know they have, because the New Testament says, "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who inherit salvation." I just want to encourage you to try to open your spiritual eyes and be looking for angels; God is with you. He has promised that He will never ever forsake you. When the angels come and minister to you be ready to thank God and give Him the glory and be appreciative for His ministry of angels.

