

# THE SOUTHEAST SOWER

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## “MY AIRPLANE”

JERRY DAILEY

The two words “My Airplane” were spoken by Captain Chesley Sullenberger, pilot in command of US Airways flight 1549.

On January 15th, 2009 flight 1549 was three minutes into a climb-out from New York’s LaGuardia Airport when they encountered a flock of Canada Geese. First Officer, Jeffery Skiles, was at the controls when several of the geese were ingested into the aircraft’s two engines causing them to fail.

Captain Sullenberger assumed control of the aircraft. Jeffery Skiles initiated a restart procedure but the damage was too great.

What were Captain Sullenberger’s options? He could blame the co-pilot for hitting the geese and allowed him to extricate them from this dilemma. He could have blamed the New

York Port Authority for allowing the geese to fly within the airport’s control zone. He could have blamed God for placing him in the cockpit or the US Airways scheduler for placing him on this flight. He could have blamed a variety of factors that caused him to learn to fly in the first place.

What, in fact, he did was recognize his responsibility as pilot in command and utilized his education, experience and good judgement to save all 155 crew and passengers from certain death, not to mention ground casualties if they had to crash land in Mid-Town Manhattan. Unthinkable. He had insufficient airspeed and altitude to return to LaGuardia or an alternate airport so he chose the Hudson River.

Captain Sullenberger and First Of-

ficer Skiles recognized that they were in the cockpit of this airplane because of the choices they previously made. They chose to be commercial pilots and chose to accept employment with US Airways.

Where is all this history lesson leading? We like the pilots are where we are largely because of the choices we have made. I would imagine that the pilots of Flight 1549 would have liked to have been somewhere else, anywhere else! We also occasionally are dealt with circumstances not of our choosing but none-the-less are where we are because of our choices.

I guess it is about time to interject a passage of Scripture into this article. In Philippians chapter four the Apostle states that he has leaned to be content regardless of his circumstances. He re-

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*SERVICES:*

*Sunday*

*Bible Study:*

*10:00 am*

*Worship:*

*10:50 am*

*6:00 pm*

*Wednesday*

*Bible Study:*

*7:30 pm”*

cognized his difficulties were of his choosing and made his choice as did Peter and countless others. Even Jesus made his choice to take upon himself the form of a man and to suffer crucifixion on the cross as a Sacrifice for sin. Philippians chapter two.

We all need to recognize and accept our responsibility and serve God and not blame Him or others. Too often (for me at least) it is too easy to say, "Why Me" when I should be saying, "Why Not Me."

#### "CREATURES WITH LITTLE POWER"

Leon Mauldin

In a context illustrating four little things on earth that are "small," but are "exceedingly wise," the wise man said, "rock badgers are creatures with little power, but they make their homes in the crags" (Proverbs 30:24, 26; NET). "Feeble or defenseless they may be, but they find safety in steep, rocky terrain. Their feet have a suction-like grip that enables them to scamper among rocky outcroppings. Their enemies easily overlook a rock badger stretched out motionless on a sun-warmed rock" (Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary). The rock badger (also known as the *hyrax*, *coney*; the NAS transliterates *shephanim*) is thus praised as a defenseless creature that lives in places where

they are protected from their enemies. They are not naturally strong, but are able to not only survive but thrive because of the way God has equipped them.

None of us is adequate ourselves to win the battle against sin and Satan's devices (2 Cor. 2:11). But there is a source of strength at our disposal that enables us to be "more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Rom. 8:37; NKJV). The first step in accessing the power of God is to gain entrance into Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "{W}ithout Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). In order to enter Christ, you must believe in Him with all your heart, repent of your sins, confess your faith in Him, and on that basis be baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27).

Many passages show that we are not adequate of ourselves; our sufficiency is to be found in Jesus. "I will lift up my eyes to the hills—From whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD. Who made heaven and earth" (Psa. 121:1, 2). "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (Eph. 6:10).

. . . We, like the rock badger, have little power of ourselves, but through Jesus each one of us can say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

#### The Bible! There It Stands!

Where childhood needs a standard

Or youth a beacon light,

Where sorrow sighs for comfort

Or weakness longs for might

-

Bring forth the Holy Bible,

The Bible! There it stands!

Resolving all life's problems

And meeting its demands

Despised and torn in pieces,

By infidels decried -

The thunderbolts of hatred,

The haughty cynic's pride -

All these have railed against it

In this and other lands,

Yet dynasties have fallen,

And still the Bible stands!

To paradise a highway,

The Bible! There it stands!

Its promises unfailing,

Nor grievous its commands;

It points man to the Savior,

The lover of his soul;

Salvation is its watchword,

Eternity its goal.

— James M. Gray