

Drama in the Night

by Tina Marie Posey

With a warm embrace and a quick kiss, my husband, Guy, and I shared good-byes, one Saturday evening, as he hurried out the door to work the night shift at a local water filtration plant. I did some necessary housework, then wearily fell into bed totally unprepared for the drama in the night.

At approximately 3 o'clock Sunday morning, I was abruptly awakened by the smell of smoke! Startled, I jumped out of bed with great urgency and rushed through my house. There was absolutely no visible evidence of anything burning inside. Puzzled, I anxiously peered out the window of the back door toward the wooded mountain in the distance.

Next, I dashed to the dark bedroom where my two young sons, Jeremy and Christopher, were peacefully sleeping. Quickly, but quietly, I raised the window shade and searched through the blackness for signs of a blazing fire.

Then I darted back through the house and gazed out a front window toward the closest neighboring house. There simply was no indication of anything outside burning. I suddenly came to the fearful conclusion that some wires in the walls of our home must be faulty and smoldering.

I frantically ran my hands across the walls desperately hoping to locate the fire hazard as the smell of smoke lingered in my nostrils. Panic overtook me at the thought of our dwelling burning down, even though I had found no sign of heat.

I cried out to God for wisdom and protection. My head began to whirl as I vigorously determined what "special treasures" I wanted to save, should the house truly be on fire. I excitedly grabbed the handles of a shopping bag and carefully stood it up in the hallway. With great intensesness, I located first my favorite Bible, followed by photographs of my family, along with my highly valued, overstuffed folder of poetry, which the Lord had inspired me to write through the years.

I hurriedly placed each item in the bag, then nervously went through the house once more praying as I walked. "Lord, I don't understand! I smell smoke, but the smoke detector is not going off!" I quietly exclaimed as I stared questioningly at the little red light shining brightly in the dark hall.

I checked on my boys one more time, then went back to bed with great apprehension. I tearfully prayed again, "Lord, please give me peace! I'm trusting in You. I'm going back to bed now. Please wake me up if I need to gather my children and flee!" The supernatural peace of the Lord came upon me as I lay in bed, and with that I soon fell asleep.

My husband pleasantly awakened me at seven A.M., as the bright, morning sun began to peek through my window blinds. Thinking I might have been dreaming the night before, I stared in surprise at the sack setting in the hall. With amazement, I excitedly began to share with Guy about the frightening drama in the night.

I continued to ponder this unusual occurrence as I busily dressed for church that morning. I asked the Lord what this experience was all about. He gave me a startling and very sobering revelation! God impressed upon me that the urgency I felt toward saving my children and "special treasures" from burning was just a glimmer of how sincerely zealous He is for all people to repent and be saved from a burning, eternal death.

2 Peter 3:9-10 tells us that *"The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare."*

This passage of scripture strongly emphasizes how imperative it is that we share the love of God with those whom has not received Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. God is not willing that even one burn forever in torment, separated from Him, when everlasting life awaits all those who repent of their sins and accept His free gift of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved,"* John 3:16-17.

God has called believers to go and share this Good News so that everyone has an opportunity to accept the gift of salvation. I want to be about the Lord's work of witnessing in my daily life. How about you, are you ready to meet God? If not, I invite you to pray the following prayer: Dear Lord, I confess that I am a sinner. I believe that Your Son Jesus died on the cross for my sins. I repent and ask You to please forgive me and wash me in the blood of Jesus? Come into my heart to stay and be Lord of my life. Thank You for giving me eternal life through Jesus' sacrificial gift. I receive You by faith in Jesus precious name.

If you are a Christian, have you shared God's loving plan of salvation with someone today? Ask Him to put at least one of God's "special treasures" on your heart daily to pray for and to befriend so that you might share the Truth of salvation through Jesus Christ. Rescue those who are perishing from the tormenting fires of eternal death. Show them the way to eternal life through Jesus. Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me," John 14:6.

The drama I experienced in the night was real, but it is no comparison to the greatest drama ever, that is yet to come. *"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord,"* 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.