I was working on cruise ships in the Caribbean and my contract was just finishing. As we were sailing back towards Miami and I was due to disembark for the very last time, we starting hearing the news flashes about the hurricane. At first I was delighted! A hurricane, what fun! I could take great pictures and what great stories I could tell. And then I began to listen more closely.

The first thing I realized was that there was no escaping. The airports were sending out their last flights, the roads were completely blocked by people fleeing the storm and anyway I didn’t have anywhere to go. A friend offered that the few of us from the crew due to fly home that day would hang out at his house. We began the preparations.

We boarded up the ground floor windows and put away anything that was outside in the garden. We filled the bath with water and any other large containers that we could find. We were all very cheerful, it was a great adventure, but I remember the news broadcaster’s voices becoming more and more stressed as the storm came closer. There were projections and assumptions, there were estimates and forecasts. And then there was just plain old panic.

It got late, we decided to grab some sleep while we could. We were sleeping on mattresses on the floor in an upstairs bedroom. I awoke to the sound of the screaming wind and thudding against the side of the house, Hurricane Andrew had arrived. Rain water was pouring through the closed windows, the trees were bent in half and then there was a huge crash as a ceiling fan smashed to the floor.

We ran downstairs to the tiny space at the bottom and surrounded ourselves with mattresses. The walls were shaking, the dog howling and we were sure the house was about to collapse. There was nothing to do but to wait, listen to the crackling radio signal that came and went, and pray.
We were very lucky. It was a devastating storm, the statistics of which have become legend. When it was finally over, the electricity was out, water cut off and there were no phone lines. The best thing about that was that we didn’t have to hear the news anymore!

It was an amazing experience. And I realized that the build-up was so much more frightening that the event itself.

Being in a hurricane is truly awesome. You understand instantaneously that you can do nothing other than submit to the powers of nature. You have no defense and this is a wonderful reality that allows you simply embrace what is.

2 Corinthians 4:8–9
8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;
9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—
Acts 27:1 And when it was decided that we should sail to Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to one named Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment.

3 And the next day we landed at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him liberty to go to his friends and receive care.
4 When we had put to sea from there, we sailed under the shelter of Cyprus, because the winds were contrary.
5 And when we had sailed over the sea which is off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, a city of Lycia.
6 There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy, and he put us on board.
7 When we had sailed slowly many days,
11 Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul.
12 And because the harbor was not suitable to winter in, the majority advised to set sail from there also, if by any means they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete opening toward the southwest and northwest, and winter there.

Romans 8:22–23
22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.
23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.
13 When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete.
14 But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose...
18 And because we were exceedingly tempest-tossed, the next day they lightened the ship.
19 On the third day we threw the ship’s tackle overboard with our own hands.
20 Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on us, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up.

21 But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss.
22 And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.

23 For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve,
24 saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.’
25 Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.

Job 23
8 “Look, I go forward, but He is not there, and backward, but I cannot perceive Him;
9 When He works on the left hand, I cannot behold Him; When He turns to the right hand, I cannot see Him.
10 But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.
11 My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside.
12 I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.
13 “But He is unique, and who can make Him change? And whatever His soul desires, that He does.
14 For He performs what is appointed for me, and many such things are with Him.

29 Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come.
30 And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, when they had let down the skiff into the sea, under pretense of putting out anchors from the prow,
31 Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”
32 Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the skiff and let it fall off.
33 And as day was about to dawn, Paul implored them all to take food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day you have waited and continued without food, and eaten nothing.
34 Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, for this is for your survival, since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you.”
35 And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken it he began to eat.
36 Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves.
37 And in all we were two hundred and seventy-six persons on the ship.
38 So when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship and threw out the wheat into the sea.

“BUT ONCE HE WAS EXHAUSTED, I COULD CONTROL HIM AND SAVE HIM.”

39 When it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they observed a bay with a beach, onto which they planned to run the ship if possible.

1 Now when they had escaped, they then found out that the island was called Malta.
2 And the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold.
3 But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand.
4 So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, “No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live.”

5 But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.

7 In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days.
8 And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him.

9 So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed.
10 They also honored us in many ways; and when we departed, they provided such things as were necessary.

16 Now when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard; but Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him.
24 And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved.
27 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.”
28 “Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!”
30 Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him,
31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.
BECAUSE OUR LIFE ISN'T FOCUSED ON WHAT IS HERE