

**Bernie Gillott Jr.** was walking in the aisle of the Teen Challenge tour bus when it started to skid out of control. The next thing he knew, he was lying on his back on the roof of the bus.

Then he heard Bernie Gillott Sr.'s voice, asking if everyone was OK. Of the twenty-two people on the bus, all responded except one—Bernie's mom.

Bernie's dad called again, but she still didn't answer. After a several agonizing moments, they heard her voice. She'd landed on broken glass and blacked out momentarily. But she was alive.

As people began to scramble out of the wreckage, Bernie's dad, the Teen Challenge director in charge of the tour, called for "choir positions." As they lined up, he realized that others, including Bernie's sister, were still trapped in the bus. After determining who was missing, those outside went back into the bus to find them.

All were alive but many had been unable to free themselves from the wreckage. Bernie's sister's hair was caught between a seat and the roof, but she was unhurt. Robert Spencer wasn't so fortunate. He was lodged between the seats and appeared to have serious injuries.

With everyone accounted for, young Bernie had a chance to look at the extent of the damage. They had been traveling through the Canadian Rockies in a blizzard. Their sixteen-ton tour bus had two tons of equipment stowed in underneath compartments. They'd just crossed Obed Summit when a blast of wind caught the bus, throwing it into a skid. The bus slid into the median and down a twenty-foot embankment—backwards. At the bottom, it hit a culvert and bounced into the air. Marks on the snow showed that it was airborne for over sixty feet before landing on its roof. The heavy equipment underneath had caused it to crunch down, shattering the windows and cramming the top of seats into the roof.

The cold wind and snowstorm continued to rage. The tour group was in shock and desperately needed help. The first people to stop were hunters. They were driving an empty box truck with sleeping bags in the back. The ones who were hurt were put in the truck, out of the cold wind.

Five minutes later, someone who had a cell phone stopped. They called 9-1-1 and an ambulance soon arrived. Those with injuries were taken to the nearest hospital.

Soon after the ambulance pulled away, an empty school bus drove up. The driver was glad to shuttle the remaining choir members through the storm to the hospital.

At the hospital, the choir discovered that Robert's injuries were indeed serious: His third vertebrae was broken. He was flown to Edmonton University in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, where he would undergo surgery. Six others had minor injuries and spent the night in the local hospital.

Three days later, Bernie Sr. called the hospital in Edmonton to check on Robert. But he wasn't in his room—he was walking around the waiting room, witnessing to people!

When Bernie Sr. questioned the doctors, they said Robert was "misdiagnosed." The x rays showed a break, but they also showed a healing. Doctors concluded that Robert must have broken his neck as a child, although Robert could remember no such injury.

The Teen Challenge choir members, on hearing the report, concluded that the healing was a miracle in answer to prayer.

Following the accident, the group had the option of cancelling the rest of their tour and flying home. But the choir had no intention of giving up. Robert was flown back to the group, and they completed the remaining ten days of commitments, using a school bus and a pickup truck for transportation.

Bernie and the other Teen Challenge choir members are well aware that God's hand of protection was over them that day. Bernie remembers the feeling of standing in the aisle as the bus skidded. "We had nothing to hold on to. But God had hold of us," he said.

Perhaps the secret of their survival lies in reports they heard later of people who woke up the night before the accident, sensing an urgency to pray for the group. One person claimed to have had a vision of the bus going over the hill, and prayed intensely for them. God heard and answered.

When the early Christians faced hard times, they didn't back off from their mission. They simply cried out to God for more of His power to be demonstrated in their lives.

**"Now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, by stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus" (Acts 4:29,30, KJV).**

**"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus" (Acts 4:29,30, NIV).**

*(Take a few moments to memorize these verses.)*

The power of prayer can't be underestimated. It worked for the early Christians. It worked for the Teen Challenge choir. And it will work for you.

