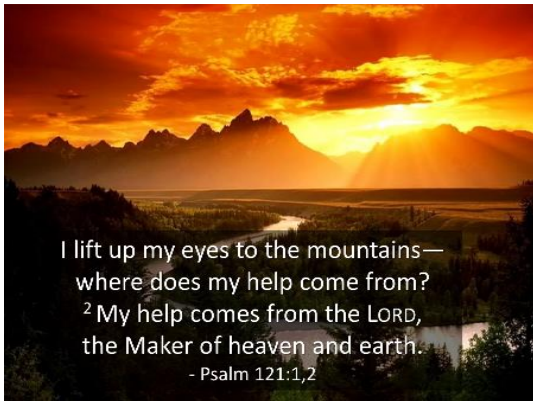


Guided by a cloud 43 (Exodus 13:21-22)

This week's GBAC has been written by Claire W. I am sitting indoors by the window, warm, cosy and safe, as storm Christoph is causing havoc across the country. I am about to venture outside anyway; "there's no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing"mmmmm?? I don't think this is entirely true but I am thankful that I possess appropriate clothing when many people in this world do not have the comfort and privilege that I enjoy; I am thinking of the poor, the homeless, refugees, those suffering due to war and famine.

I was listening to a short talk this morning about Jesus calming the storm. Here's the story



I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
² My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
- Psalm 121:1,2

Worship time

[Oceans \(where feet may fail\)](#)

[The Lord's my shepherd \(I will trust\)](#)

[My hope is built on nothing less](#)

Luke 8 (The Message) ²²⁻²⁴ *One day he and his disciples got in a boat. "Let's cross the lake," he said. And off they went. It was smooth sailing, and he fell asleep. A terrific storm came up*

suddenly on the lake. Water poured in, and they were about to capsize. They woke Jesus: "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" Getting to his feet, he told the wind, "Silence!" and the waves, "Quiet down!" They did it. The lake became smooth as glass. ²⁵ Then he said to his disciples, "Why can't you trust me?" They were in absolute awe, staggered and stammering, "Who is this, anyway? He calls out to the winds and sea, and they do what he tells them!"

One thing that hadn't struck me before when I have read this story was that getting into the boat initially wasn't the disciple's idea; it was Jesus' idea. The disciples were doing what they had done many times before. It all seemed to be smooth sailing; well within their comfort zone. We learn from this story that Jesus is Lord of all, he has power over everything. Of course he could've prevented the storm in the first place but this was a way to enable his friends to discover more about who he really was. Through the storm he revealed a truth they needed to know.

When we go through "storms" in life (and this year with the pandemic amongst other things has been particularly "stormy" across the whole world) we can cry out to Jesus as the disciples did. Troubles often don't come as a result of us doing things our own way (although sometimes they do). As I wrote in my last sharing, we can be doing the right thing but things seem to turn out all wrong. When we invite Jesus into our lives, he is with us in whatever boat we're in and it's ok to shout to him at any time in any place. In this story Jesus calmed the storm but sometimes I think he will give us calm within the storm.

Jesus the man was asleep in the boat but we know that our God never slumbers or sleeps I used to have a poster which said something like "at night time I give all my worries to God; I know he will be awake anyway".

Psalm 121 reminds us of this and can be read [here](#) or in your own bible of course:

Where does our help come from? Not from the mountains but from the Lord who made the mountains Hallelujah!

If anyone has anything to share about a time when the Lord calmed a storm for them, or gave them calm within the storm it would be good to hear and encourage one another.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you" 1Peter 5:7