

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

By Natz & Elana Peters
Chaplains, East Bay Raceway Park, Tampa, Florida

When the Storms Come

Does it ever seem like your life was whirling around like a category IV hurricane? Have you even felt like the things that matter most—family, finances, future plans for example--were spinning wildly out of your control? Anyone who has gone through a death in the family, a serious illness, divorce, or a business reverse—and that probably includes nearly all of us here tonight—knows how harsh life can get.

If you have ever asked, “Where is God now, when I need Him the most?” You have plenty of company. We’ve been there too.

The Bible tells of a time when the people of God went through one of those cruel storms of life. They had been attacked and carried away to a foreign country to serve as slaves. Their future didn’t look very bright. Slavery was a forever thing that meant their children and even their great-great grandchildren would suffer the same fate. It was a terrible and hopeless situation and they didn’t see any way out of it.

But, God inspired His prophet, Jeremiah, to give the people a message full of hope and promise: *“I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and bring you home again. For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. You will find me when you seek me, if you look for me in earnest.”* [Jeremiah 29:10-13.]

The people took the message to heart. They turned to God with renewed zeal. And God made good on His promise. Their children were freed and returned to their homeland with great celebration.

Natz and I have been married nine years. They haven’t been easy. We lost a business, went through cancer, lost a parent, and have been estranged from adult children. Through all these ‘storms’ those words of Jeremiah, ***For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope,*** have been like a lighthouse that points the way to safety and keep our little ship of marriage from dashing against the rocks of adversity and depression. We want to share these powerful words that speak life into our spirits when things look the darkest with you. --
Elana

Storms come—that’s part of life. We come out of those tough crises either bitter or better. Those who look to God to guide and protect them emerge even stronger. They have discovered that God truly does have a plan and that is to give His children His best.

Why would you want less than God’s best? When the storms of life come and you feel like you are in bondage, get closer to God and watch Him work things out for you.