



Pastor's Comments

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Northampton Assembly of God

3449 Cherryville Rd., Northampton • Sun. 10:45 am & 6 pm; Wed. 7:30 pm
Daniel E. Lundmark • pastor@NAOG.ws • 610-262-5645

The Truly Heroic Rescue

The jump began as a routine skydiving exercise, but within seconds sky diver Gregory Robertson saw that fellow parachutist Debbie Williams was in big trouble. Instead of “floating” in the proper stretched-out position she was tumbling like a rag doll. In attempting to join other divers in a handholding ring formation, she had slammed into the backpack of another chutist, and was knocked unconscious!

From his instructor's position 40 feet above the divers, Robertson reacted with instincts that had been honed by 1,700 jumps. He straightened into a vertical dart, arms pinned to his body, ankles crossed, head aimed at the ground in a 200 mph “no-lift” dive and caught up with Williams about ten seconds before impact. He angled the unconscious sky diver so her chute could open readily and yanked the rip cord on her emergency chute before pulling his own rip cord just six seconds before he would have slammed into the ground.

Robertson's daring rescue is worthy of admiration because he sacrificed his own safety to save another. Such is the character of a genuine hero and true love. Jesus Christ said it this way, **“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends”** (John 15:13). But Robertson's heroic rescue, as admirable as it is, **was for a friend**, a fellow sky diver—**not an enemy**. This is where **God's love is greater!** The Bible says, *“For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:7-8). Yes, Jesus Christ made **the truly heroic rescue** in that He sacrificially died for sinners, the enemies of God hopelessly headed to eternal death, that those who receive Him might have eternal life (see John 1:12).