

Arctic Rescue



Another day ended-if you could call it day! Three hours of twilight, followed by twenty-one hours of darkness. The sun had long since slipped over the southern horizon, there to stay until springtime. Three men were huddled in the gloomy little hut, trying to keep warm. The temperature inside hovered just above freezing. Fuel must be conserved as much as possible, and a diet of cold porridge and rice did little to bring warmth to their shivering bodies.

Three men, a Japanese, a Russian and a New Zealander, had come to desolate Wrangel Island in the fall to observe and film polar wildlife. When it was time to leave, a blizzard roared in and made it impossible to travel. They had to wait-and wait and wait. Six weeks later they were still waiting for a helicopter to reach them. Continuing blizzards and whiteout conditions had made it impossible to fly. Now the polar bears they had come to view and film were showing a very real interest in viewing them! Nightly the men listened to the bears clawing at the door of the hut.

Strange to say, the three men were never out of touch with the rest of the world. Using e-mail and a battery-powered satellite telephone, they were "wired" into the global Internet. But, as someone said, "While they could have ordered a thousand pizzas with a click of their mouse, the Internet could not bring them the food they needed to survive!"

Think of the technology-the absolutely marvelous inventions of e-mail and satellite communication-and all totally helpless to bring one mouthful of life-giving food.

All these wonders of the wisdom of man have their limitations. "The world by wisdom knew not God" (1 Corinthians 1:21). The greatest of them, going out to distant planets and the far reaches of the universe, can never lift one soul up to heaven.

It reminds us of the time, thousands of years ago, when men said, "Let us build us . . . a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven" (Genesis 11:4). They started building, but did it reach so far? Not then— not now—not ever!

At last there came a time on Wrangel Island when the weather cleared briefly, just long enough for a helicopter to fly in, pick up the men, and fly back out. They were saved!

Tired and thin they might be, but how they could enjoy being once more where there was warmth and food and light.

Even so we, weary and worn with the struggles of life in a dark world, need Someone from above to come into the cold and darkness and lift us up. Someone to take us "out of darkness into His marvelous light." No power on earth can do that, but God sent His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to save us and bring us into light-and life-and love.

The three stranded men wasted no time when the helicopter arrived; they scrambled in as quickly as possible. Wise men! Delay could see another blizzard raging around them and the rescue would fail. And a wise person will not risk any delay now either but will accept at once God's offer of salvation.

**"How shall we escape, if we neglect [or delay to accept] so great salvation?"
(Hebrews 2:3).**

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