

Crossing the River

By Hap Hansen

One day, three men were walking along and came upon a raging, violent river that had once been only a meandering stream. A nearby hurricane had created enormous whirlwinds that could hamper any river crossing. There were also huge waves, whitecaps and rip currents in the river they needed to cross. All three men were very religious and knew that prayers would help them cross the whirlwind-laden, foamy, rapidly flowing current.

The first man prayed to God, saying, "Please God, give me the strength to cross this river." Poof! God gave him big arms and strong legs and he was able to swim across the river in about 30 minutes. Seeing this, the second man prayed to God, saying, "Please God, give me the strength and ability to cross this river." Poof! God gave him a rowboat and he was able to row across the river in about 20 minutes. The third man saw how this worked out for the other two, so he also prayed to God, saying, "Please God, give me the strength, ability and intelligence to cross this river." And, poof! God turned him into a woman ... who then walked across the bridge.