

engage  
Kids

Volume 9 | Issue 4

CARIBBEAN



DISASTER  
HELP

**HOPE in DISASTER**

A painting of a person with dark curly hair, wearing a yellow shirt, swimming in a turbulent, stormy sea. The water is dark blue and green with white foam from the waves. The sky is dark and stormy with white streaks representing rain or wind. The overall style is expressive and dramatic.

# ONE DARK AND STORMY NIGHT

**What is a natural disaster?** A “disaster” is a sudden event that causes a lot of damage, and “natural” means caused by nature. So natural disaster refers to a tornado, flood, earthquake...or hurricane. Each of these can uproot trees and cause major damage to buildings, leaving people homeless and without electricity, food, and clean water for a time.

Have you ever been in a natural disaster? Cecil and Iona Kemp of High Rock, Grand Bahama, were. A hurricane named Dorian not only hit their island but decided to stay right over it for twenty-seven hours. Hurricane Dorian brought LOTS of rain, flooding parts of Grand Bahama with ten to fifteen feet of water.

Cecil and Iona were waiting out the storm in the attic of their house when the strong winds tore off their roof. They then moved to their kitchen and sat on top of the cabinets,



watching as the water level rose higher and higher. There was no electricity of course, so the night was long and dark. They decided to set their dog free so he could find high ground.

At one point during the night, Cecil heard an odd sound. It wasn't the wind. It was someone calling for help! Cecil discovered his neighbor Ronald out in the storm, clinging to a tree. Cecil was a strong swimmer. He quickly moved through the water toward Ronald, but he jumped before Cecil was ready. Ronald was caught by the strong current. Cecil dove into the dark water trying to find his friend but wasn't successful the first time. He didn't give up, and with another dive he found Ronald and pulled him to safety. After the storm died down, Cecil and Iona thanked God for saving them, Ronald... and their dog!

# DO TRY THIS AT HOME

When natural disasters hit an area and electricity, water, and food are not readily available, help is needed and quickly. Rescue workers often put together small packets of useful items for disaster victims. Packets may include soap, granola bars, water bottles, batteries, cleaning wipes, and first aid supplies.

After Hurricane Dorian hit the Bahamas, HIM worked with one of the local churches to get relief packets to as many hurting people as possible. A small book called *Buried Alive* was included in each packet. In it are several pages of survival tips, an exciting story about a mine disaster, and a clear gospel message.

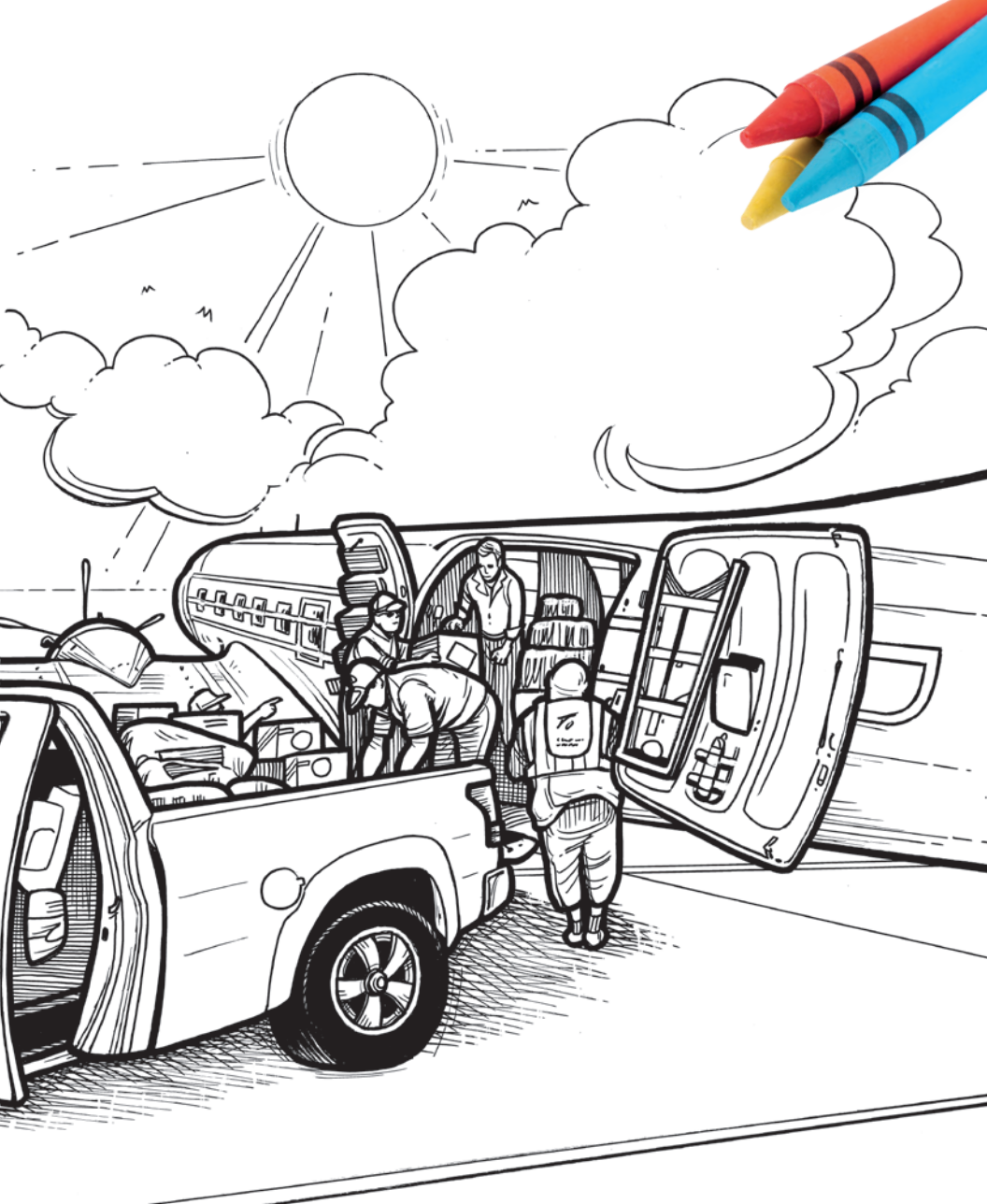
Here is one example of the survival tips.

## Refuge: Cover Yourself Up

Collect dry leaves, pine needles and bark from the forest floor. Place a large amount, two or three feet high and longer than you are tall. When you get inside that dry material, you have a “sleeping bag” that protects against heat loss.

Using a copy of *Buried Alive* and working with an adult, try this or another of the survival tips listed and let us know how it goes. Was it successful? Did you learn something new?





## MEMORY VERSE

Bear one another's burdens,  
and so fulfill the law of Christ.  
*Galatians 6:2*

# BRINGING HELP AND HOPE

**Hurricane Dorian had battered the island** of Grand Bahama leaving the hospital unusable, the airport badly damaged, and many homes destroyed. Communication was affected too, so several days passed before HIM heard from pastor Cecil Kemp and his wife Iona. The joy of hearing from them was followed quickly by concern. Many people needed help.

The first step in providing assistance was an evaluation. An HIM team went to look over the island, talk to people like the Kemps, and identify the biggest needs. The High Rock church, one of the oldest HIM churches, was destroyed by the storm. The church in Freeport was in better shape and agreed to be a center for the donated relief supplies. Many





caring people contributed money and items such as generators, food and water, diapers, blankets, batteries, and more. It was exciting to see the piles growing and growing...and growing!

Two weeks after the storm, another team from HIM took the first planeload of donations to the hurting people of Grand Bahama. The team prepared relief packets to meet immediate needs and let people know they were loved. HIM went on to provide helpful things like chainsaws to assist with clean-up, two large shipping containers of building supplies, and four teams of willing workers. Over the next few weeks, those teams worked hard. They rebuilt several homes in High Rock and replaced a roof in Freeport.

For an operation like this to be successful, many people are needed. In this example some gave money, some gave supplies, some gave time and effort. Each role was important and allowed HIM to share God's love with a hurting community and bring hope back to the people of Grand Bahama.



# Louie's treehouse Lair



## Help Wanted: YOU!

Large-scale relief operations sound fun, and it would be cool to participate in one. But instead of waiting for that chance, why not look for ways to help someone today? Begin by asking God to help you spot needs right around you, and He will! Then get creative.

Brainstorm ideas for what YOU can do to help meet the need and choose your favorite. Share your experience with us, and we will select a few stories to post on the *Engage Kids* Facebook page!



**ENGAGE KIDS** is a ministry of  
Hope International Missions  
PO Box 1065, Hobe Sound, FL 33475

Learn more at [feaministries.org/engagekids](http://feaministries.org/engagekids)