

Lesson One

God's Perfect Timing

MERVIN W. TAPSFIELD

A HIGHER CALLING

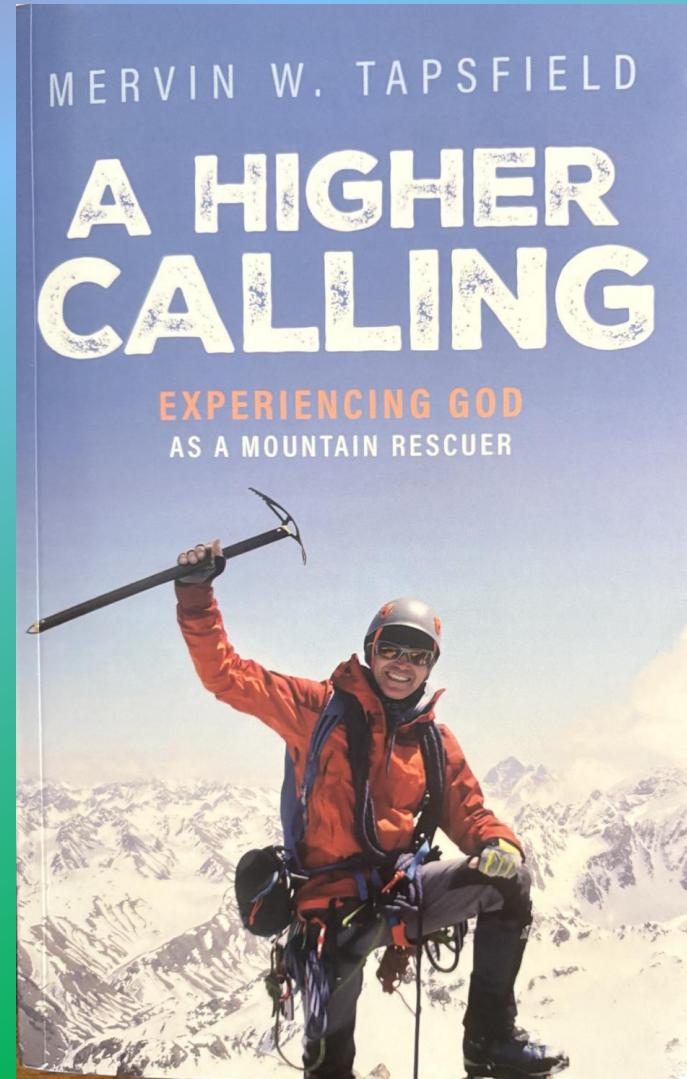
EXPERIENCING GOD
AS A MOUNTAIN RESCUER



A Higher Calling

Book Outline

- Part 1-Search and Rescue Adventure Stories
- Part 2-Wilderness Safety
- Part 3-A Spiritual Wrap-Up



History of my involvement with the West Valley Search and Rescue Team

Newspaper article that Marvin showed me in August 1995

Era ends for deputies on rescue team

By LORI MOODY
The Daily Report

They have become known as the "old-timers" — a select, close-knit band of sheriff's deputies who thrive on the thrill of rappelling steep cliffs to rescue an injured hiker.

"Esprit de corps" is the phrase Deputy Richard Hahn uses to describe the 14-year-old search and rescue team from the sheriff's West End substation. Hahn, a four-year team veteran, and Deputy Bill Cates, who joined about a year ago, said there is a real sense of camaraderie among its 10 members.

Teams from the West End station and the Fontana substation, which was formed later, hold the distinction of being the only search and rescue groups in the county composed of full-time paid deputies. The other teams' members are reserves.

But that distinction will soon change.

Budgetary considerations and a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling regarding overtime pay are forcing both substations to replace officers on the teams with volunteer reserve deputies.

The decision, known as *Garcia vs. Antonio Metropolitan Transit Authority*, limits the ability of governments to offer compensatory time or regular pay rates in lieu of overtime pay.

"It's an end of an era," said Lt. George McCormick, who was one of the West Valley team's original members. "I'm sad to see it go, but I'm also cognizant of the changing times."

West End officials are looking for at least 30 individuals for their reserve team. The team is expected to be ready in six to 12 months, depending on the amount of training needed, said coordinator Sgt. Del Wiedeman.

Applicants will undergo a background check, physical ex-

required to obtain the status of a level-three reserve, which includes a 40-hour basic arrest and firearms course, Wiedeman said.

The first search and rescue team got its start in the summer of 1958 — following the tragic death of a young Colton boy in the Forest Falls area, sheriff's spokesman Jim Bryant said.

The youth, separated from his classmates during an outing, attempted to scale a rock face beside "Big Falls," fell and landed in a pool.

While he cried for help, volunteer firefighters attempted to reach the boy but were unsuccessful because of inadequate equipment and inexperience, Bryant said. Darkness hindered the rescue efforts of a team from Norton Air Force Base.

As the hours wore on, the boy's cries became weaker, Bryant said. The Sierra Madre search and rescue team from Los Angeles County had been summoned but the youth froze to death before they could reach him, according to Bryant.

As a result, Sgt. Willard Farquhar, who was the Yucaipa sheriff's substation commander at the time, enlisted the aid of several residents in the area. They were sworn in as reserve deputies and formed the county's first search and rescue team.

Other teams sprang up. But until 1971, most of the major rescues in Mt. Baldy and the Lytle Creek area were handled by the volunteer search and rescue team from the sheriff's Central Division, Wiedeman said.

But the volunteers had full-time jobs and weren't always available immediately, or for great lengths of time.

Sheriff's officers at the West End substation saw a need for an area team composed of deputies who would be available anytime and for prolonged



The Daily Rep

History of the West Valley Search and Rescue Team

- Originally, sheriff deputies responded to all search and rescue operations.
- 1985-due to a Supreme Court case involving deputy overtime, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department decided to make an all-volunteer team consisting of reserve deputies.



Photo by Chris Brookhart



Rescue Stories

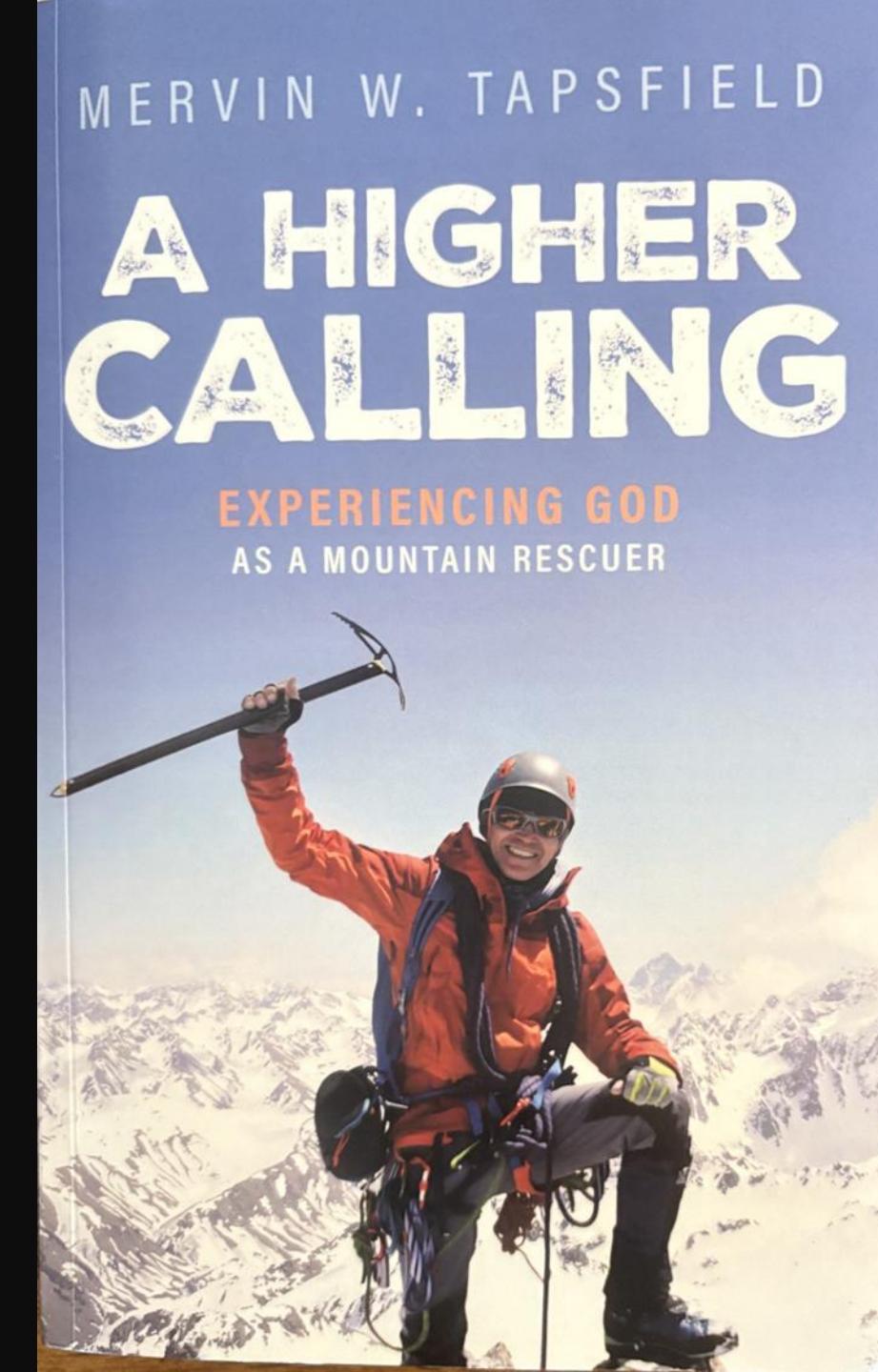
Part 1

The Last Shall Be First

- Chapter 3 Pg. 43

The Magnificent Seven

- Chapter 4 Pg. 49



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The Last Shall Be First
Chapter 3, Page 43

Matthew 19:27-30 [*]
[\[](#)

Chapter 3-The Last Shall Be First Body Recoveries in Mount Baldy



In the early years
of our team, we
had a lot of
airplane crashes
in our local
mountains.



Daily bulletin/Inland Valley. Tuesday, March 23, 1999.
Photo by Chris Urso. Used by permission



The Daily Report, Ontario, CA. Photo by Kathy Frey. Used by
Permission

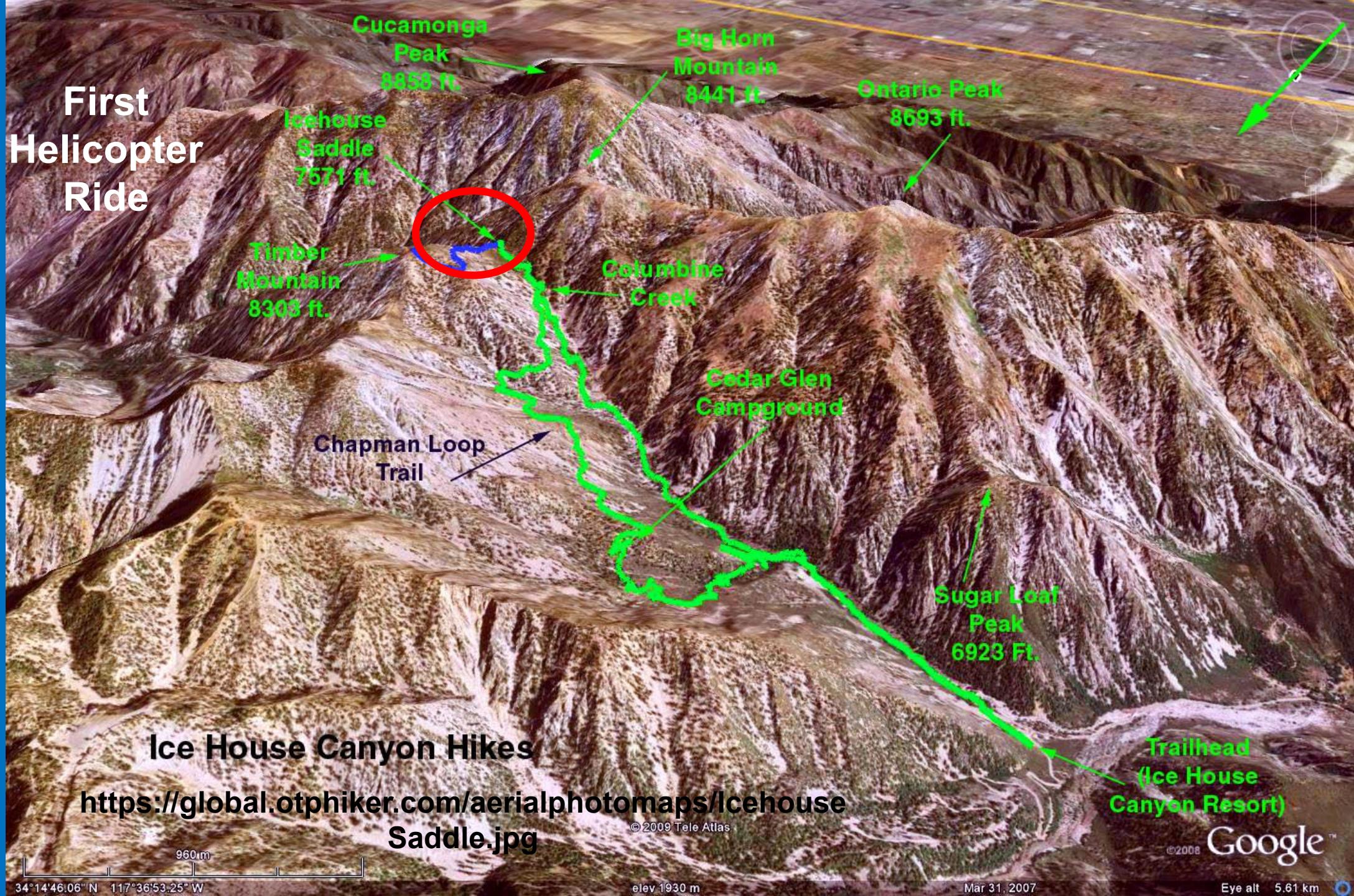
- In the 1980's, we used aviation's Bell helicopters.
- They often took off the back doors and took out the seats to make room for the litter.

• The Daily Report, Ontario, CA, January 22, 1985. Photo by Alexander kGailardo. Used by Permission.



No back doors and no seats

First Helicopter Ride

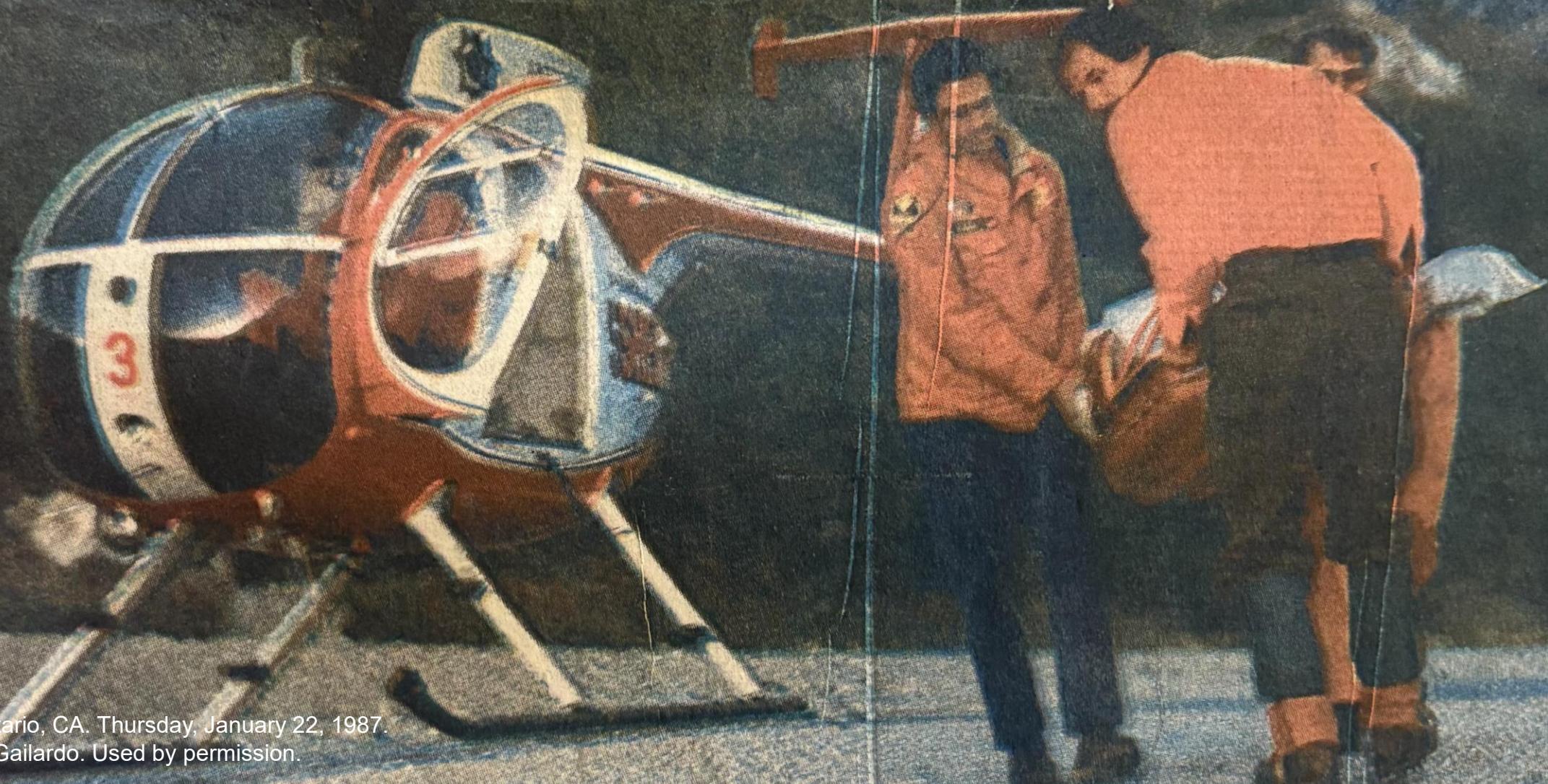


My Pride and Joy

1977 Chevy Blazer



The Last Shall Be First



The Daily report, Ontario, CA. Thursday, January 22, 1987.
Photo by alexander Gailardo. Used by permission.

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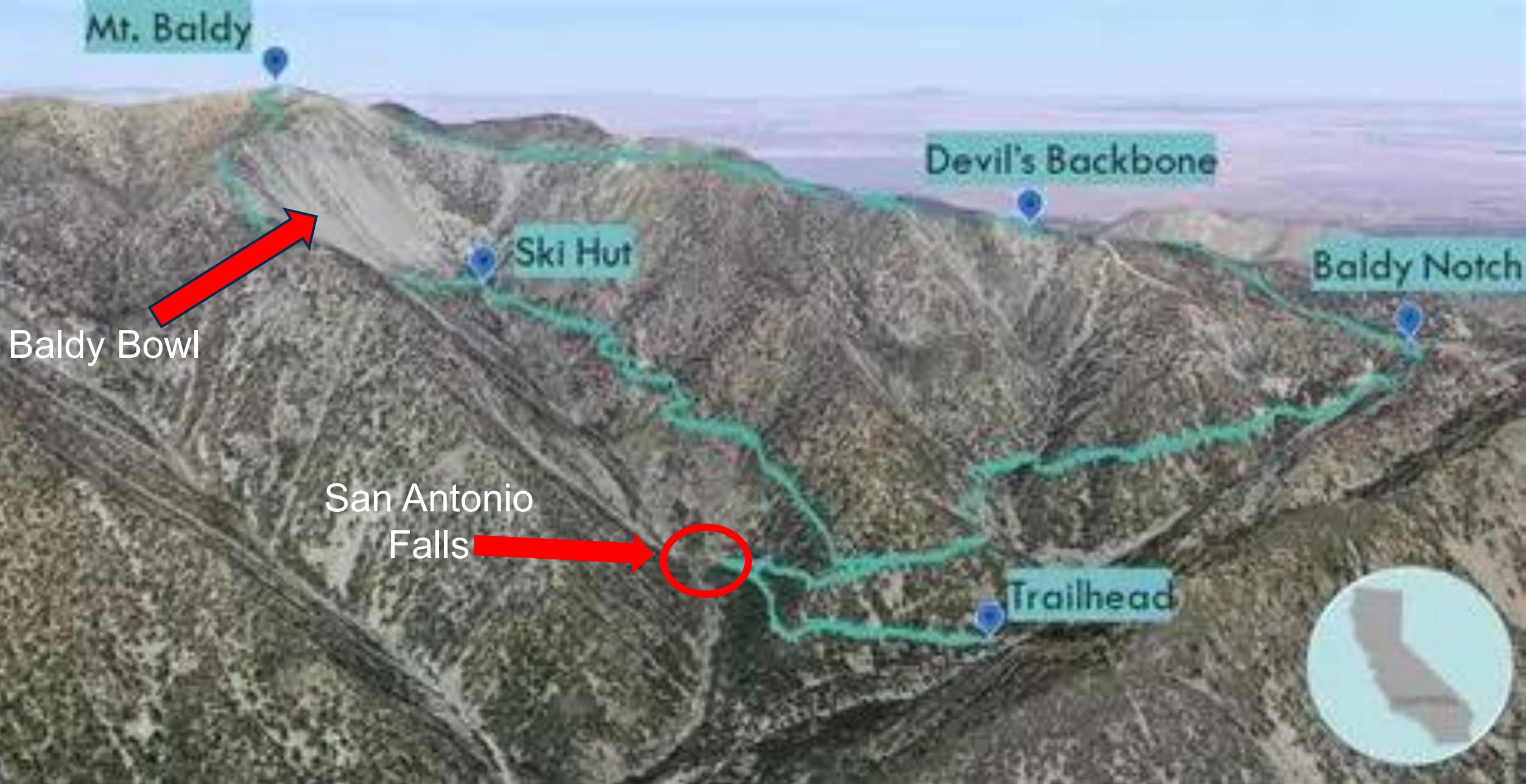
The Magnificent Seven

Psalm 73:26 [*]

- We performed many nighttime searches and rescues
- The most difficult took place during wind and snowstorms.

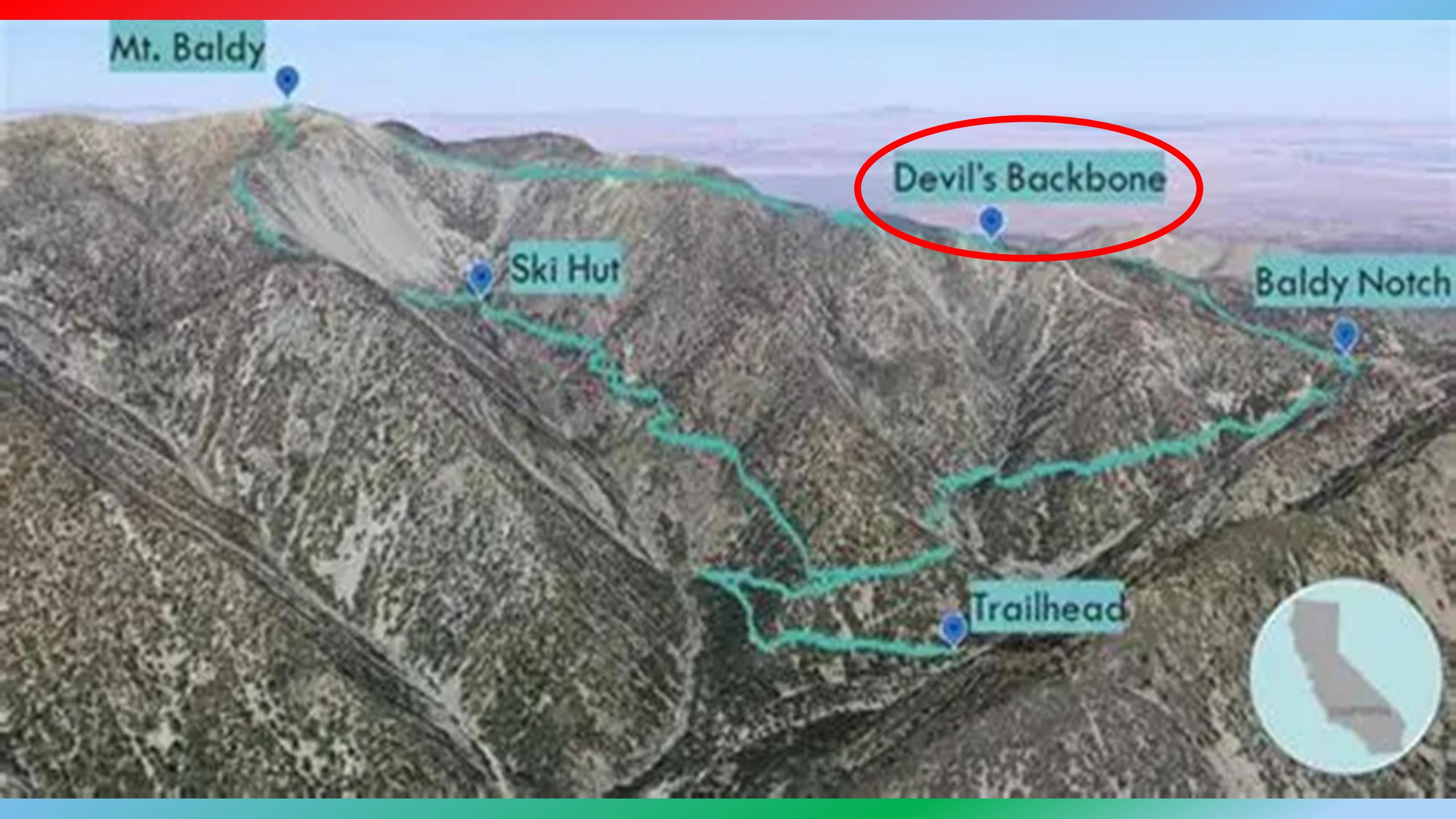


Northeast side of Mt. Baldy





https://images.world-of-waterfalls.com/San_Antonio_Falls_079_05082020.jpg



Mt. Baldy

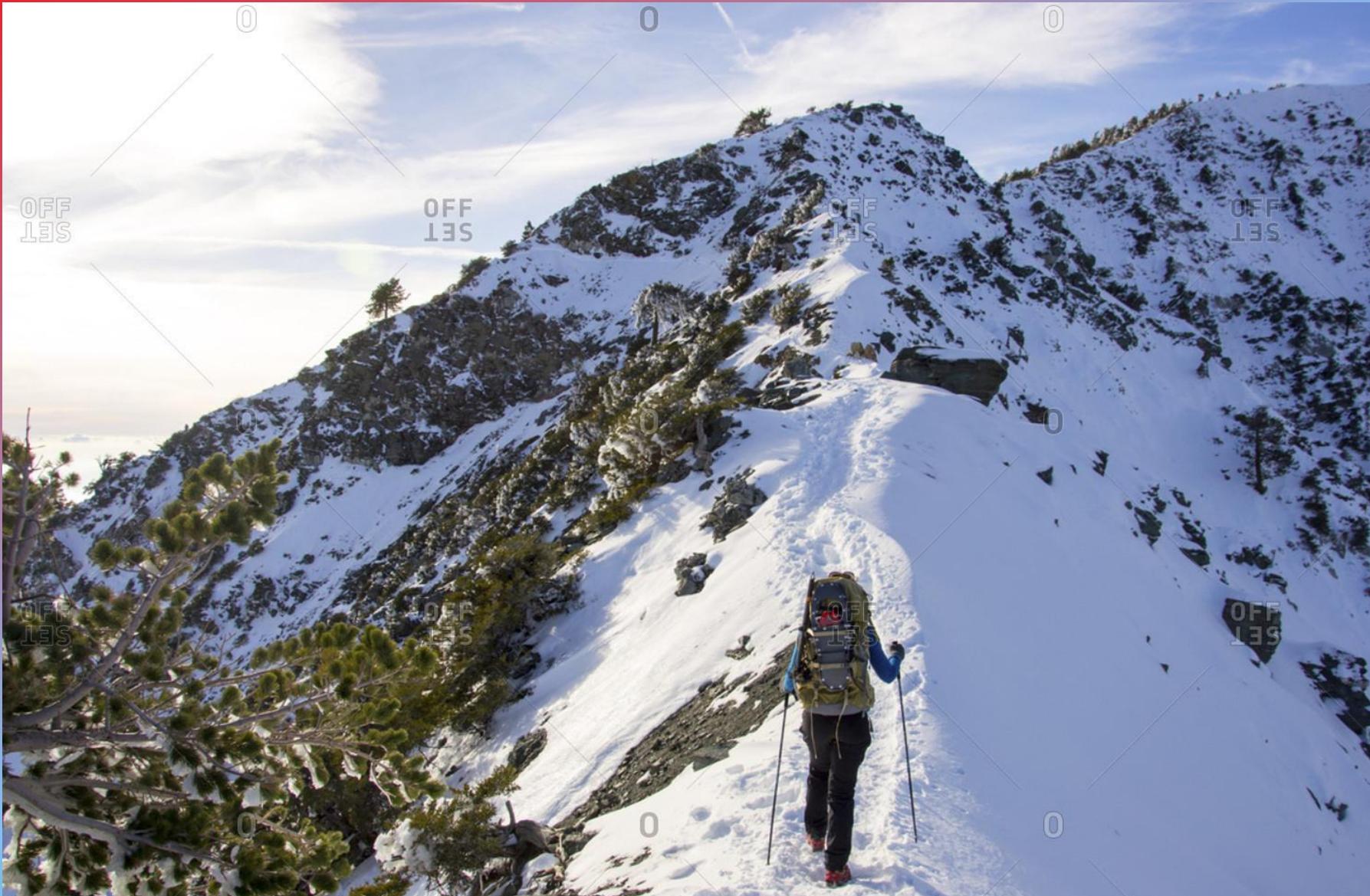
Ski Hut

Devil's Backbone

Baldy Notch

Trailhead





**OFF
SET**

offset.com/photos/226846

Aurora Photos

https://ak.picdn.net/offset/photos/5568b06372375f2a29e5166d/large_w/offset_226846.jpg



https://www.outdoorproject.com/sites/default/files/styles/cboxshow/public/1470936689/img_0633.jpg?itok=Pv8emMWz

- We had a hard time navigating due to the darkness and the snowfall.
- Notice the ice buildup on my ice axe.



Photo by Chris Brookhart. Used by permission



Tying a sit harness to one of the subjects.

Photo by Chris Brookhart. Used by permission.

A photograph of a small brown dog with a black collar and a dark tail, sitting on a rocky mountain trail. The dog is looking towards the right of the frame. The background is a rocky mountain slope.

This little dog
kept our
spirits up. He
enjoyed the
whole hike
down the
mountain.

- We were on the northeast side of the Baldy summit.





<https://elementalquests.com/hikes/san-gabriel-mountains/mt-baldy-ski-hut-devils-backbone/>

- GPS units were new at the time.
- One of our members had just received one as a gift.
- Batteries froze.

https://www.bhphotovideo.com/images/images2500x2500/garmin_010_02258_10_gpsmap_64sx_handheld_gps_1485089.jpg



Mt. Baldy

Devil's Backbone



<https://elementalquests.com/hikes/san-gabriel-mountains/mt-baldy-ski-hut-devils-backbone/>



<https://skitheworld.com/2020/04/mt-baldy-resort-reopened-today/>

- The seven of us received the Medal of Valor from Sheriff Gary Penrod.



Wilderness Safety-Part 2

Chapter 37-Preparing for
Mountain adventures.

Psalms 4:8 [*]

MERVIN W. TAPSFIELD

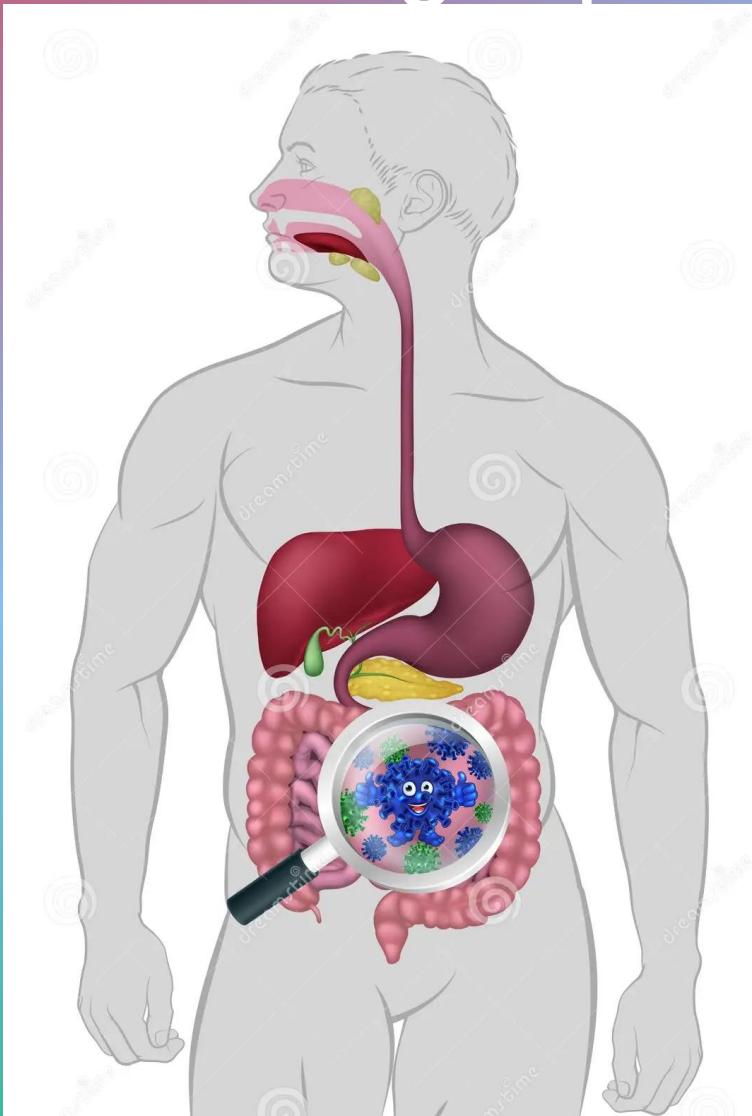
A HIGHER CALLING

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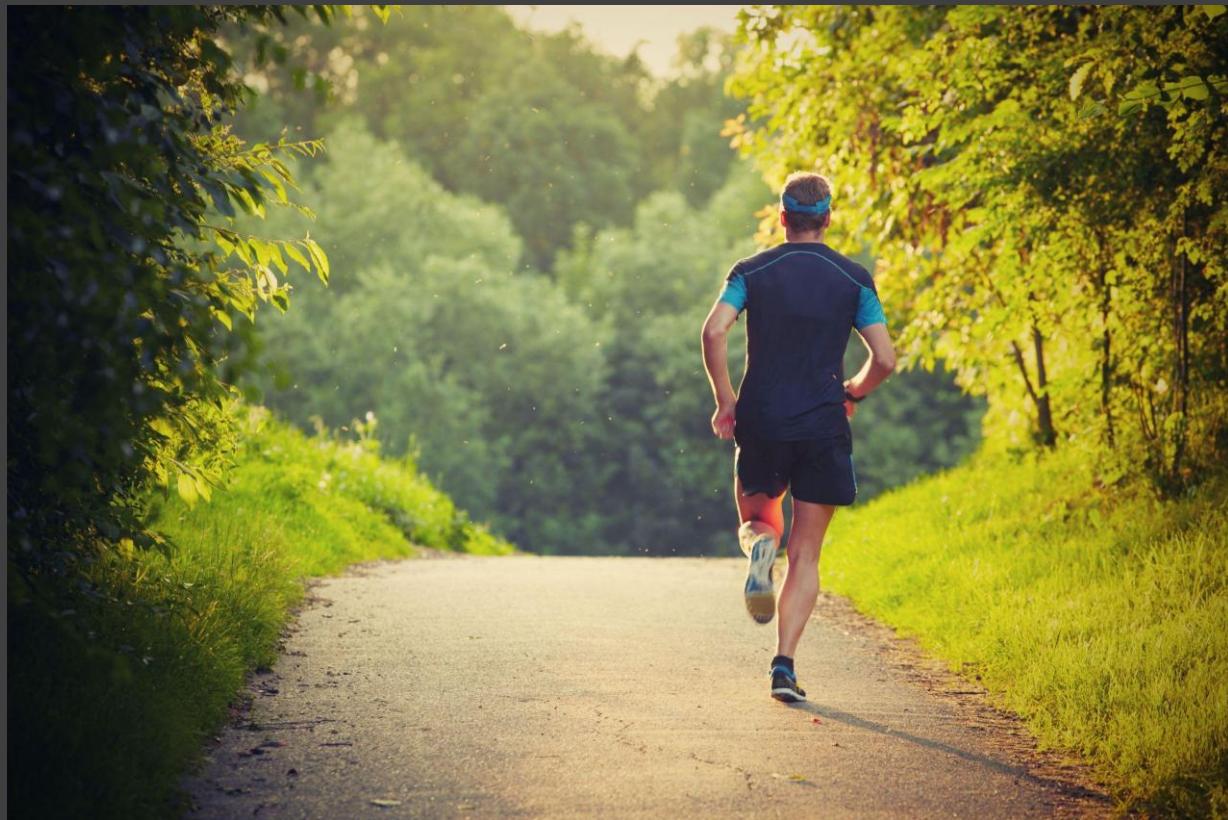
Listen to your Gut If it feels wrong-it probably is

Most all searches
and rescues could
have been
prevented



<https://www.dreamstime.com/cartoon-gut-bacteria-digestive-probiotic-flora-fun-gut-bacteria-cartoon-mascot-being-shown-magnifying-glass-could-be-result-image146444620>

Physical Fitness



<https://wallpaperaccess.com/full/1986739.jpg>



dreamstime.com

ID 257549294 © Nd3000

<https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/z/group-sportive-fit-people-working-out-gym-multiracial-friends-exercising-together-fitness-club-group-fit-people-257549294.jpg>



https://emi.parkview.com/media/Image/Dashboard_952_The-many-health-benefits-of-regular-exercise_11_20.jpg

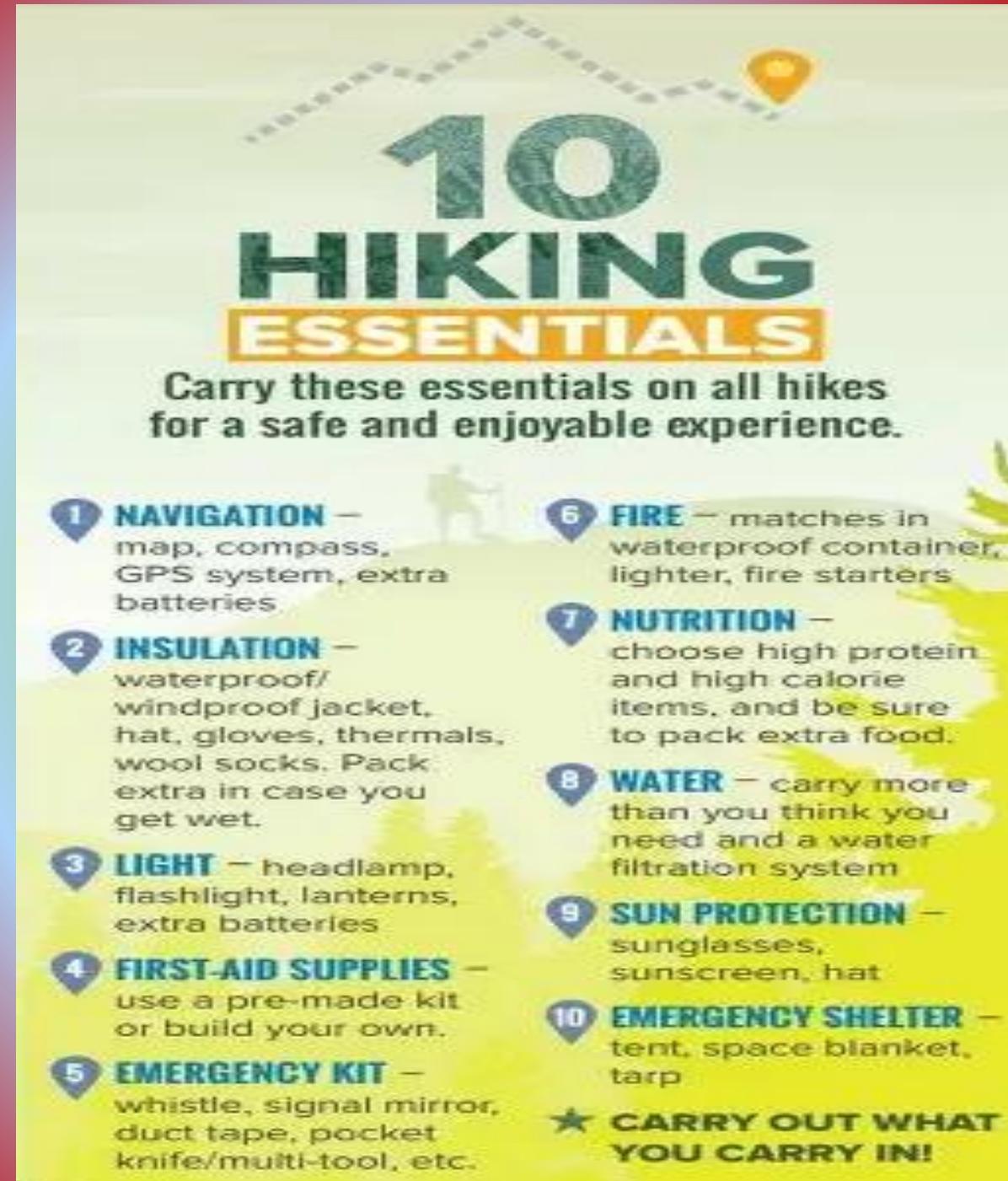


<https://home2stay.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Walking-Best-Exercise.jpg>

Mountain
Awareness
Pgs. 244-245



The Ten Essentials



<https://www.adirondackalmannack.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/10-hiking-essentials.png>

Chapter 37

Give Someone Your Hiking Itinerary

Pgs. 246-247

<https://www.wta.org/go-outside/new-to-hiking/hiking-101-1/hikeitinerarynew.jpg>

Rescue crews save 2 hikers

By Michael Fisher
and Robert Monroe
Daily Bulletin

MT. BALDY — Sheriff's Search and Rescue crews hiked through driving snow and wind blasts of 50 mph Monday to rescue two unidentified campers who became stranded near the summit of Mt. Baldy.



Hike Itinerary Form

If you have not heard from me by (time) _____ on (day) _____ of (month) _____, call search and rescue at 911 and report me as overdue. Be prepared to provide search and rescue with ALL of the information in this trip plan.

Time of Departure: _____ Expected Time of Return: _____

Activity Type (ex. hiking or snowshoeing): _____

Participant	Age	Medical Issues	Level of outdoors experience

Trailhead Name: _____ County: _____

Planned Trails and Route: _____

Date	Camping Location	Site

Backup Plan: _____

Participant	Boot Size & Type	Tent Color	Outerwear color

Vehicle Make: _____ Model: _____ Color: _____ License Plate: _____

Additional Trip Notes:



<https://trailtopeak.com/2016/10/10/hiking-register-ridge-to-the-summit-of-mt-harwood-and-mt-baldy/>



A Spiritual Wrap-Up

Part 3

- God Has Given Us A Wonderful Life-Chapter 40-
Pgs. 269 John 10:10 [*]

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Following The Rules

Pages 269-270

- The Bible teaches us how to live a wonderful life.
- God gave us the gift of life and intends for us to enjoy it.



- The Bible clearly explains how to live with God. John 3:16 [*]
- Everyone has what I call God's DNA planted within them.
- All people have an awareness of God. We all have a conscience, which is part of God's DNA.



https://static.vecteezy.com/system/resources/previews/027/819/641/large_2x/open-bible-with-sunlights-free-photo.jpg

- Unfortunately, many people refuse to recognize God, and they want to suppress the truth about Him. Romans 1:18-20 [\[*\]](#)
- Their heart makes them aware of God, but their mind tells them differently.
- Following God's rules can bring joy, forgiveness, and peace.



https://static.vecteezy.com/system/resources/previews/027/819/641/large_2x/open-bible-with-sunlights-free-photo.jpg

Taking A Wrong Turn

Pages 270-
271



- God places caution and warning signs along our path. Psalms 119:11 [*]



Hike With
Charged
Batteries
Pages 271-
273



- Some of us go through life with partially charged spiritual batteries.
- We think a once-a-week or a once-a-month reading of God's word, or occasionally attending church, will keep these batteries strong.



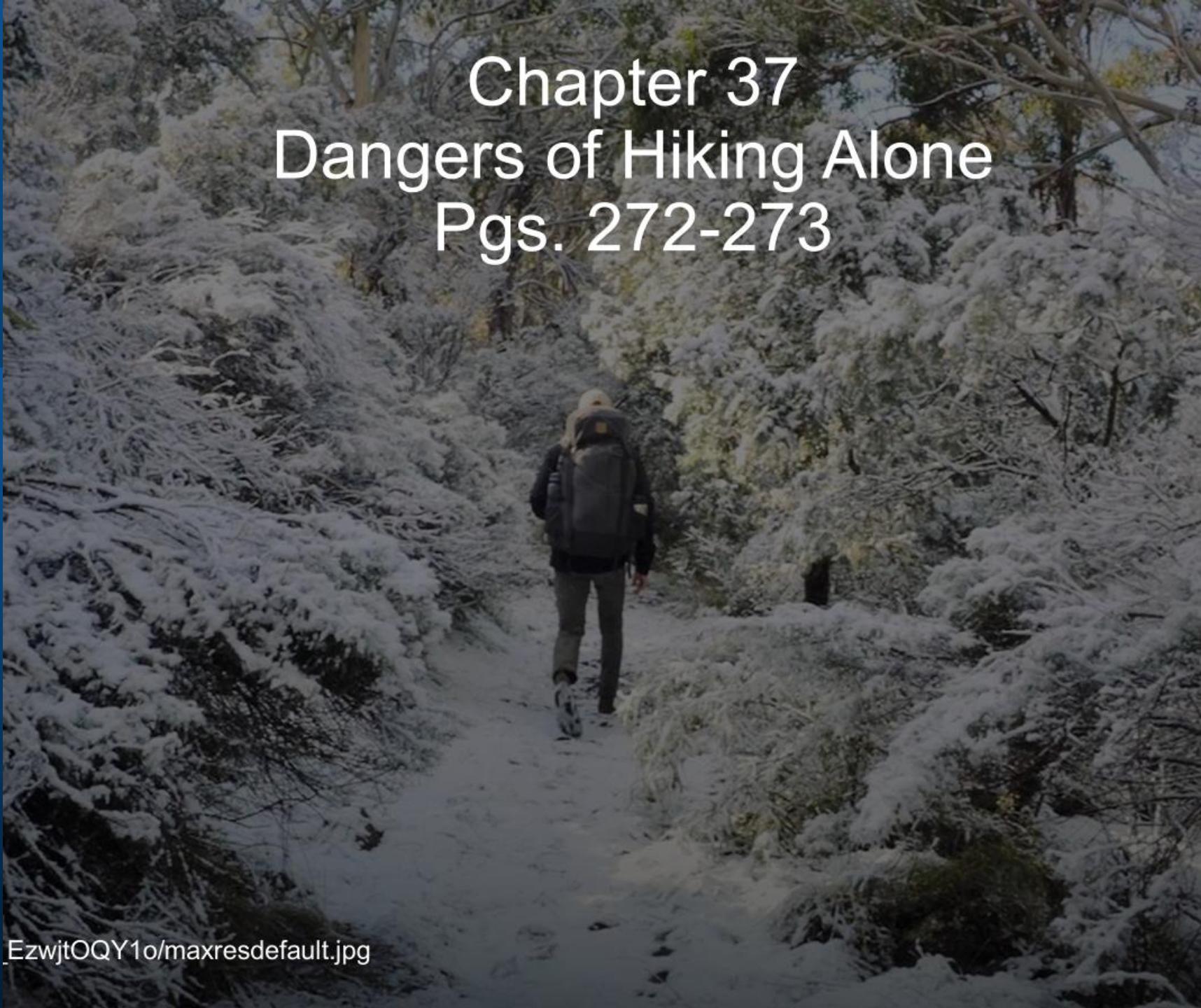
- Keeping God's word alive in our hearts and fellowshipping with other believers will help keep our spiritual batteries charged. Hebrews 10:25

[*]



Dangers Of Hiking Alone

Chapter 37
Dangers of Hiking Alone
Pgs. 272-273

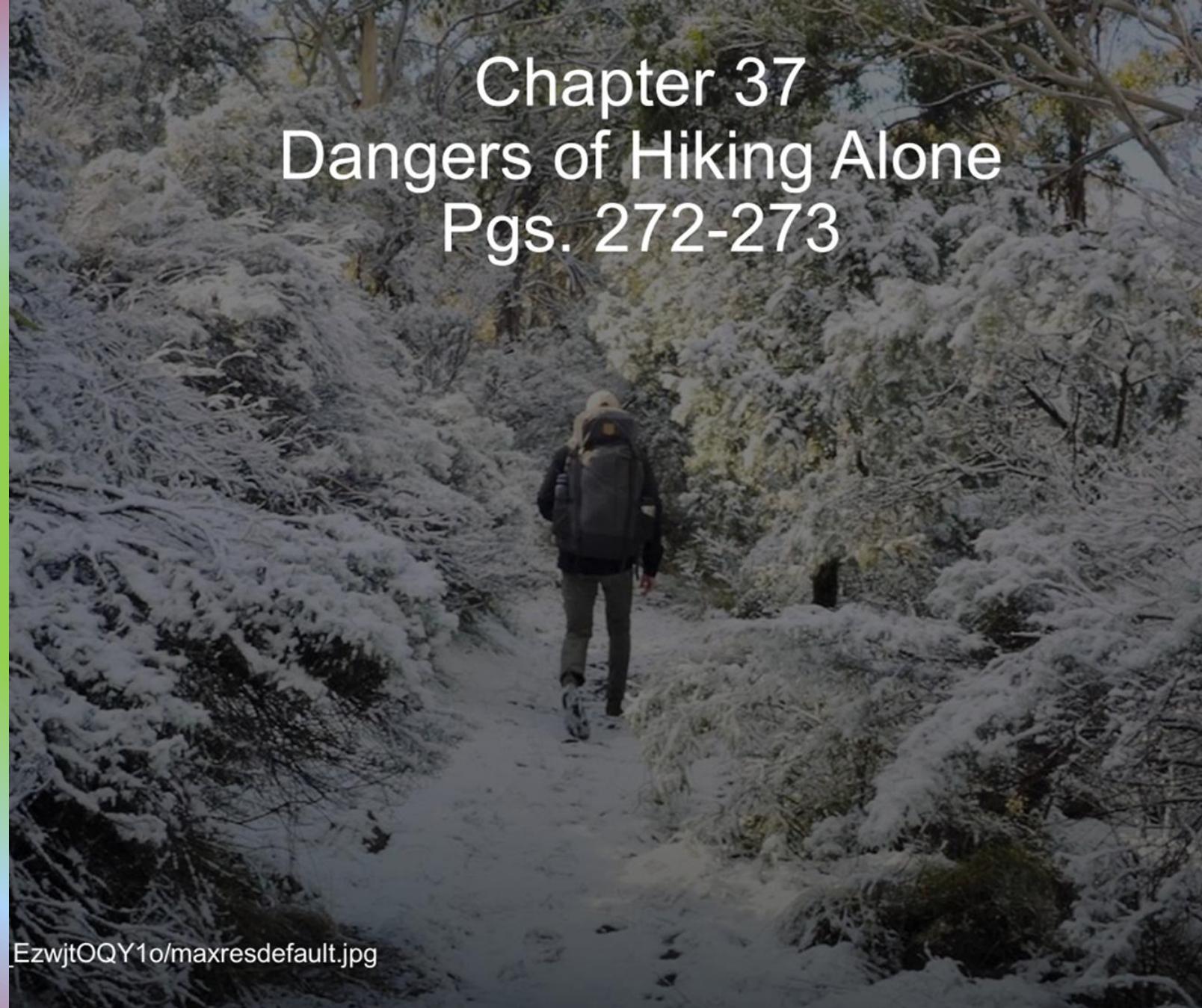


- We always tell hikers never to hike alone.
- Even the most experienced hikers can find themselves in a catastrophic situation.

Chapter 37

Dangers of Hiking Alone

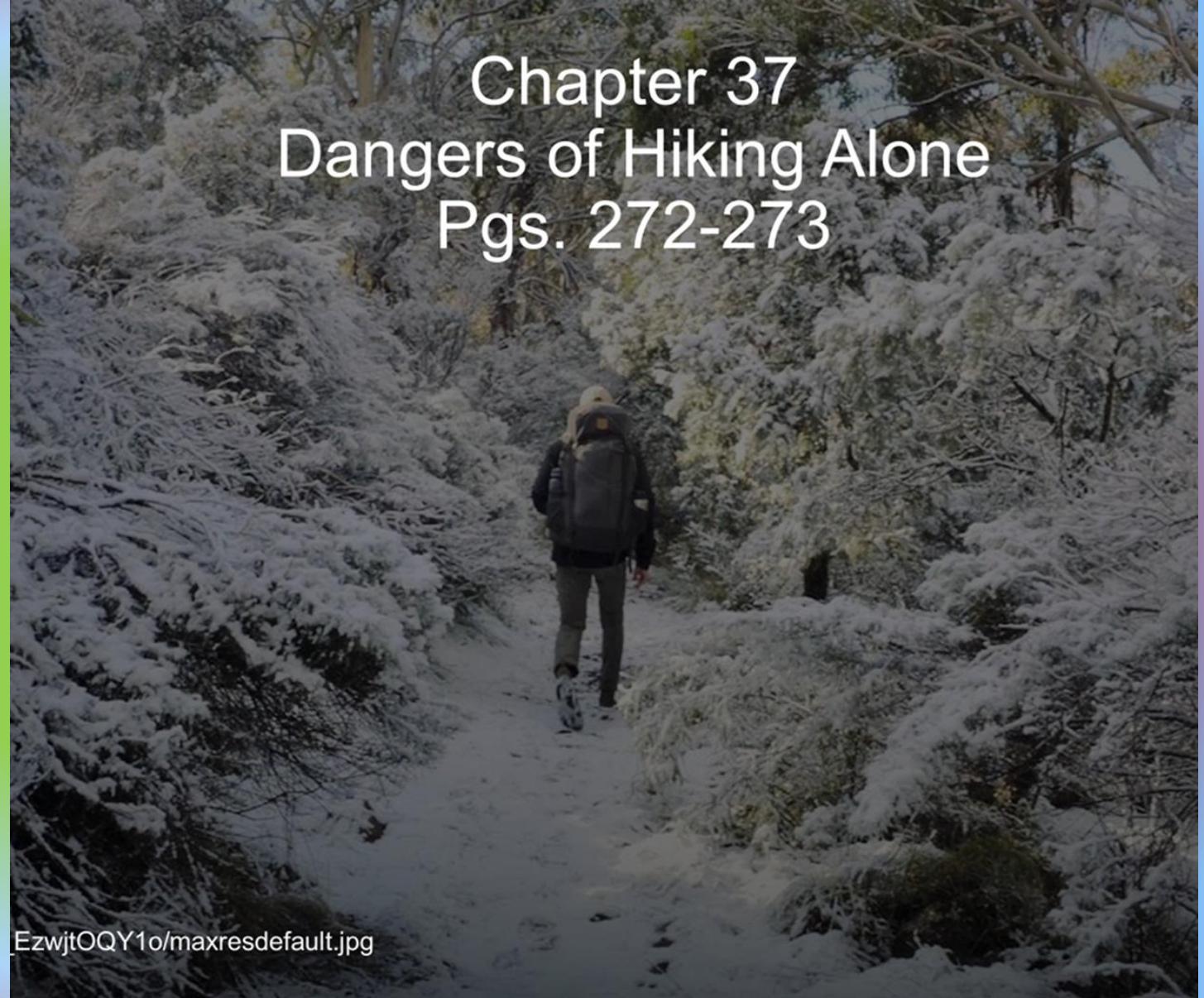
Pgs. 272-273



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- Forming Christian friendships can correlate to not hiking alone. Ecclesiastes 4:12 [*]

Chapter 37 Dangers of Hiking Alone Pgs. 272-273



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The Weakest Link

Chapter 41 Pg. 275

- Ephesians 6:10 [*]
- Our Christian brothers and sisters prove helpful as part of God's rescue team.
- We must work together in one fluid motion to carry out God's work.



- If a member weakens, the others can strengthen them.
- Prepare yourself spiritually, go forth, and strengthen those weak links. Isaiah 6:8

[*]



Summary

- God's timing is perfect in all situations. When we ask God for guidance, study His Word, listen to His voice, fellowship with other believers, and seek their advice, then how can we go wrong?
- Even when we take a wrong turn, hike through life with uncharged batteries, or make unwise decisions on our own, we can always know that God has not left us but is following us each step of the way.
- When we turn to God and ask for His help, He has a magnificent way of turning all things out for good.
- Romans 8:28 [*] End---

Matthew 19:27-30

27 Then Peter said to Him, “Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?” 28 And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Over---

29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life. 30 But many *who are* first will be last; and *the last, first.* [*]

Psalm 73:26

26 My flesh and my heart may fail,
But God is the strength of my heart and my portion
forever. [*]

Psalm 4:8

8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep,
For You alone, O Lord, make me to dwell in safety.
[*]

Romans 8:28

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. [*

John 10:10

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. [^{*}]

Ephesians 6:10

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. [*]

John 3:16

16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. [*

Romans 1:18-20

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. [*]

Scripture

Psalm 119:11

11 Your word I have treasured in my heart,
That I may not sin against You. [*]

Hebrews 10:25

25 ...not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. [*]

Ecclesiastes 4:12

12 And if one can overpower him
who is alone, two can resist him.
A cord of three strands is not
quickly torn apart. [*]

Isaiah 6:8

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!” [*]

Holy Forever

A thousand generations falling down in worship

To sing the song of ages to the Lamb
And all who've gone before us and all
who will believe

Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

**Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all**

And the angels cry, Holy
All creation cries, Holy
You are lifted high, Holy
Holy forever

If you've been forgiven and if you've
been redeemed

Sing the song forever to the Lamb

If you walk in freedom and if you bear
His name

Sing the song forever to the Lamb

We'll sing the song forever and amen

And the angels cry, Holy

All creation cries, Holy

You are lifted high, Holy

Holy forever

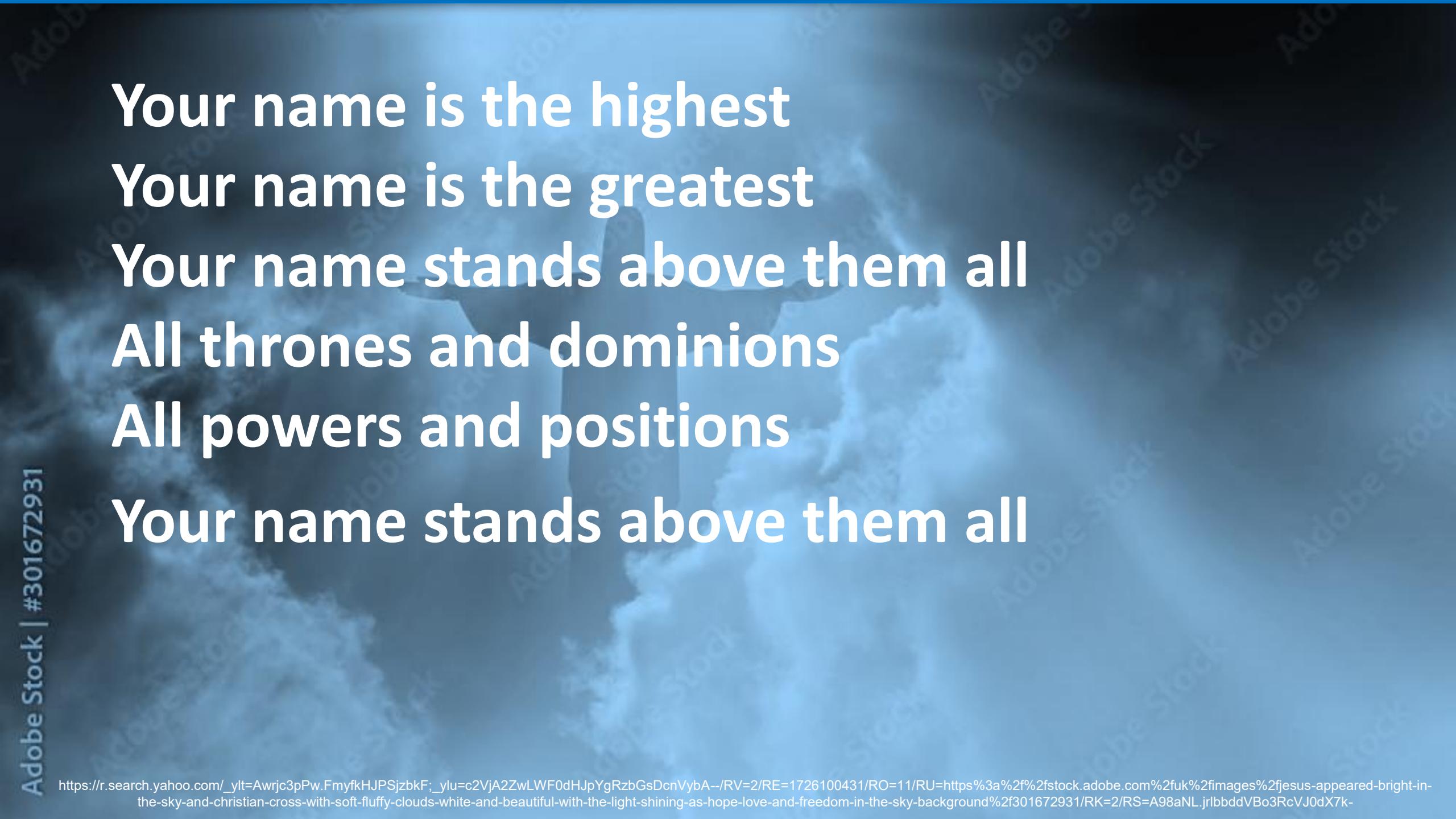
Hear your people sing, Holy

To the King of Kings, Holy

You will always be, Holy

Holy forever

Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all

A Christian cross silhouette against a blue sky with white clouds.

Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all

And the angels cry, Holy
All creation cries, Holy
You are lifted high, Holy
Holy forever

**Hear your people sing, Holy
To the King of Kings, Holy
You will always be, Holy
Holy forever
You will always be, Holy
Holy forever**

End---

Words and music by Brian Johnson | Chris Tomlin | Jason Ingram | Jenn Johnson | Phil Wickham ©2022 Brian and Jenn Publishing (Admin. by Bethel Music Publishing) Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) S. D. G. Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Bethel Music Publishing. Hillside CCLI: 133811.

THE GOODNESS OF GOD

I love You, Lord

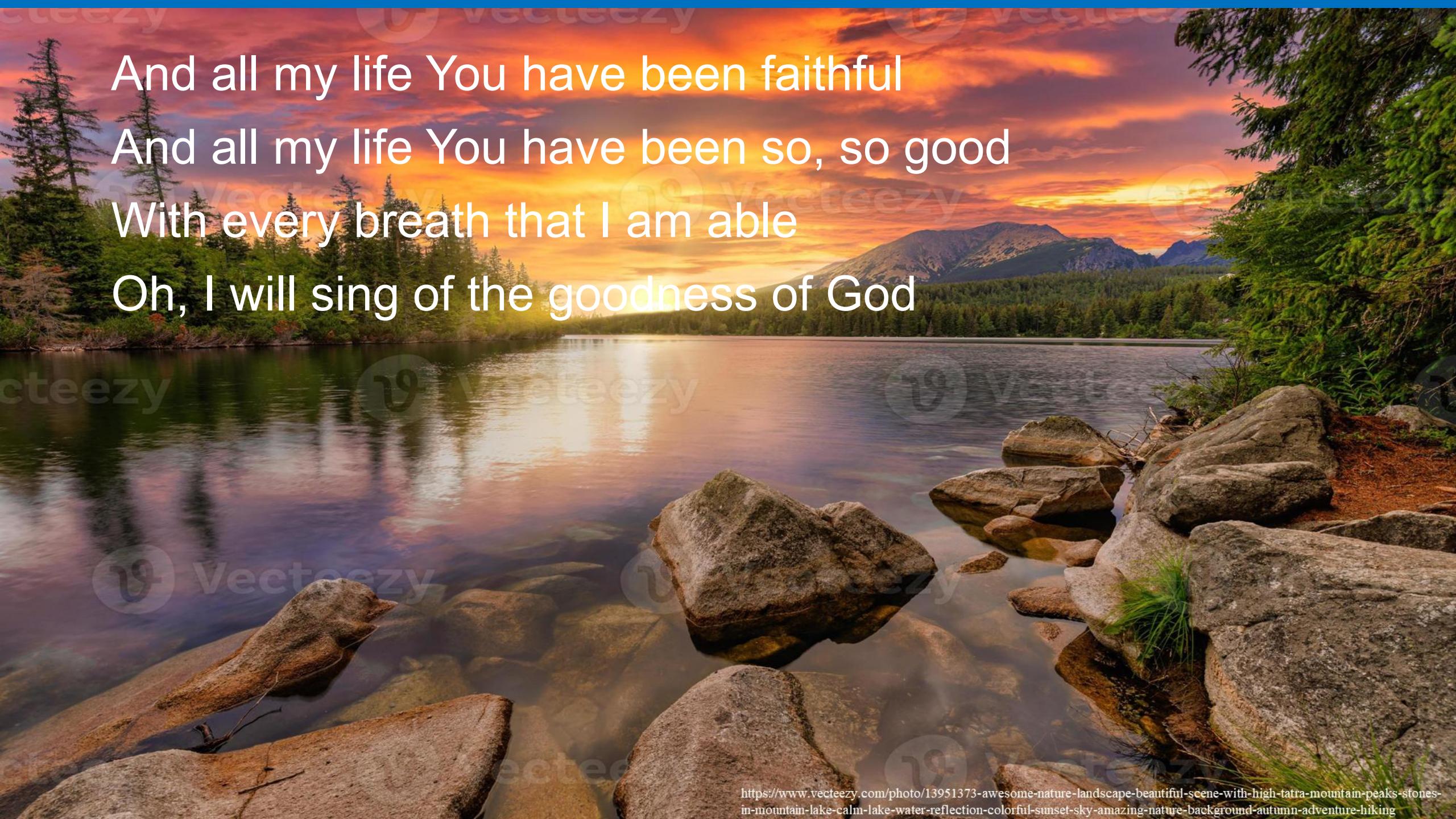
For Your mercy never fails me

All my days, I've been held in Your hands

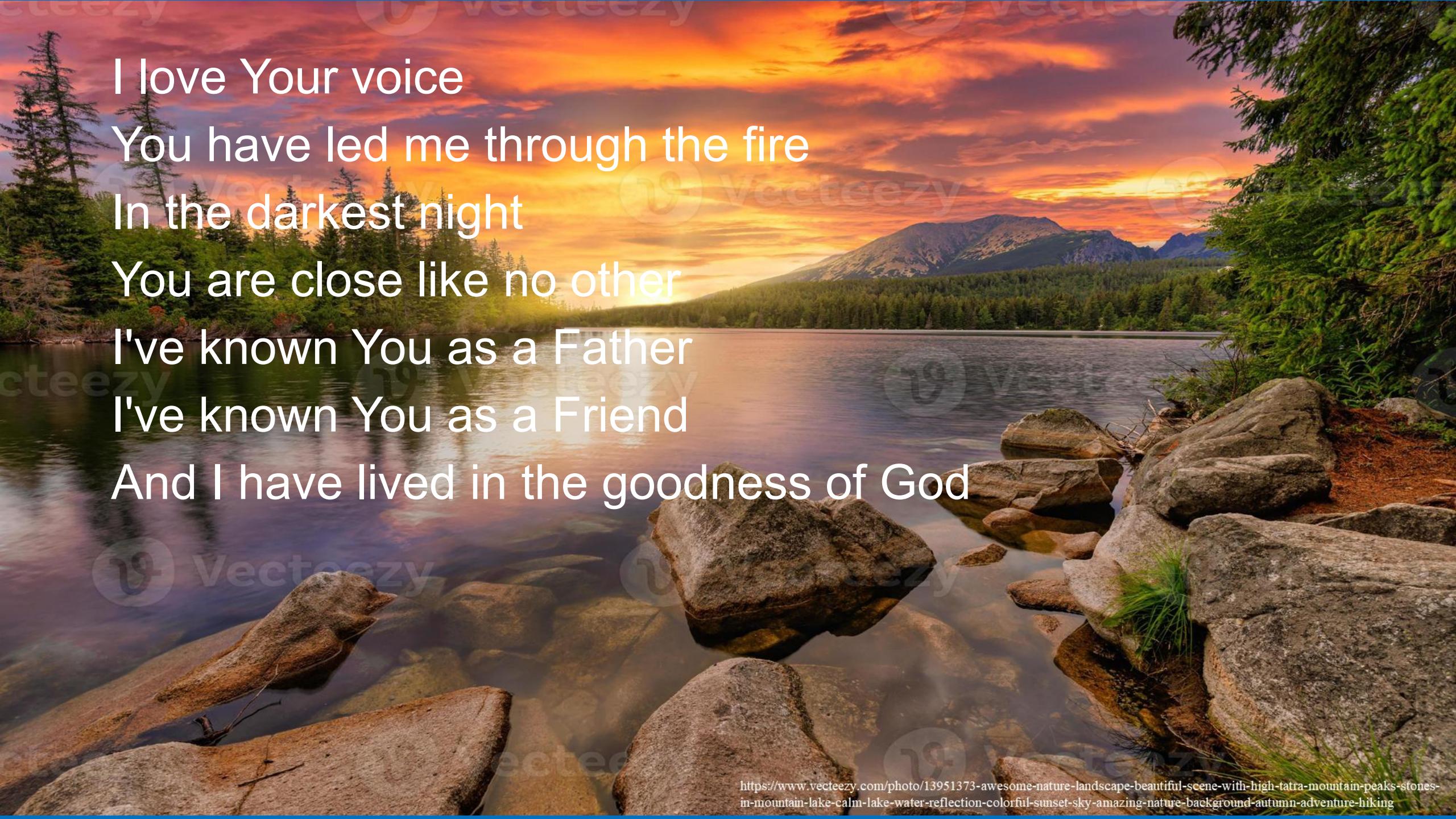
From the moment that I wake up

Until I lay my head

Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God



And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground with large, light-colored rocks. In the middle ground, a dense forest of evergreen trees lines the shore of the lake. In the background, majestic mountain peaks are visible under a sky filled with vibrant orange, yellow, and pink hues of a setting sun.

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In the darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father
I've known You as a Friend
And I have lived in the goodness of God

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground with large, light-colored rocks. In the middle ground, a dense forest of evergreen trees lines the shore of the lake. The background is dominated by a range of mountains with rugged peaks. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and pink, indicating a sunset. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and inspiring.

'Cause Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
'Cause Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

A wide-angle photograph of a natural landscape. In the foreground, there are several large, light-colored boulders partially submerged in a calm lake. The water reflects the warm, orange, and yellow hues of a sunset or sunrise. In the middle ground, a dense forest of green coniferous trees stretches across the horizon. Beyond the forest, a range of majestic mountains with dark, rocky peaks rises against the sky. The sky itself is a dramatic canvas of orange, yellow, and deep blue, with wispy clouds catching the light. The overall atmosphere is serene and inspiring.

'Cause Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
'Cause Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

The Goodness of God

(Jason Ingram / Brian Johnson / Ed Cash / Ben Fielding / Jenn Johnson)

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DOUG HANKS

Available on
all streaming
devices



SECOND
TIME
AGAIN

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