

MISSIONARY STORIES

REAL STORIES ABOUT SPREADING GODS WORD

Landing Where There Was No Runway!

THIS STORY IS ABOUT: GOD MAKES A WAY

BIG IDEA

When there seems to be no way to do something good for God, He can make a way. Nothing is too hard for our God!

THE STORY

Deep in the Amazon jungle of Brazil, there was a little village that wanted to hear about Jesus. The only person who could reach them quickly was Bennie DeMerchant, the missionary pilot. But there was one big problem - the village had no airport and no runway at all!

The only flat spot was a tiny patch of cleared ground. On a good day, it was barely long enough for a plane to land. And today was not a good day. The weather was gloomy, the plane was packed heavy with supplies, and there was no room for even one little mistake.

Far away, the village had gotten a radio message that Bennie was coming. The believers there rushed outside and worked hard to clear the ground the best they could. They pulled rocks and smoothed the dirt, then they prayed and watched the sky.



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THE STORY CONTINUES

As Bennie flew closer, he could see the tiny clearing below, surrounded by tall jungle trees on every side. It looked so small from up high!

Bennie took a deep breath and prayed, 'Lord, I cannot do this without You. Help me land safely.'

Down, down, down the plane came. The wheels touched the ground and the plane rolled forward, using up every single inch of that little clearing.

The plane finally stopped - just a few feet from the wall of trees!

Bennie let out a happy breath and grinned. He had made it! The villagers cheered and ran to greet him.

What a wonderful time they had! Bennie held meetings, preached about Jesus, and prayed with the people. Hearts were changed, and lives were filled with joy. It was all worth it.

When it was time to go home, Bennie had to use that same tiny clearing again. And once again, God helped him take off safely over the treetops and fly back to base.

Later, Bennie said the truth with a smile: 'That airstrip was not really an airstrip at all. It was a miracle!' God had made just enough room, at just the right moment, for His work to be done.

From then on, whenever someone said a thing was impossible, Bennie would shake his head. 'God makes a way where there is no way,' he would say. And he had flown over the jungle proof of it many times!





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DID YOU KNOW?

- Bennie DeMerchant really did fly into jungle villages that had no proper airports, landing on tiny clearings in the rainforest.
- Missionary pilots use radios to tell faraway villages they are coming, so the people can get ready and clear a landing spot.
- Bush pilots, like Bennie, are specially trained to land on short, rough strips of ground that regular airline pilots would never use.
- Bennie's true adventures are written down in his books, including the 'Full Throttle' and 'Pilot Bennie' series.

MEMORY VERSE

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
John 14:6

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why was it so hard for Bennie to land his plane at this village?
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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 2 How did the villagers help get ready before Bennie arrived?

- 3 Bennie prayed that he could not land 'without You.' Why is it good to ask God for help before we do something hard?

- 4 What does it mean that 'God makes a way where there is no way'?

- 5 Is there something hard you need to do this week? How could you ask God to help you do it?

LET'S PRAY

Dear God, thank You that nothing is too hard for You. When things feel impossible, help me to remember that You can make a way. Give me courage to do the good things You ask me to do, just like Bennie did. In Jesus' name, Amen.

TRY THIS!

Build a 'jungle airstrip' on the floor! Use two ropes, ribbons, or rows of blocks to make a long, narrow runway. Take turns walking along it heel-to-toe without stepping off the edges. While you balance, say together, 'God makes a way!'

