
A Seascape Adventure

Week 24: Singing on the Sea (Part One)

Posted: 1/27/13 by T. George Homsher, M.Ed.

Weekly LifeSights weeks four and five discussed the last competitive boxing match that Howard Blandau fought--it occurred on the eve of a World War II invasion of one of the Japanese islands. As it turned out a miracle happened; the ship's captain had veered off course and the invasion was delayed for one day. This spared the life of many men on board Howard's ship, because they would have been under intense fire power that the Japanese displayed on initial island landings. When they got there they still had to contend with a battle, but it was greatly toned down.

As time went by and things simmered, the soldiers had some time on their hands to relax and enjoy some recreation. Being a lover of the water, Howard decided to make a makeshift boat from pontoons.

"Hey Blandau what are you making?" asked a fellow soldier.

Howard responded. "I'm making a boat, and heading out to that beautiful China Sea."

The soldier said, "Wow, when you're done your maiden voyage let me know. I'd like to go out too."

"Sure, I'll let you know." Howard said.

Meanwhile, Howard's captain was busy crafting his own nautical vessel. Howard noticed how great it looked and how the captain must have had some kind of serious ability to do such a craft; like maybe he came from a family that was in the boat building business.

Well, one for adventure and the love of being on the water Howard continued on in his quest to create the best boat he could build. He wasn't going to be dismayed by a cross-comparison with the captain's boat.

As time went by his excitement grew—finally, Howard had finished building his boat.

(Continued on week 25)

Sailing / Standing on the Sea

Week 25: Singing on the Sea (Part Two)

Posted: 2/3/13 by T. George Homsher, M.Ed.

(Continued from week 24)

Upon the completion of his boat with a setting sun, Howard Blandau decided that this was the time to venture out into the beautiful China Sea. He brought the boat into the water, climbed aboard and set sail. The wind wasn't blowing hard, but it was blowing enough to help him get away from the island rather quickly--indeed, he was more than a couple of miles away.

As he ventured away from the island, he was taken by the beauty of the sea, and he couldn't believe what he was enjoying from his own hands. It was thrilling and stunning as the sun was setting. It was better than he could have imagined. He prayed, "Lord, thank you for your beautiful creation."

Before he could continue on in this incredible mental and emotional exhilaration something terrible happened--his makeshift boat began to sink. Understandably startled, Howard got out of his boat into the water.

As he stepped out he couldn't believe what happened next--he was able to stand in the sea.

Somehow by an act of God he was standing on the smooth part of a coral reef. His body was almost entirely above the water as if he was standing on it.

"This vast sharp reef" he thought, but somehow he found the smooth part that saved him from the voluminous number of sharks that would come tear him apart if he cut himself.

The joy of being saved by this reef was quickly replaced by the understanding of where he was. He estimated he was about 4 miles away from the island, way too far to swim, and nobody in sight to help save him. Worse yet, the sun was setting, and night fall was fast approaching. What came to his mind powerfully from his assessment was his own thought, "Howard, what have you done now?"

(Continued on Week 26)

Singing on the Sea

Week 26: Singing on the Sea (Part Three)

Posted: 2/10/13 by T. George Homsher, M.Ed.

(Continued from week 25)

Howard was understandably gripped by fear; and had all the associative thoughts that come from fearing the worst. He was thinking about the long night standing out there with all the sharks and wondered if he would make it through the night.

As he was thinking this he suddenly realized that it wasn't night fall yet. He realized he had a narrow opening in which to attempt to get help. Instead of screaming for help and panicking himself more he had a thought of singing. He sang hymns (Ephesians 5:19) as loud as he possibly could. Not far into the singing he began to feel the worst of the fear leaving him.

Meanwhile back on the island the captain was having fun talking with his fellow soldiers.

"Hey captain have I showed you this?" Said Bill, a fellow soldier.

"Wow she's beautiful. Are you guys going to get married?" The captain asked.

The soldier responded with joy. "Yes. What about you?"

"No. I'm still looking. Once upon a time I thought I found someone, but it didn't work out." The captain sadly said.

Bill replied. "I'm sorry to hear that captain. Don't worry you'll find someone, you're a good man."

"Thanks Bill. I appreciate it." The captain responded.

As the captain left Bill and was walking around, he thought he heard something coming from the sea. He went over closer to the water, but couldn't hear anything. As the moments passed by there were a couple other times that he thought he heard something, but again when he went over toward the water he could hear nothing.

The captain decided to get ready for bed. As he lay down his head on his pillow he wondered what on earth was that faint sound coming from the China Sea. He wondered if he was losing his mind, because of the

military conflict--but he knew he wasn't. "Well let me get to sleep," he thought. The problem was there were persistent thoughts coming into his mind like; "Is there someone out there?" He couldn't fall asleep because the thoughts were getting more powerful--finally, he felt an irresistible urge to head out to the sea. He got up, pulled his boat to the water and jumped in.

(Continued on Week 27)

Standing on the Sea

Week 27: Singing on the Sea (Part Four)

Posted: 2/17/13 by T. George Homsher, M.Ed.

(Continued from week 26)

As the captain sailed along he thought, "This is crazy, but I guess I'll find out what all this crazy stuff is about." Not far into his journey in a dimmed sun setting light the captain saw a faint object on the horizon. "Wow, what is this?" He thought.

His boat was moving along quite fast, and his eyes grew wider and wider as he approached the object. He couldn't believe his eyes; there was a person standing on the water—or were they walking on water. The closer he got the more he could finally make out what that sound was--it was singing.

As he approached he could recognize it was Howard.

"Howard, what are you doing standing in the sea? Where is your boat?" He asked.

Howard pointed down to the water. The captain looked down into the water.

"That's your boat resting vertical down there. I knew it wasn't good when you were building it, but I thought it was good enough to be out here." The captain said.

"So did I." Howard replied.

The captain said, "How on earth are you standing on the sea."

Howard responded, "Miraculously, I'm on the smooth part of a coral reef--thank you captain for saving my life."

"You're welcome. Now hop in the boat Blandau it's getting dark." The captain said.

Their conversation back to the island was focused on what the other person was experiencing leading up to the captain's arrival. It was a conversation neither would ever forget.

When they returned onto the island Howard thanked the captain once again for saving him, and they said good night.

Years later Howard would speak about the fact that he knew this experience was proof that God had something planned for his life.