

HELEN SANDERS
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LIFE PRESERVER

I grew up on the shores of Lake Michigan. Summertime found me at our city beach nearly every day. There is a harbor that has been used for ships carrying people and cars from Michigan to Wisconsin. Going out one mile from the beach keeping the harbor safe is what we call a "break wall." It breaks the flow of water into the harbor for the safety of the boats. At the end of the breakwall is a lighthouse. If it is foggy there is a horn that blows, and at night it lights up lighting the way for ships to come into the safety of the harbor. We have used many different pictures of this lighthouse in these daily newsletters.

That lighthouse was hit years ago by a ship, and it is somewhat crooked because of the impact. The breakwall has had to have reinforcement of rocks to keep it from being undergirded by the flow of Lake Michigan. Yet, in spite of all the years of wear and tear, this light house is still serving its purpose. In many cases, it has saved lives because of its purpose, to give out light. In a sense it has been a "life preserver".

I fished and swam off that breakwall many times as a young person and saw many children wearing life preservers as they walked the mile from the shore to the lighthouse. It was a means of safety in case they fell off into the lake. There are laws that you can't go into a boat on the lake without a life preserver. Many have lost their lives because they didn't heed this rule. A life preserver is a good thing.

Over the years I have realized that the best life preserver for a Christian is their faith. My children have often said, "Mother what would we do without your faith and prayers?" My answer is, "You must develop your own. People don't live forever." Both Russell and I lost our former spouses to death. Before my late husband died, I said to him, "What will I do without you?" He immediately said, "Trust God." I didn't like that answer, but his statement was the absolute truth.

So often we look to someone else to "preserve" us when we need to build our own faith. I am thankful I learned that lesson young. Yes, it is hard to lose a loved one that you leaned on, but when that time comes you must have your own "life preserver." Have you built your faith up for that time? What about the days ahead that are leading to the Great Tribulation? Are you prepared through your faith "life preserver" to be strong even if we have to go through hard times? Without faith it is impossible to please God, so if your faith is weak, then you need to repent and grow in faith.

We have only one true life preserver and that is Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Word made flesh, so as we study His word, we are truly studying Him, our "life preserver". He is the one to lean on. If we put him on every day through wearing our spiritual armor, the greatest "life preserver", then it will get us through the hardest times whenever they come!