



SOS!

Allegory of a Hike —Part III

Petra Pierre-Robertson

THE EIGHTY-THREE HIKERS were dreaming of home, anticipating shedding their wet clothes, soaking in a warm bath, eating a good home cooked meal, and nestling in a cushion before climbing into, the ultimate symbol of rest after a long arduous journey—the soft bed. There they wanted to lay their weary heads on their cushioned pillows drawing their blankets up to their chins and leaving that dangerous hike behind them . . . but did they all make it home? Late into the night all except two were accounted for.

How could that be possible? They had the perfect guide who not only knew all the terrain, signs, map and rules, but also created them! A positive outcome was guaranteed if the rules were obeyed! Didn't they see to their dress? Didn't they observe the signs? Didn't they follow the correct map?

As the search team urgently combed the forest, news came. Something was stuck in debris under a bridge. The debris was cleared. As the body of a twenty-one-year-old male hiker surfaced deafening silence covered the search team.

Didn't they listen to the guide? My dear youth, the final rule I want to share with you is that of obedience to the guide. Never ever venture out on any expedition without the approval of your Guide: "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:6). Our

Guide Jesus left us a command: Stick with the blueprint I have left, it is profitable for instruction and correction (see 2 Timothy 3:16).

As the crowd silently observed the pale ashen body of the youth, a whispered lament was heard from one of the leaders, "He did not follow instructions."

Only a few minutes after the hikers entered the beautiful nylon pool into which the waterfall gushed, thunder was heard. Immediately the guide issued the signal to leave. His instruction was ignored. The hikers refused to leave because they were having so much fun. They wanted more time. As a result of the delay, the hiking party lost not only time but lives as well. Matthew: 24:39 encapsulates this tragedy; they did not take the Guide seriously until the flood came and swept them all away.

Do you take out guide seriously? You should. At the end of our journey there will also be weeping, but there will be joy too. Will you be weeping or rejoicing? Your action then will be determined by the choices you make now.

Until next time obey the rules as you *press toward the mark* (Philippians 3:14). This is the only guarantee of Salvation Of Souls! He has promised!

Be blessed! ☺

Petra Pierre-Robertson is the library director at the University of the Southern Caribbean and has served the youth in various capacities at her church and the South Caribbean Conference.

