

MISSIONARY STORIES

REAL STORIES ABOUT SPREADING GODS WORD

The Runway God Hid in the Jungle!

THIS STORY IS ABOUT: GOD PREPARES THE WAY

BIG IDEA

Even when there seems to be no safe place to land, God can prepare exactly what we need ahead of time. He is always watching over us!

THE STORY

High above the giant Amazon jungle, a little airplane buzzed through the sky. The pilot's name was Bennie DeMerchant, and he flew all over Brazil telling people about Jesus. Today he had a passenger with him, and they were heading home to base.

But something was wrong. A strong wind had pushed against the plane the whole way, and the trip was taking much longer than Bennie had planned. He looked at the fuel gauge and his heart skipped a beat.

The needle was creeping down, down, down toward empty!

Below them was nothing but thick green jungle for miles and miles.

There was no airport. There was no road. There was no flat place to land at all. 'Lord,' Bennie prayed, 'we need You to show us a place to put this plane down.'



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THE STORY CONTINUES

Right then, the engine began to cough and sputter. The fuel was almost gone! Bennie's eyes searched the treetops. Suddenly he spotted something - a long, narrow strip of cleared ground hidden in the jungle. It was old and bumpy, with little trees poking up in the middle.

It was not a real runway. But it was the only hope they had.

Bennie lined up the plane and held on tight. 'Hang on!' he called. The engine went quiet as the last of the fuel ran out. The plane glided down, down, toward that skinny strip of ground.

Bump! Skid! The wheels touched and the plane bounced along the rough ground. It did not flip over. It did not crash into a tree. It slid to a safe and gentle stop. They were down. They were alive! 'Thank You, Jesus!' they shouted.

That night the two men slept in the quiet jungle, surrounded by chirping bugs and singing birds. They prayed and they trusted God to send help. They were not afraid, because they knew God had just saved their lives.

The next day, a search plane flew overhead and spotted them waving below. Help was on the way! A rescue team hiked through the jungle on foot and found them safe and sound.

Later, when mechanics came to look at the plane, they could hardly believe their eyes. The plane was barely scratched! A plane that should never have landed safely in the jungle had come down without breaking apart.

Bennie told this story for the rest of his life. 'God prepared a place for us in the middle of the jungle,' he said with a big smile. God had hidden a runway right where Bennie would need it most. What a mighty, loving God!





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DID YOU KNOW?

- Bennie DeMerchant was a real missionary pilot who flew small airplanes deep into the Amazon rainforest in Brazil to reach people who lived far from any roads.
- The Amazon rainforest is so huge and thick that in many places the only way to reach a village is by airplane or boat.
- Bennie wrote books about his adventures, including ones called 'Full Throttle' and 'Pilot Bennie's Amazing Amazon Adventures.'
- A headwind is a wind that blows against a plane from the front, which can slow it down and make it use up much more fuel than the pilot planned.

MEMORY VERSE

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." Psalm 32:8

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. What was wrong with Bennie's airplane while he was flying over the jungle?
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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 2 What did Bennie do the moment he realized they were in trouble?

- 3 Why do you think Bennie and his passenger were not afraid to sleep in the jungle that night?

- 4 The story says God 'prepared a place' before Bennie ever needed it. What does that teach us about how God cares for us?

- 5 Can you think of a time you were worried, but things turned out okay? How can remembering that help you trust God next time?

LET'S PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank You for watching over me every single day, even when I cannot see how things will work out. Help me to pray and trust You like Bennie did, knowing You always prepare the way. Thank You for keeping me safe in Your loving hands. In Your name I pray, Amen.

TRY THIS!

Make a paper airplane together! On the wings, write the words 'God guides me.' Then take turns flying your planes across the room. Each time you fly one, name one thing you can trust God to take care of, like school, friends, or family.

